MEMO

Kansas Water Office
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
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www.kwo.ks.gov

DATE: July 13, 2021
TO: Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Amelia Nill
RE: July 29, 2021 Meeting and GoTo Meeting

The Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet and have a GoTo Meeting on **Thursday, July 29 at 10:00 am at the Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room, 240 W. US Highway 24, Downs, Kansas**. **Call-in details are below.**

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/275529357

Join by phone:
Dial: +1 (571) 317-3122
Access Code: 275-529-357

The meeting will include a State Water Plan Fund FY23 presentation and discussion, Almena Irrigation District project update, a presentation on water rights and updates on various topics from the KWO, including the Kansas Water Plan.

Enclosed are the materials for the July 29th meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the May 27th meeting
- Press release

If you cannot participate, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (816) 589-6044 or by e-mail at amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov.

MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, July 29, 2021

TIME: 10 am

LOCATION:

Join the meeting:
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/275529357

Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room
240 W. US Highway 24
Downs, Kansas

AGENDA DETAILS

I. **Welcome/Introductions**

II. **Review of May 27th Meeting Notes**

III. **RAC Business**

a. FY22 SWPF Budget Update – Cara Hendricks/Matt Unruh (KWO)
b. FY23 RAC Budget Recommendations – Amelia Nill (KWO)
c. Almena Irrigation District Project Updates – Craig Ingram (Almena Irrigation District)
d. Water Rights Overview – Kelly Stewart (KDA-DWR)
e. Additional KWO Updates – Amelia Nill (KWO)

IV. **Agency or Public Comments**

V. **Upcoming Meetings**

a. **Kansas Water Authority meeting (Tuesday, August 17, 8:00 – Garden City/Conference Call)**
b. **Next Solomon-Republican RAC meeting (November– Doodle Poll)**

VI. **Adjourn**

*Public Comments are limited to 3-5 minutes and limited to issues related to regional goals, action plans or other water resource issues or concerns.

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

10 am, Thursday, May 27, 2021
GoTo Meeting and Conference Call

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Timothy Driggs (Chair)	Phillipsburg, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	**Yes**
Keli Habiger (Vice-Chair)	Phillipsburg, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2023	**Yes**
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2021	No
John Cockerham	Osborne, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Rhonda Coffman	Agenda, KS	At Large Public	2023	**Yes**
Raymond Debey	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	**Yes**
Robbin Dibble	Alton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	**Yes**
Donald Hellwig	Solomon, KS	Agriculture	2021	No
Stanley Kats	Prairie View, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Terry Nelson	Phillips County, KS	Irrigation West	2021	No
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2023	**Yes**
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2023	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Josh Olson	KWO	Steve Frost	KDA-DOC
Amelia Nill	KWO	Chelsea Erickson	KDA-DWR
Pete Gile	KBID		

I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chair, Tim Driggs. Self-introductions were given with RAC roll call completed on the conference call line.

II) **Review of February 25th meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.

III) **RAC Business:**

a. **Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) Update:** Chelsea Erickson (KDA-DWR) gave an update presentation on the RRCA, website here. Chelsea shared that the RRCA annual meeting and work session will be a one-day event on August 25th. Chelsea noted that the work session is generally in the morning with the RRCA Engineering Committee, and the annual meeting is generally in the late morning to early afternoon. McCook, Nebraska, is hosting the 2021 annual meeting, and then, it will be in Colorado for two years. There will likely be an online option as well. Chelsea mentioned there is ongoing discussion about floods, noting that flood years followed by water-short years cause some accounting issues. Chelsea discussed the August 26 Harlan County Lake resolution, which allows Kansas to request water. Chelsea explained Nebraska pumps that water during compliance years, but Kansas feels they should have some minimum amount of access to that storage. David asked where the flooding is in Nebraska and what the issue was related to it. Chelsea responded that it is above Guide Rock, and explained that water-short years trigger a complicated accounting issue related to the model and engineers. David asked if the issue was that Nebraska felt they should be catching up when there is flooding north of Guide Rock. Chelsea responded that flood flow is flow you cannot really use, and Nebraska felt this was counted against them.

b. **Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District Update (KBID):** Pete Gile (KBID) gave an update on activities of the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District (KBID), primarily canal to pipeline conversion projects, presentation here. Pete noted that almost all of the projects were upstream of Lovewell, which helps with the Harlan County situation. Pete discussed the Ridge 3.9 Lateral Project, which involved the installation of 2,408' of pipe and saves an estimated 191 acre-feet/year of water. Pete noted the project was part of a WaterSMART grant. Next, Pete discussed the Ridge 1.3 Right Lateral Project, which involved the installation of 11,471' of pipe and saves and estimated 623 acre-feet/year of water. The Ridge Headgate Automation Project has allowed KBID to dip their toes into automation, working with Rubicon. The project involves a canal above Lovewell. The top end of the canal has two 4" orifices. Installation of slip meters allows for control of flow to a desired discharge. Pete noted the price actually came in a bit below the $73,000 estimate. Estimated water savings from the project is 212 acre-feet/year.

   The Courtland Canal Automation Project is an estimated $1.6 million project that involves 10 radial gates. It is the biggest grant award KBID has ever received. KBID used some of the settlement funds and added an amendment to allow use on automation. The project will save an estimated 4,199 acre-feet/year. Pete said KBID expects to have better canal control and to be able to keep Lovewell at a higher level more consistently. Pete noted the project is good for both KBID and recreationalists. Pete noted that the $1.6 million quote was with one supplier. However, KBID was approached by another automation company that gave a significantly reduced estimate, at a total cost of $780,000. KBID was impressed by what they saw from the company. Pete noted that the original cost and contribution numbers for the project are changing significantly. Pete stated that, if the Courtland Canal project is a success, it will be a flagship project. Pete mentioned that Guide Rock is working to automate the diversion dam canal. Pete noted that savings from the Courtland Canal would allow for the burial of an additional 2-3 laterals. David asked if Pete would be willing to share the presentation. Josh stated that it would be posted online and would be sent in the notes to the group. Ray asked if there was a risk of hacking. Pete responded that all the automated controls have manual overrides, so they can be shutoff. KBID also uses its own unique radio frequency and toured a lot of districts that have used automation. Pete mentioned that the control boxes being used as target practice was a concern, so KBID is putting steel plating on both sides. The solar panels are also potentially vulnerable, so KBID has several on hand to switch them out if they are damaged. There is also a battery for backup power. Pete noted the projects will save a lot of water in Harlan County and for downstream users. Pete noted KBID is trying to be prudent and spend funding as wisely as they can.

c. **Kansas Water Plan Update:** Josh Olson (KWO) gave a brief update on the Kansas Water Plan.

d. **Additional KWO Updates:** Josh mentioned that the state had essentially gone back to normal operations, so in-person meetings were an option again. Tim asked the RAC what they preferred for meeting format. Rhonda noted that it would be nice to get together. Keli said that she liked the in-person meetings, but that virtual meetings are a lot more convenient. Josh said the group could discuss the possibility of hybrid meetings in the future.

   Josh asked the RAC if there were any topics they would be interested in hearing more information about at future RAC meetings. David Pfizenmaier mentioned having questions about riparian water rights. David noted that, related to agri-business, it seems that a lot of the surface water rights are owned by people along the river. David observed that it seems that people will pay whatever it takes to own the land along the river because it gets them access to expanded water rights over significant adjacent land. David pointed out that this creates an inflated land value and limits outside access. David expressed an appreciation for how water

is shared in the Bostwick District. David noted it would be helpful to have a presentation with a summary of water rights and how volumes are allocated. David expressed a desire to see the resource shared for the benefit of many and noted some concern about water rights becoming too concentrated. David suggested having someone well versed in water law with thoughts about potential solutions come to a future RAC meeting. Chelsea Erickson (KDA) said she would run the questions about surface water rights by Kelly Stewart (KDA) to see if he might be able to address them.

IV) **Agency or Public Comments:** The meeting was opened for agency and public comments. Steve Frost (KDA-DOC) noted that DOC has been busy with the legislative session. Steve suggested that maybe the DOC could give a presentation on funding for regional projects. Steve said that he had appreciated the online meeting option, noting that it was particularly helpful for individuals that attend RAC meetings in multiple regions.

V) **Upcoming Meetings:**

- **a.** Kansas Water Authority meeting (Wednesday, June 9, 9:00 – Conference Call)
- **b.** Next Solomon-Republican RAC meeting (July – Doodle Poll)

VI) **Adjourn:** Tim adjourned the meeting with no further business at 10:53 am.

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Topeka, KS 66612
Connie Director, Director

Kansas Water Office

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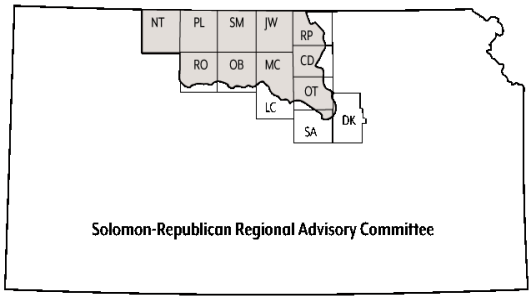
Laura Kelly, Governor

Meeting Notice:
July 14, 2021

For More Information:
Katie Patterson-Ingels
(785) 296-3185, katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov



Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Downs

July 29, 10 a.m., Pioneer Seeds on Hwy 24

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet to discuss current water issues affecting the region as well as the state.

The meeting will be Thursday, July 29 at 10 a.m., in the Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room, 240 W. US Highway 24 in Downs. The main agenda item is discussion of the RAC's budget input for consideration by the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) in the State Water Plan Fund FY 2023 KWA budget recommendation development process. There will also be presentations from the Almena Irrigation District, and Kansas Dept. of Ag, Div. of Water Resources.

The agenda, virtual option information and meeting materials can be found when available at www.kwo.ks.gov or you may request copies by calling (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283).

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, KS 66611-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101) requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations messages.

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