

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10 am, Wednesday, February 23, 2022

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

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Donald Hellwig, Chair	Solomon, KS	Agriculture	2025	Yes
Raymond Debey, V-Chair	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Timothy Driggs	Phillipsburg, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Keli Habiger	Phillipsburg, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2023	Yes
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2025	No
Rhonda Coffman	Agenda, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Robbin Dibble	Alton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
Stanley Kats	Prairie View, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Sharon Sahlfeld	Beloit, KS	At Large Public	2025	Yes
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2023	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Amelia Nill	KWO	Pete Gile	KBID
Angela Anderson	KWO	Jennifer Nichols	KDHE
Richard Rockel	KWO	Chelsea Erickson	KDA-DWR

I. Welcome and Introductions: Chairman, Don Hellwig (Agriculture), called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Don took the time to call on each attendee for a brief introduction before beginning the meeting.

II. Review of December 14th Meeting Notes: Don (Agriculture) asked if everyone had seen the December 14th notes and if there were any additions or corrections, there were none. The notes were accepted with no changes.

III. RAC Business:

a. Reservoir Sedimentation Presentation:

- i. Richard Rockel (KWO) presented on the updates in regard to the bathymetric surveys and sedimentation in reservoirs and how it relates to the goals identified by the Solomon-Republican RAC. He stated that surveys are meant to be completed every 10 years to

help calculate actual reservoir storage volumes and that further bathymetry data is needed to better establish sedimentation rates in reservoirs.

b. Legislative Updates:

- i. Don Hellwig (Agriculture) reviewed his experience with the Legislative Visits that recently occurred in January. He mentioned that the topic of unfunded liability as well as the bonding at John Redmond Reservoir were frequently discussed items. Amelia Nill (KWO) brought up the newly initiated House Bill 2686. She said that she had recently sent out a document to RAC members that provided a summary of the bill and suggested tuning into the Legislative YouTube channel to gain further insight. Tim Driggs (Public Water Supply) also brought up House Bill 2531.

c. Additional KWO Updates:

- i. Amelia Nill (KWO) provided the RAC with updates regarding recent events of the Kansas Water Office. She mentioned that the KWO continues to work on finalizing the Kansas Water Plan update and that they are currently working to incorporate the public comments that were received. In addition, she stated that the upcoming Kansas Water Authority meeting will take place virtually on March 23rd.

IV. Agency or Public Comments:

- a. Pete Gile (KBID) provided an update about the automation of the head gates on the Upper Courtland Canal stating that great progress has been made on this project and touching on its benefits.
- b. Chelsea Erickson (KDA-DWR) gave an update on Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources current activities. She stated that they have collected about 70% of all water use reports and that the Division plans to visit all water rights within their field area that have not been inspected in more than 10 years.
- c. Jennifer Nichols (KDHE) Via email supplied further information about Blue Green Algae blooms and the continuous work being done to best identify the potential causes of increase in blooms in order to determine solutions. Additionally, Jennifer informed the RAC that KDHE is continuing to work with and actively seek public water supply systems thru the Drinking Water Protection Program to protect water sources from nitrates. She provided details on how cost-shares could work with the program and other technical aspects.

V. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority, March 23rd, (Zoom Meeting)
- b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (April/May)

VI. Adjourn: Don (Agriculture) adjourned the meeting with no further business at 11:29 pm.