

**Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**  
 10:00 am, Wednesday, March 6, 2019  
 Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room, 240 W. US Highway 24, Downs, KS

**Members in Attendance:**

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Donald Hellwig (Chair)	Solomon, KS	Agriculture	2021	Yes
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2021	No
John Cockerham	Osborne, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Raymond Debey	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Timothy Driggs	Phillipsburg, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	No
Stacey Forshee	Ottawa County, KS	At Large Public	2019	No
Keith Houghton	Tipton, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2019	No
Terry Nelson	Phillips County, KS	Irrigation West	2021	No
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2021	Yes
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2019	Yes

**Others in attendance:**

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Lynn Davignon	KDWPT	Mark Billinger	KDA-DWR
Kenneth Kopp	KRWA	Jennifer Nichols	KDHE
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

**I. Welcome and Introductions:** Donald Hellwig, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am with self-introductions around the table, attendance was a little sparse.

**II. RAC Business:**

- a) **Review of December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting notes:** Don asked if there were any additions or corrections to the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting notes, there were none. They stand approved as written.
- b) **Review of January 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative Visits:** Don stated that his visits were good but there would be no commitment to water issues until the school funding issue is resolved. He also thought there was more awareness of water issues especially in western Kansas due to the Water Technology Farms and their publicity. Tj mentioned that there seemed to be an increased knowledge of water issues even with the new legislators. Also the Water and Environment Committee is no more and water related bills will go through the Agriculture Committee.
- c) **Review of the January 31<sup>st</sup> KWA meeting in Topeka:** Don mentioned the Public Water Supply issues for Council Grove and Lawrence and the Bathymetric surveying took up a good portion of the meeting. Reservoir surveys will be covered cover later on today's agenda. There was a process laid out as to how the RAC membership will take place over the next several months. This is relevant with about half of the RAC member terms being up the end of June this year. Lieutenant Governor, Lynn Rogers spoke for a few minutes and there were no questions of him so he was there only a few minutes.

- III. Update from the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA):** Ken Kopp made this presentation and the presentation is available [here](#). The KRWA has been around for more than 50 years and its mission is to educate and provide leadership to water and wastewater utilities in Kansas. Outreach through publications, print and social media to accomplish this. KRWA is a 501c3 company a seven member board and 17 employees with their main office in Seneca. KRWA currently has 484 municipalities that it provides technical support to, ex. GIS mapping. Since 1992 a total of 2,098 water loss surveys have been conducted locating more than 6.8 billion gallons on an annual basis with a value over \$15 million. KRWA is also partially funded by KWO and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. KRWA produces an annual report that can be found [here](#). Training of operators is a good portion of what they do with over 110 days of training in 2018 and nearly 7,000 participants. Sampling of waste ponds is a necessary job but is not a highly sought after position. Their staff is also very capable of helping a city or utility design a website. One of their big outreach events is the annual conference which will draw over 1,000 people and hundreds of vendors. KRWA also uses their weekly e-news, which Ken produces, to keep Kansans informed on water issues. He encouraged everyone to subscribe which can be done [here](#). The idea of getting Osborne RWD #2 in contact with KRWA was brought up to help them resolve their water issue.
- IV. Update from KWO on RAC Membership:** Tj led this discussion with a display of the RAC member contact information sheet that lists term of service. We have about half of the RAC that has their term expiring the end of June this year. We want those members to continue to serve on the RAC and an application will be sent out to them shortly or can be found online [here](#). This will help to make sure KWO has current contact information, have been having some problems recently. Applications have been sent out to Larry Kindig and Keli Habiger, both of which have participated in our meetings before. Don was working on finding another person through an old acquaintance. Tj asked the group if they knew of any other people that might be interested in serving on the committee and if they do please pass their name along.
- V. Update on Water Transfer from Platte to Republican River:** Don asked Lynn if he had any new on this and Lynn said he hadn't heard a word on this for some time. KDWP had drafted a response to the application that sited the potential movement of White Perch, Asian Carp and Zebra Mussels into Harlan County, Lovewell and then Milford Reservoirs and the destruction that would cause. Tj mentioned that after talking to Lynn he contacted Jeff Runge with USFWS in Nebraska and he hadn't heard anything either. There is a website that is monitoring the progress of the application and it is located [here](#). There hadn't been any entries since October so Susan France, Information Officer for Nebraska DNR was contacted. She said the process is moving along and they are looking to post some updates to the webpage in a couple of weeks. This is a relatively cheap project to help offset the amount of water Nebraska owes Kansas however it would have a huge environmental impact if allowed to be constructed.
- VI. Update on Milford RCPP:** Tj started this discussion noting the recent outreach to the Conservation Districts in the Milford Watershed. Eight of the nine Annual Conservation District meetings in the

Milford watershed were attended by a KWO person to explain the program. There had been a power point developed that is available [here](#). Information delivered in the power point included: there are more than 30 partners that have joined together to make this multi-million dollar effort a success. Financial assistance is being offered to landowners with the goal of reducing the nutrient loading in the Milford watershed by 31,000 pounds of phosphorus annually. The Milford watershed includes portions of Jewell, Republic, Washington, Mitchell, Cloud, Clay, Riley, Dickenson and Geary Counties. Funding is available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to implement practices on land in Milford watershed to address water quality concerns. Some of the water quality improvement best management practices that are available for funding are: nutrient management, residue management, filter strips, grass plantings, cover crops and several others. There has been on sign up deadline and another is March 15, 2019. Tj brought some Factsheets, KDWPT incentive payment sheets and koozies for the group. Attendance numbers at the annual Conservation District meetings is high so this is a great place to get the message out about the Milford RCPP. More information about the Milford RCPP is located at [www.milfordwatershed.org](http://www.milfordwatershed.org)

**VII. Update from KWO on Bathymetric Surveys:** Don mentioned this was discussed at the January KWA meeting and that this is goal #3 of the Committee. Tj said that generally the bathymetric survey costs between \$90,000 to \$100,000/survey and it would be a while to get to Waconda Lake done since it is not a high priority water supply lake. KWO thought they could purchase the necessary equipment to do the surveys and complete more surveys per year for a much cheaper rate. KWO now owns a boat, equipment and soon a truck to complete the surveys. A power point is available [here](#) showing construction of the boat. The equipment is nearly identical to the equipment the USACE uses for the surveys and we'll use the same track logs (paths) created for use in previous surveys eliminating possible errors. This should speed up the process of getting surveys completed and hopefully Waconda will be completed within the next couple of years. Lynn mentioned they have completed surveys on smaller bodies of water across the state.

**VII. Comments:** Mark, KDA-DWR, brought up filling water use reports on-line. He stated that their on-line reporting system has been busy, 86.6% of their water use reports have been done online with 7.5% in paper and the rest have not reported. He was pleased with the number of online reports. If the water use report isn't filed by June 1<sup>st</sup> there is a \$250 fine and suspension of the water right until this and the \$20/file fee is paid. Tj talked a little about the Lower Republican Access District, set up to help Junior water right holders when MDS is put on. A meeting was held last week in Concordia that generated more questions than answers but we'll continue to work towards a solution.

### **VIII. Future Meetings:**

- a. Kansas Water Authority: April 18, 2019, Abilene Civic Center, Abilene, KS.
- b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (June)
- c. Don adjourned the meeting with no further business at 11:25am.