

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10 am, Tuesday, May 24, 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	No
Keli Habiger	Phillipsburg, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2023	No
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2025	No
Rhonda Coffman	Agenda, KS	At Large Public	2023	Yes
Robbin Dibble	Alton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
Stanley Kats	Prairie View, KS	At Large Public	2023	Yes
Sharon Sahlfeld	Beloit, KS	At Large Public	2025	No
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2023	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Amelia Nill	KWO	Chelsea Erickson	KDA-DWR
Ted Harris	KBS	Janel Odle	NRCS
Dan Meyerhoff	KACD	Chris Steffen	KDWP
Travis Sieve	KDHE		

I. Welcome and Introductions: Chairman, Don Hellwig (Agriculture), called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Don took the time to call on each attendee for a brief introduction before beginning the meeting.

II. Review of February 23rd Meeting Notes: Don (Agriculture) asked if everyone had seen the February 23rd notes and if there were any additions or corrections, there were none. The notes were accepted with no changes.

III. RAC Business:

- a. **HAB Presentation:** Ted Harris (KBS) presented on the research the Kansas Biological Survey (KBS) has completed on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) within the Solomon-Republican Region. Ted gave a background of what HABs are, stating that they are made of cyanobacteria, can produce harmful toxins as well as taste and odor compounds and they are still researching why and when they bloom. The main way to collecting data on HABs is through sediment coring and information sharing with other agencies. Ted said that within the Solomon-Republican region,

Webster reservoir has seen multiple HAB events since 2015 and that there has been an increase in algae in Webster's system since about 2010. He theorized that this could be from an increase in nutrients, light or something else within the system. KBS is currently in the process of gathering sediment cores from Waconda reservoir, and that should be completed near the end of 2022. Kirwin reservoir is scheduled to start coring in late 2022 as well. Ted said that their goal is to get a projection of water quality across the entirety of the Kansas River Basin.

- b. **WRAPS Presentation:** Dan Meyerhoff (KACD) gave a presentation highlighting the priorities and programs of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD). He stated how KACD works in coordination with WRAPs and KDHE to manage some of KACD's identified priority areas. Additionally, he stated that financial incentive for these programs are based off of the efficiency of the practice and the amount of Phosphorus saved. KDHE has developed a model in order to determine this. Dan mentioned the KACD's collaboration with several other partners at the state, federal, private and local levels to carry out their programs. The final thing he mentioned in his presentation was that KACD is responsible for hosting local workgroup meetings with the goal of identifying the needs, priority concerns, and program recommendations at the local level. A statewide report of the information gathered at the local workgroup meetings will be made available later this year.
- c. **Review of RAC Goals:** Don Hellwig (Agriculture) led the RAC in a discussion of the RAC's current goals. It was identified that an assessment of the progress made on each goal should be done. Amelia (KWO) will complete this assessment and communicate this information with the RAC before the next meeting.
- d. **Additional KWO Updates:** Amelia (KWO) provided the RAC with an update regarding the date and location of the upcoming Kansas Water Authority meeting. This will be held June 22nd in Pittsburg, Kansas. She also mentioned that the KWO is planning to host an open discussion about current water policy issues and will communicate the meeting details with the RAC later on.

IV. Agency or Public Comments:

- a. Chelsea Erickson (KDA-DWR) informed the RAC that DWR is currently assessing streamflow levels in the Lower Republican and the Solomon in order to determine whether any water rights would need to be turned off. Additionally, she mentioned that on June 1st, there will be an increase in fees for late or missing water use reports.
- b. Chris Steffen (KDWP) told the RAC that KDWP received a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) to inspect boats for invasive species on BoR reservoirs. He states that this work will be contracted out and will begin in either June or July.

V. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority, June 22nd, (Pittsburg, Kansas & Zoom Meeting)
- b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (July/August)

VI. Adjourn: Don (Agriculture) adjourned the meeting with no further business at 11:40 am.