



Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am, Monday, July 23, 2018

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
James (JP) Metzler (Vice)	Minneapolis, KS	Industry and Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2021	No
John Cockerham	Osborne, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
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	Jennifer Nichols	KDHE
Christin Mitchell	KDHE	Kelly Stewart	KDA/DWR
Earl Lewis	KWO	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

I. Welcome and Introductions: Donald Hellwig, Chairman, called the meeting to order a few minutes after 10 am.

II. RAC Business:

- a) **Review of April 3rd meeting notes:** Don asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 3rd meeting notes, there were none.
- b) **Review of April 18th KWA meeting in Lenexa:** Don mentioned the tours of the WaterOne facilities that took place the day before, Wolcott plant and the Missouri River Intake. WaterOne supplies water to most of Johnson County and is expected to grow, Wolcott facility was designed with that in mind. During the KWA meeting the “Kansas Runs on Water” campaign was introduced with positive feedback from those in attendance. Tracy gave a drought report, much of the southwest is in extreme drought with the drought conditions worsening for the central portion of the state. There were presentations by the Kansas, Great Bend Prairie and Equus-Walnut RACS. There was also some discussion led by Dave Barfield, KDA-DWR, about the aquifer augmentation that Wichita is involved in. Having the excess flow in the river and the ability to put the water back into the aquifer has currently limited this type of work to this location in the state. David also presented on the City of Hays/R9 transfer and the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge impairment.
- c) **Filling of Scott’s vacant position on the RAC (At Large Public):** Don thought everyone was aware that Scott had moved out of the Region so he is no longer on this RAC. An application form was distributed and attendees were asked to consider someone who might fill the vacancy. If they have someone in mind contact Don or Tj.

Membership: Donald Hellwig (Chair), Solomon, KS; James (JP) Metzler (Vice Chair), Minneapolis, KS; Mike Brzon, Courtland, KS; John Cockerham, Osborne, KS; Raymond Debey, Cawker City, KS; Timothy Driggs, Phillipsburg, KS; Stacey Forshee, Ottawa County, KS; Keith Houghton, Tipton, KS; Terry Nelson, Phillips County, KS; David Pfizenmaier, Clay Center, KS; Arnold Ross, Webber, KS
KWO Planner: Kirk Tjelmeland, 785-296-3185; kirk.tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov

- III. Update from KWO-Budget Recommendations to the Kansas Water Authority:** Earl led this discussion with the information he presented available [here](#). Agencies have met and put forward their requests however those total a little over \$15 million, so some assistance is needed from the RAC to assist in whittling this down. The recommendations that the RAC develops will be passed onto the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) prior to their August 22nd meeting. The hope is to have the entire \$8 million restored to the SWPF, \$6 million from State General Fund (SGF) and \$2 million from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) however only \$1.2 million was restored for FY2017 and \$3.25 million was restored for FY2018. Earl had prepared the spreadsheet that is broken down into 4 sections that match up with the Vision: Water Conservation, Water Management, Technology and Crop Varieties and Additional Sources of supply. He went down the spreadsheet highlighting such things as the Streambank stabilization effectiveness study, Milford RCPP, Vision Education Strategy, Kansas River Alluvial Aquifer, Harmful Algal Bloom Research, Water Resource Planner, and Irrigation Technology. There was a short discussion that included: streambank work, purchase of storage in the reservoirs, education and siltation. Don asked to hear more about the Vision Education piece. The Education and Outreach piece is located [here](#) and was developed by Walz-Tetrick to promote the statewide outreach for water education with multiple state agencies involved. The committee elevated **Education** to the top of list for recommendations to the KWA
- IV. Update from KDHE-HAB events at Sebelius and Webster:** Jennifer led this discussion and her power point is available [here](#). She explained it has been a slower year in the Northcentral Region however Dan from the Northwest Region has been busy with Webster and Sebelius. Jennifer went on to explain that 88% of lakes sampled have blue-greens present and that they are a part of the phytoplankton community. The blooms only become a problem when they are large, last a long time and occur frequently. Blooms happen when there are plenty of nutrients, temperatures are high and there is little movement in the water column. KDHE had developed guidelines for HABs according to cell counts and toxin levels, ex: cell counts between $\geq 250,000$ to $\leq 10,000,000$ fall within the Warning Level. In 2017 KDHE collected and analyzed 160 samples from 28 lakes resulting in 24 lakes being posted to Watch, Warning or Closure. Webster led the pack in 2017 with 14 weeks sampled and is leading in 2018 with 5 weeks in Warning status. Because the HAB is buoyant it can be easily identified by placing a sample of water in a jar. Place the jar in a refrigerator overnight, if floating in the morning, this is the bad stuff. The bloom at Sebelius driven by the wind gathered over the public water intake and was pulled into the Cities treatment plant. The algae were drawn into the plant causing it to be pulled off line for treatment. A boil water order was put in place when the line pressure dropped with the wells not able to keep up with demand. Heavy rain events near Hill City were the trigger to the HAB on Sebelius. KDHE doesn't sample private waters so landowners can use the jar test or pay private labs to complete testing. Some temporary treatments include: the application of Alum and removal of roughfish, either tying up or removing nutrients. Keeping nutrients in place seems to be the key and she mentioned a streambank project that is using trees and root wads instead of rock to armor the banks, this is currently being evaluated.
- V. Update from KWO-Sebelius Economic Report by the Docking Institute:** Tj led this discussion and the final economic report produced by the Docking Institute is available [here](#). The report will be presented to the public at a meeting in August or September in the Norton Area. When that date and location is finalized the RAC will be notified. Several points of interest in the report include: calculated economic impact to Norton County is \$4.8 million annually, recreational users from CO and NE contribute \$761,000 annually, Kansas sales tax generated is over \$70,000, the value of the Norton Municipal Water Right is \$1.8 million, value of the water right held by Almena Irrigation District #5 is \$11.5 million and the value of the water left in Sebelius by the contract is \$2.4 million. The value of having water in the reservoir is amazing.

- VI. Update from KWO-Milford lake Watershed RCPP:** Tj led this discussion. The RCPP is getting closer to a formal signing of a contract hopefully by August 1st. The main goal of the project is to limit nutrient loading in the Milford Watershed. The \$2.88 million will be delivered all at one time not annually over the 5 year project and the NRCS will hold and monitor the spenddown. Time spent by the 28 partners prior to the formal contract execution does not count towards committed in-kind match. The whole partner group and the three workgroups have been meeting since January to make this program a success. We are in a holding pattern with an expected flurry of activity once the contract is signed. If everything goes well the program will launch and the first signup period will be this fall. The hope is to have the first signup end the 3rd week of November the same as EQIP.
- VII. Comments:** Lynn, KDWPT, brought up the proposed water transfer that could take place in NE from the Platte River to the Republican River. An application has been filed by Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) to divert up to 275 cfs from the Platte River, staged in the Elwood Reservoir or directly released into Turkey Creek at 100 cfs making its way to the Republican River. The Platte has two invasive species that would decimate sport fish populations in Harlan County, Lovewell and Milford if this transfer is allowed to take place. Asian Carp and White Perch have reduced sportfish populations by as much as 80% in lakes where they have infested and cause bodily injury to recreationalists. The comment period is up through August 16th for written comments. The Osborn RWD #1 issue, condemnation of an irrigation well, was also brought up. Kelly, DWR, has been working with the District for a while trying to find a new source of water. Their options are somewhat limited since the area is closed to new wells.
- VIII. Future Meetings:**
- a. Kansas Water Authority: August 22nd KDA, 1320 Research Park Dr. Manhattan, KS 66506.
 - b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (October 15th – 19th or 22nd – 26th)
 - c. Don adjourned the meeting with no further business a little after noon.