



Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**10 am, Tuesday, July 14, 2020
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	No
Donald Hellwig	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)	2023	Yes
Rhonda Coffman	Agenda, KS	At Large Public	2023	Yes
Robbin Dibble	Alton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Stanley Kats	Prairie View, KS	At Large Public	2023	Yes
Terry Nelson	Phillips County, KS	Irrigation West	2021	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
Josh Olson	KWO	Connie Owen	KWA
Angela Anderson	KWO	Michael Nyhoff	KDWPT
Earl Lewis	KWO	Steve Frost	DOC

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Chair, Tim Driggs. Self-introductions were given with RAC roll call completed on the conference call line.

- II) **RAC Business:**
 - a. **FY21 SWPF budget update:** Tim opened the discussion and welcomed Earl Lewis to the meeting to provide an update on the FY21 SWPF budget. Earl explained that the goal was to engage the RAC in the budget recommendations process. Earl noted that the near-term goal is to get feedback from RACs for FY22 that could be summarized and provided to the KWA Budget Committee. The longer-term goal is to get information on the front end of the process, and then, after approving the Goals and Action Plans, figure out the cost to implement the Goals and Action Plans. Essentially, the idea is to lead with a need and establish where funding needs are. Earl noted that the KWO wants to incorporate details about needs into the Kansas Water Plan. Earl went through a SWPF table, which outlined appropriations by agency. Earl explained that the KWO received about \$4.5 million last year of its statutory \$8 million and had initially gained about \$2.4 million in appropriations this year. However, with the current budget situation reducing SGF revenues, the \$2.4 million added by the legislature won't be added in FY21. Earl went through the KWP budget guidelines, noting there is a high priority on using funding on statutorily required efforts and to leverage federal funding. Earl also mentioned considerations for ensuring fee payers are getting some benefit and balancing hydrologic (surface water) and hydrogeologic (ground water) issues. Earl went through figures that broke down SWP expenditures by budget category, with groundwater initiatives, water quality, and reservoir water supply & sedimentation being the primary three. Earl noted that groundwater initiatives only represent about 4% of expenditures and explained that this largely due to the fact that most

of those efforts are individual actions (conservation). The majority of funds go to reservoir water supply & sedimentation and reservoir & water quality. Earl shared a diagram of the average SWPF distribution (FY15-19) by budget category for each region/county, noting that what benefits one county may benefit another, causing some overlap. Earl explained the process of identifying issues, creating Goals and Action Plans that address them, and funding projects and initiatives to address them. Based on the information outlined, Earl asked the RAC if money in the Solomon-Republican is being spent appropriately, as well as what Goals in the region are not getting the attention they need. Don noted that the RAC added a Goal regarding streambank erosion. Don asked if the KWO's plate is full, or if there was hope of adding some funding for a lower Solomon streambank assessment. Earl responded that it was a great point and that more requests for those type of efforts increase the likelihood of getting funding. Earl suggested keeping it as a priority. Don noted that it was a project that taxpayers can see the result of, which sends the message to the public that we are concerned about conservation. Earl agreed that it was a good point that a lot of projects are less visible, and that streambank efforts have a clear connection between funding and impact. Connie (KWA) asked if the FY21 amounts were being rolled back to FY20 values and if any additions, such as WID, are now gone. Earl responded that it is likely, but there is some wiggle room with the budget guidelines from the Governor as to where the cuts will be made. Earl suggested that was something to think about this year, places to cut to add money for other projects. Earl ended the discussion by noting the Budget Committee will be gathering the first week of August.

- b. **Review of June 2nd meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- c. **Review and revision of Goals and Action Plans:** Tim shifted the conversation to a final review of the Goals and Action Plans, asking for comments on Priority Goal 1. Don noted that the RAC had spent more time on that Goal (fee structures, etc.) than almost anything else. Don stated that it was a well-developed Goal and suggested that he would leave it as-is. Tim asked if any discussion had occurred with Webster Reservoir about future-use agreements. Don shared that the USFWS had been invited to meetings. Don noted that it may potentially be a good idea, but questioned how much of a current priority it should be. Earl shared that it has been a long time since there have been any conversations on the topic. Earl noted that it wasn't pushed as hard, as Keith Sebelius Reservoir was more of a focus. Earl stated that it had been talked about in the past, but there is less interest when conditions are favorable. Earl also noted that Kirwin Reservoir has been discussed, but there doesn't seem to be much interest from the USFWS. The remaining Goals and Action Plans were reviewed. Don mentioned the proposed Goal, noting that the RAC started talking about streambank stabilization on the Solomon River, and then Ray mentioned including ditch erosion. Don suggested that ditch erosion probably has as much impact on erosion and sedimentation as streambank stabilization. Both issues are included in the new Goal. Ray moved to approve the Goals as written. Don seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- d. **Regional budget recommendations:** The RAC discussed regional budget recommendations for FY22, using the FY21 recommendations as a starting point. Tim noted that he would like to see increased funding for all the budget recommendations. Don noted streambank stabilization in particular as a priority, suggesting it was a desirable project for increased funding due to its visibility and relative short time required to complete projects. Don suggested these aspects of streambank stabilization efforts may bode well for additional funding in the future. After additional discussion, Don moved to maintain and approve the budget recommendations from FY21 for FY22. Robin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



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- III) Agency or Public Comments:** Connie Owen, the KWA Chair, commented on how important the RAC's efforts are, noting that the KWA relies on them. Connie thanked the RAC for their efforts.
- IV) Upcoming Meetings:**
- a. Kansas Water Authority Conference Call (July 30th, 9:00am, GoTo Meeting)
 - b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (September Doodle Poll)
- V) Adjourn:** Tim adjourned the meeting with no further business at 10:55 am.