MEMO

DATE: April 1, 2019
TO: Upper Arkansas RAC Members
FROM: Alexandra Geisler, Kansas Water Office
CC: Upper Arkansas RAC Advisors
RE: April 12, 2019 Meeting

Water Office 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404 Topeka, KS 66612 Phone: (785) 296-3185 Fax: (785) 296-0878 www.kwo.ks.gov

The next meeting of the Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee will be held on Friday April 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Finnup Center for Education, Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City Kansas.

The committee will receive an update on Water Technology Farms and Industry Outreach, presentations covering Municipal BOR work and Arkansas River water quality, and a review 2019 membership drive.

Enclosed please find the following meeting materials:

- Agenda
- November & January meeting minutes

If you have any questions or need additional information prior to the meeting, feel free to contact me at <u>alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov</u> or give me a call at (785) 296-0865.

April 12th, 2019 Finnup Center for Education, Lee Richardson Zoo 312 E Finnup Dr., Garden City, KS 9:00am

- 1. Welcome & Introductions
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. <u>Review & Approval of November & January Meeting Minutes</u>
- 4. KGS Arkansas River Water Quality Jim Butler
- 5. Water Technology Farm & Field Days Update Armando Zarco
- 6. Industry Outreach Kyle Nelson
- 7. Municipal: Bureau of Reclamation Fred Jones
- 8. Action Plan Revision
- 9. SOTR RAC Presentations & Outreach Efforts
- 10. 2019 Membership Drive
- 11. Agency Reports
 - a. GMD3
 - b. KDA-DWR
 - c. KWO
- 12. Other Business
 - a. Public Comments
 - b. <u>Messages to Kansas Water Authority</u>
 - c. Future Meetings
 - i. Kansas Water Authority April 18th @ 8am Abilene Civic Center
 - ii. GMD3 Board Meeting May 8^{th} @ 9am Garden City
 - iii. Next RAC Meeting Budget Review in June
- 13. Adjourn

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC



Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm, Thursday, November 29, 2018 Finnup Center for Education, Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City, KS

Members in Attendance:

Garden City, KS			Present
Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Jetmore, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	No
Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Cimarron, KS	Dairy	2021	No
Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Ingalls, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Coolidge, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2021	Yes
Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	Yes
Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2019	Yes
Lakin, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	Yes
	Holcomb, KS Ingalls, KS Syracuse, KS Cimarron, KS Garden City, KS Ingalls, KS Coolidge, KS Lakin, KS Dodge City, KS Lakin, KS	Holcomb, KSIndustry/Commerce (cc)Ingalls, KSAgriculture (cc)Syracuse, KSAt Large Public (cc)Cimarron, KSDairyGarden City, KSAgriculture IndustryIngalls, KSGroundwater ManagementCoolidge, KSSurface Water IrrigationLakin, KSGroundwater IrrigationDodge City, KSPublic Water Supply 2Lakin, KSAt Large Public 2	Holcomb, KSIndustry/Commerce (cc)2019Ingalls, KSAgriculture (cc)2019Syracuse, KSAt Large Public (cc)2021Cimarron, KSDairy2021Garden City, KSAgriculture Industry2021Ingalls, KSGroundwater Management2019Coolidge, KSSurface Water Irrigation2021Lakin, KSGroundwater Supply 22019Dodge City, KSPublic Water Supply 22019Lakin, KSAt Large Public 22021

DRAFT

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Randy Hayzlett	KWA
Kevin Salter	KDA-DWR
Gary Boldt	Public
Greg Graff	KWA
Armando Zarco	KWO
Alexandra Geisler	KWO

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Fred Jones began the meeting at 1:03pm. A quorum was present; nine of the thirteen committee members were present.

Approval of Agenda

Fred Jones added the discussion of Ted Boersma's membership as an agenda item under other business. Steven Hines motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, Titus Jaeger seconded. The motion passed and the agenda was approved with the addition.

Review & Approval of September Meeting Notes

Roy Dixon motioned to approve the minutes, Steven Hines seconded. The September minutes were approved.



Randy Hayzlett suggested that if Colorado asks for something, that we should be ready with something to request back to Colorado. Chairman Fred Jones asked that discussion on this topic be moved to the public comments section of the meeting, and at that point the committee can discuss potential suggestions.

Action Plan Progress & Review

At the request of the RAC, Chairman Fred Jones and Planners Alexandra and Armando reviewed the action plan in order to provide and update to the committee on progress and next steps. During that review process it became clear that this task would be difficult due to repetitiveness and lack of concision in the action steps. To provide more clarity the three put together an outline of potential changes for the committee's consideration. It is important to note that these are only suggestions and no changes or decisions will be made unless requested by the committee. If the RAC does want to move forward with a revision the original plan will stay in place until a new version has been submitted to and approved by the Kansas Water Authority.

The members discussed this idea and agreed that consolidating and rewording the action plan to be more clear and precise would be beneficial and provide an opportunity to emphasize priorities. The focus of this approach would be on goal #1 which currently has twenty action steps. Joe Jury suggested narrowing it down to four or five main topics, and then as Titus Jaeger suggested ordering them by priority and giving each an urgency/time sensitivity rating. Further discussion concluded that going through all the specifics and edits would not be a good use of the committee's time. It would be better to determine the main topics and have KWO staff rework the plan and bring it back to the RAC for review. With this decided Fred Jones asked the committee to work exclusively determining how to consolidate, and decide priority and urgency at a future meeting.

The main categories considered by the RAC included Conservation, Technology, Education, Augmentation, Reduction, and Water Quality. Discussion started with the question on what is the difference between conservation and reduction in relation to extending the usable life of the aquifer. Titus Jaeger and Joe Jury began by talking about using augmentation to reach net zero. Farmers can go back to dryland cropping but that would give up the tax base and a lot of economy. Kyle Nelson added that when considering augmentation you must consider that some aquifers are more suited for augmentation. A practical source of augmentation would be injection for withdrawal later. Kyle continued saying that they were talking about aqueduct, but if trying to extend the life of the Ogallala then what is the difference between reducing withdrawal and extending the usable life; they are one in the same. Titus sees the reduction or forced lowering of consumption to be due to a mindset focused on scarcity, whereas extending the life of the aquifer comes from a mentality of abundance and finding innovate ways to extend the usable life. A comment was made that the first priority should be getting more water down that river consistently. Steven Hines agreed saying if we get more water it needs to be put in places to let it recharge. Kyle Nelson responded that when looking at total flow compared to what is being pumped out, even at the most optimistic it is very far off from making a difference.

When considering augmentation timeframe is important, and does the region have that much time? Fred Jones asked about GMO's, what the interest there is in using them to reduce water use. Monte Morgan responded that when discussing corn it comes down to the three I's: Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. Everything related to corn technology goes to those states where they have plenty of water. The question was also posed as to whether or not there is enough money to pay for an aqueduct. You would have to get the whole population behind it if you want a state project, not considering those outside of Kansas. This is why education is important. Fred Jones stated that the reality is there has to be a lot more winners from a transportation project than just Kansas, such as Colorado, Arizona, and California. What happens with that in order for all of those states to benefit? There is not enough legislative horsepower to get this done for Kansas alone. Joe Jury pointed out that in areas where it has worked that it was going from areas of low to high population, not the other way around. Titus Jaeger responded saying that Colorado will bring it through but we need to get a right on



it now, and maybe in 50 years beneficial use isn't for irrigation. Monte Morgan asked if the committee thinks that Colorado will push this through to get water to Denver. Roy Dixon answered explaining that the pipeline from Pueblo to Lemar was to get higher quality water to municipal users. The last comment on this topic came from Kyle Nelson, who described how the energy required to get the water here is staggering because geographically it is multiple thousands of feet higher.

Fred Jones at this point asked the committee to focus on the original issue of determining how to consolidate the action steps. If everyone agrees the planners can put it together and send it out for additional feedback. At the next meeting we can get more specific on what we want to get done and determine a rank that considers urgency and importance. What are we going to be asking the people that can actually take action on these to do? Don't answer now, think about it and what will give clarity to people we communicate with. What are the most important actions we want them to do?

Greg Graff contributed saying that as an advisory board they have the ability to bring issues to the state, and choose what is most important for the state to start working on. The GMDs are sometimes working on different things than the RAC. Planners and chairs can help condense that, and there is need for a united front. In regards to conservation and reduction with LEMA talks they are used interchangeably. The board is still promoting efficiency through cost-share, which is different from conservation/reduction.

Moving forward the committee wants the planners to make a draft following today's conversation. The committee can rank and review it for additional comments/edits at the next stand-alone RAC meeting in 2019.

Review of Cimarron Goals & Joint Meeting Agenda

The committee was given a copy of the Cimarron Goals to review, and given time to discuss items they want on the agenda for the joint meeting in January. The Cimarron RAC had already met and determined that Technology Farms and Master Irrigators should be on the agenda. Steen Hines asked if there is a compact on the Cimarron River in that region. Kevin Salter answered explaining that there is a compact between Kansas and Oklahoma, but Colorado is not a part of that. The stretch of the Cimarron that runs through Colorado is a short stretch with little development because the water there is not sustainable for that type of irrigation.

Alexandra stated that Fred and Nick as Chairman of the RACS will give and update on each of the regions and how they interrelate. Kyle Nelson added that it could be beneficial to bring in ideas from the other Western RACs and to find a way to have some of the same priorities in all four. Fred Jones requested a presentation from the major municipalities (Garden, Dodge, & Liberal) on consumption and new projects. The last topic the group wanted to add was a LEMA discussion and presentation from GMD4 on their district LEMA. The committee agreed on a meeting date of Friday January 25th.

Overview of Statewide RAC Activities

Alexandra demonstrated how to access the RAC pages on the KWO website to see what activities are occurring within the other regions throughout the state: <u>https://kwo.ks.gov/about-the-kwo/regional-advisory-committees</u> Monte asked where to find information about WCAs online. That information can be accessed on KDAs website. <u>https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/managing-kansas-water-resources/wca</u>

Fred Jones asked Gregg Graff if GMD1 is initiating a LEMA, and Titus asked if a LEMA will trump a WCA. Greg responded explaining that the GMD1 Board is looking at a 15 year LEMA broken into three 5 year segments. The one that takes precedence will depend on which of the two is more restrictive. The writing of the plan has just finished and



should be finalized in December to be ready to send to the Chief Engineer and start public meetings. The plans will most likely be presented once each at the annual meeting. The approach is to use similar plans but develop county by county starting with Wichita County. The goal is to have as many as possible in place by January of 2020, and then work to finish up the rest. The board is not looking at the township level because it gets too complicated to manage, although that could be a possibility in the future when the plans are reviewed. Steven Hines asked about the incorporation of water quality, and Greg explained that it is not the current focus, but that hopefully less pumping will have positive effects on water quality.

Monte stepped in to say that he attended the compact meeting yesterday and the river resource meeting where he heard Jim Butler talk about water quality in the Arkansas River. He requested that Jim be invited to come and speak about this issue to the committee.

Review of Governor's Water Conference

Fred Jones gave an overview of his experience at this year's Governor's Conference. There was a substantial turnout and a decent variety of sessions; he thought all the ones he attended were good. It was probably one of the better conferences and he had a chance to visit with all of the state people and see Tracy Streeter be recognized for his service to the state. Fred thought it was interesting to listen to Burke Griggs and a presentation from an Israeli gentleman. Rabbi Dr. Baruch HaLevi discussed his organization welaunch and what Israel is doing with their water. If it goes through the sewer system it gets reused for irrigation or goes straight to potable. He was interested in sharing ideas and technology between the nation of Israel and the US Midwest, and would like to do more collaboration with Kansas in the future.

Titus pointed out that there is a recap of the conference published in this week High Plains Journal. Next year the conference is going to be in Wichita, and will probably have more content and better attendance numbers with a different venue. If you haven't been to one consider going next year, and hopefully it's even better.

RAC Presentation Workgroup

Part of the committee's responsibility is to communicate with water users in the region about the resource. Alexandra Geisler explained that her and Armando as planners think it would be best if several members agreed to work with her on the development of the presentation for the RAC. This would ensure that the content and corresponding script is reflective of the RACs stance and that it's in a format that members are comfortable with presenting. The committee has seen several versions of this at previous meetings, and there is already a base presentation put together. Those who volunteered included Kyle Nelson, Titus Jaeger, Joe Jury and Fred Jones all who agreed to work on the development of the presentation. Alexandra will put the current presentation into google slides so that all of them can work on it, and will send out an email and link to them with more details.

Agency Reports

GMD3: No one from GMD3 in attendance

<u>Armando KDA-DWR</u>: KDA has decided to implement a new policy for the submission of water use reports. To help expedite the process and make it more accurate, they are going to start charging a paper fee. You will still get them in the mail, but there will be a \$20 per water right paper filing fee on each water use report (except for domestic use) when that report is submitted in paper form. This \$20 can be avoided by reporting water use online, which is recommended by KDA-DWR. Assistance will be provided since many haven't used the online system before. In addition there are online training tools and videos.



All of the GMD's came together and sent a letter to the Secretary asking to delay it for a year. The comments were appreciated but the fee will still be assessed for this year. Titus mentioned that they filed theirs online last year and it wasn't difficult. There is a confirmation page and you get an email when you are done. When you finish you can print the report and/or save it to a pdf to on your computer.

Other Business

Ted Boersma Attendance -

Ted Boersma represents the Dairy category on the RAC, and has attended 5 out of the last 13 meetings. Fred stated that Ted is not uninterested in continuing, but in his opinion if you are a member you need to come. The committee reviewed the IPM and process outlined for members with attendance issues. The general consensus was that it is important to have a dairy representative on the committee that attends meetings. The members agreed that it is an issue that should be addressed, but that KWO and the Water Authority RAC Operations Committee needs to address it, not the RAC.

Greg Graff and Fred Jones who are both a part of the KWA RAC Operations Committee explained that members had been removed in the past, and agreed that the matter should be addressed at the next Operations Committee meeting. Alexandra added that she will discuss the issue with Matt Unruh and ensure it is addressed. The RAC will be informed on any decisions made.

Message to Kansas Water Authority -

The committee reviewed the drafted letter to be sent to the Kansas Water Authority requesting a focus on finding Additional Sources of Supply. Upon review Kyle Nelson noticed that there should be an apostrophe in "regions". Titus Jaeger thought the draft was excellent, but did note two small changes. Those changes included adding "& tax base" after "region's economy" and on the last sentence adding the words "to bring the action items to fruition." Steven Hines motioned to approve the letter as amended, Titus seconded. The amended letter was approved.

Public Comments -

Colorado Request for ARCA: Steven Hines thinks we need to be asking for water to be able to run past Garden City without any penalty. He also believes recharge should be considered a beneficial use. Fred Jones said that water running past Garden City isn't really compact water. There is a large amount of water being added from the city municipality east of Garden, but that can be accounted for. Finding a landmark to move or add a measuring point to farther down river may be difficult. Anything to do with the compact is major. The city doesn't want to hamper reuse projects by doing something that may keep them from reusing as much of that discharge water as possible.

Fred Jones asked the group why not have a list that is vetted and ready to go, and have a more fully developed strategy. Colorado being upstream will always be on the defensive. Right now any release from John Martin must go into the ditch system and onto the field. Is there a way for the irrigation group to store it and sell it downstream? The only releases out of Martin are what the ditches need. Water quality issues from the border to Garden City are getting worse. A lot of the flow used to be from the ground, but the aquifer has dropped below and that no longer occurs. The water that is now getting recharged is contaminated and not good for growing. Lakin spent 7 million dollars to address the issue because of poor water quality in the river, and Deerfield is next. Garden City will have to address this issue because smaller municipalities can't and won't be able to afford to treat it.

Mike O'Brate added one last comments regarding pulling water off of the Missouri River. He stated that it's going to happen and there will be a race on who files the water permits first. If Kansas doesn't do it then other states will.



Future Meetings -

2018 Annual ARCA Meeting – Friday December 7th – Clarion Inn GMD3 Board Meeting – Wednesday December 12th Kansas Water Authority – Wednesday December 19th – Wichita, KS Next RAC Meeting – January 2019 Joint Meeting – Garden City, KS

Adjourn

Roy Dixon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bill Simshauser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm.

Membership: Fred Jones (Chair), Garden City, KS; Hugh Brownlee, Syracuse, KS; Roy Dixon, Garden City, KS; Steven Hines, Coolidge, KS; Titus Jaeger, Lakin, KS; Ted Boersma, Cimarron, KS; Joe Jury, Ingalls, KS; Monte Morgan, Deerfield, KS; Michael MacNair, Jetmore, KS; Kyle Nelson, Holcomb, KS; Mike O'Brate, Ingalls, KS; Ray Slattery, Dodge City, KS; Bill Simshauser, Lakin, KS **KWO Planner:** Alexandra Geisler, 785-296-0865; <u>alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov</u> Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; <u>armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov</u>



Upper Arkansas & Cimarron Joint Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am, Friday, January 25, 2019 City Administrative Center, Garden City, KS

DRAFT

Upper Arkansas Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Fred Jones (Chair)	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Michael MacNair	Jetmore, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Ted Boersma	Cimarron, KS	Dairy	2021	No
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Mike O'Brate	Ingalls, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	Yes
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2019	Yes
Bill Simshauser	Lakin, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	Yes
VACANT		Surface Water Irrigation	2021	

Cimarron Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Nick Hatcher (Chair)	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Bret Rooney (Vice-Chair)	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	2021	No
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Michael Bryant	Copeland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	Yes
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	2019	No
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	Yes
Gary Boldt	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public 3	2019	Yes
Jim Sipes	Manter, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Alan Olson	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Jason Norquest	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 4	2019	Yes
VACANT		Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	

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Cimarron Membership: Nick Hatcher (Chair), Liberal, KS; Brett Rooney (Vice-Chair), Satanta, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant, Copeland, KS; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Luke Grubbs, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Gary Boldt, Ulysses, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Alan Olson, Ulysses, KS; Jason Norquest, Garden City, KS

KWO Planner: Alexandra Geisler, 785-296-0865; <u>alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov</u> Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; <u>armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov</u>



Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Alexandra Geisler	KWO
Armando Zarco	KWO
Hal Scheuerman	GMD3
Roger Maddy JR	DFA
Ryan Allen	Garden City
Brownie Wilson	KGS
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Kevin Salter	KDA-DWR
Chris Law	GMD3
Shannon Kenyon	GMD4 & Upper Republican RAC
Trevor Ahring	GMD3
Mark Rude	GMD3
Steve Amosson	NPGCD
Greg Graff	KWA & GMD1
Abram Lollar	Ducks Unlimited

Welcome and Introductions

Alexandra Geisler began the meeting at 10:15am.

Chairs Presentation

Chairman Fred Jones took a moment to recognize Steven Hines, a member of the Upper Arkansas RAC who passed away last week. He served for many years on the RAC, and his commitment and contributions to the committee and the Upper Arkansas Region will be greatly missed. Condolences go out to all present who were close with him.

Both RAC Chairs, Fred Jones and Nick Hatcher, gave a brief presentation on committee interests and activities in their respective regions.

Agency Reports

Groundwater Management District No. 3 - Mark Rude:

Mark provided a brief history on the formation of GMDs; established to let local water rights holders determine their own destiny and to uphold basic water use doctrine. The district has recently been working on a revised Management Program, which goes to the Chief Engineer for approval and then gets adopted by the GMD. The most recent version is posted online, and is currently under review by the Chief Engineer.

Within the Upper Arkansas Region one of the major issues that must be addressed and brought forward to the Kansas Legislature is the Ark Valley conduit. The continued decline in the quality of the water coming into Kansas is a major concern, and the infilling of the river valley is a flood risk that could cause issues for ditches and diversions. The Western

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Water Conservation Funds are about used up, but there has been a lot of activity. A legislative report is being produced on the activities of those funds. Once that report is complete he will provide a copy for the RACs.

Within the Cimarron Region the GMD has spent a lot of money trying to address an irrigation development of 7,000 acre/ft. along the Cimarron River in Colorado, near both the Kansas and Oklahoma border. The district continues to work on this and has held public meetings for individuals from all three states, but the development is still moving forward. The approach will be to come back with strategic planning, and set goals on things that are definable and attainable with the available funds.

The GMD is evaluating issues and seeking to provide additional information to members, looking at each application and at what the aquifer is and can do.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources - Mike Meyer:

Mike explained that the new Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Beam, will be working as an interim until completing the total approval process. He likes where the agency is going, and looks forward to working with the new administration within the agency. While he has met Mike Beam it was before his new role as Secretary.

Each year the office works with KGS to help measure static water levels in Haskell, Grant, Finney, Gray and Kearny County. Annual water use reports have been sent out and the deadline for those is March 1st. The push is for everyone to use the online system, and there is now a paper fee for using the traditional paper version. Approximately 20% have been submitted to date through the system, which has beaten expectations. He encourages everyone to try the online system, and if assistance is needed to go to the office or GMD for help. His office will be at Hugoton on February 6th at the Library to provide assistance to those who need it.

Monte Morgan asked Mike if there is an area down close to the Oklahoma border that is still open to new appropriations, because 3-4 years ago he was told by another producer that there was. Mike's answer was that all of GMD3 is closed, but outside of that there are areas still open to appropriation if there is water available.

Kansas Water Office - Armando Zarco:

Armando reported that a new KWO director has yet to be appointed and that Earl Lewis is still acting as Interim Director until Governor Kelly appoints one. He mentioned that the KWA Annual Report and KDA Budget Reports are now available online for the public to access. KWAs upcoming meeting is next week on Thursday, with legislative visits on Wednesday involving RAC Chairs and KWA members. Lastly he gave an update on Water Technology Farms. There are currently 10 farms in the program, and with this year's budget KWO is looking to add 3-6 more this year.

Kansas Geological Survey: Aquifer Update – Brownie Wilson

Brownie explained that it is going to be hard to talk about this year's water levels, because due to bad weather annual well measurements are not yet complete. He gave an overview of the annual well measurement effort and the Kansas Index Well Program. With an explanation of the data-driven Water Balance Approach rewritten to address Net Inflow and Pumping, he covered the estimated percent reduction needed to reach stable water levels first in each RAC and then for

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each GMD. While the approach isn't perfect and isn't meant to replace numerical flow models, it allows quick assessments of aquifer responses to changes in pumping. The numbers are a general representation of the region as a whole, as there can be large variations across each region. For 2005 to 2017 the percent reduction calculated for the Upper Arkansas is approximately 19%, for the Cimarron approximately 31%, and for all of GMD3 approximately 31%. Brownie did show water-level results from this year's measurements, although it was super preliminary and incomplete.

North Plains Groundwater Conservation District: Master Irrigators Program – Dr. Steve Amosson

Dr. Steve Amosson provided and in depth presentation on the development, funding, structure, content, and implementation of the Master Irrigators Program. He explained the idea and rational behind the program and the reasons why it has been so successful. The 2019 class on year 4 for the program has already sold out, and he believes the program will continue to be successful in future years.

Lunch Break

Groundwater Management District No. 4: LEMA – Shannon Kenyon

Shannon Kenyon, a GMD4 staff member, provided a brief report and answered questions regarding the GMD4 LEMA. She stated that there are differences in the issues and culturally between the areas & GMDs, but that for GMD4 the LEMA has been a good thing and the overall response has been positive. She indicated that there are some interveners for the GMD4 LEMA but those are ongoing court cases that may take months or years before a resolution may be determined. She explained the process that took place in the development of the LEMA, and the changes that she has seen since it was put into effect.

Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) – Roger Maddy

Roger Maddy is the plant manager at the Garden City DFA Plant. He briefly discussed the company's global reach including United States and Global target customers, and then gave an overview of the Garden City Plant. He explained the production process from the time the milk reaches to plant to the final product. In addition he covered the energy profile of the plant including water consumption, and finished by showing a video tour of the plant.

Ducks Unlimited

Abram Lollar gave a short presentation on the projects that Ducks Unlimited has going on in NW Kansas. In particular, he talked about Playas and how they are in great need for duck migration through the Midwest. Lastly, he mentioned that Ducks Unlimited is interested in leasing out, or even purchasing, land for playas and would be willing to meet to discuss further.

Public Comments None

Upper Arkansas Membership: Fred Jones (Chair), Garden City, KS; Hugh Brownlee, Syracuse, KS; Roy Dixon, Garden City, KS; Titus Jaeger, Lakin, KS; Ted Boersma, Cimarron, KS; Joe Jury, Ingalls, KS; Monte Morgan, Deerfield, KS; Michael MacNair, Jetmore, KS; Kyle Nelson, Holcomb, KS; Mike O'Brate, Ingalls, KS; Ray Slattery, Dodge City, KS; Bill Simshauser, Lakin, KS

Cimarron Membership: Nick Hatcher (Chair), Liberal, KS; Brett Rooney (Vice-Chair), Satanta, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant, Copeland, KS; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Luke Grubbs, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Gary Boldt, Ulysses, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Alan Olson, Ulysses, KS; Jason Norquest, Garden City, KS

KWO Planner: Alexandra Geisler, 785-296-0865; <u>alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov</u> Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; <u>armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov</u>



Future Meetings

Kansas Water Authority – January 31st – Topeka KS Groundwater Management District No. 3 Annual Meeting – March 13th – Cimarron KS Next RAC Meeting - April

RAC Breakout

<u>Upper Arkansas</u>: The board members present requested a poll sent out for a meeting on the 1st or 2nd week of April

<u>Cimarron:</u> Short discussion on potential agenda items for the next RAC meeting. The board members presented selected Tuesday April 9th as the next meeting date.

Adjourn 3:00pm

Upper Arkansas Membership: Fred Jones (Chair), Garden City, KS; Hugh Brownlee, Syracuse, KS; Roy Dixon, Garden City, KS; Titus Jaeger, Lakin, KS; Ted Boersma, Cimarron, KS; Joe Jury, Ingalls, KS; Monte Morgan, Deerfield, KS; Michael MacNair, Jetmore, KS; Kyle Nelson, Holcomb, KS; Mike O'Brate, Ingalls, KS; Ray Slattery, Dodge City, KS; Bill Simshauser, Lakin, KS

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For Immediate Release: April 1, 2019

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	Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee	ر کر
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Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Garden City

April 12, 9a.m., at the Finnup Center for Education, Lee Richardson Zoo

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will have a meeting to discuss regional goals and priorities.

The meeting will be Friday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m., in the Finnup Center for Education, Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City, Kansas. The agenda includes an update on Water Technology Farms and Industry Outreach, presentations covering Municipal BOR work and Arkansas River water quality, and a review 2019 membership drive.

The agenda and meeting materials will be available at www.kwo.ks.gov or you may request copies by calling (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283).

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, KS 66611-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101) requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations messages.

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As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.

The agency prepares the KANSAS WATER PLAN, a plan for water resources development, management and conservation. KWO also reviews all water laws and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for needed legislation.