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MEMO

DATE: March 30, 2023
TO: Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Keadron Pearson
RE: March 31, 2023 Hybrid Meeting

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be having an in-person meeting, with a virtual attendance option, on **March 31, 2023 at 9:00 AM (CST)**. In-person meeting location and call-in details are below.

Meeting Address:

Finnup Center for Conservation Education
Hart Conference Room
312 E Finnup Dr
Garden City, KS 67846

Join the meeting from your computer, table, or smartphone:

<https://meet.goto.com/910942093>

Join by phone:

Dial: 1-571-317-3122
Access Code: 910-942-093

The main agenda items will be an “Update on Pilot Project for Multi-Purpose Account in John Martin Reservoir” and a presentation by Trevor Ahring on the “Formation of the Upper Arkansas River Watershed Group”.

Enclosed are the materials for the March 31, 2023 Meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the February 2023 Meeting
- Upper Arkansas RAC Draft Goals & Actions Plan
- Upper Arkansas RAC Membership Table

If you cannot participate, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (620) 765-7489 or by e-mail at Keadron.Pearson@kwo.ks.gov.



UPPER ARKANSAS REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

DATE: March 31, 2023
TIME: 9:00 AM (CST)
LOCATION: **In-Person/Virtual** ([Meeting Materials](#))

Finnup Center for Conservation Education
Hart Conference Room
312 E Finnup Dr
Garden City, KS 67846

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AGENDA DETAILS

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – RAC Chair/KWO Planner
- II. **Review of Agenda** – RAC Chair/Members
- III. **Review of February 2023 Meeting Notes** – RAC Chair/Members
- IV. **Regional Activities**
 - a. **Review of Draft Message** – RAC Chair/Members
 - b. **Update on Pilot Project for Multi-Purpose Account in John Martin Reservoir** – Kevin Salter, KDA-DWR & Rachel Duran, KDA-DWR
 - c. **Formation of the Upper Arkansas River Watershed Group** – Trevor Ahring, GMD3
- V. **Updates**
 - a. **Kansas Legislative** – KWO
 - b. **Kansas Water Authority** – KWO
 - c. **Kansas Water Office** – KWO
- VI. **Other Business-** RAC Chair
 - a. **Agency Reports** – *limited to 5 minutes
 - b. **Public comments** – *limited to 5 minutes
 - c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members**
 - d. **RAC Messages to the KWA**
 - e. **Future Meetings**
 - i. GMD3 Board Meeting: April 12th
 - ii. Kansas Water Authority: April 19th

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
 9:00 AM (CDT), Friday February 03, 2023
 Hybrid Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Roy Dixon (Chair)	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2025	Yes
Fred Jones (Vice-Chair)	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2025	Yes
Kyle Averhoff	Garden City, KS	Dairy	2025	Yes
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2023	Yes
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2025	Yes
Bill Simshauser	Lakin, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	Yes
Abram Lollar	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 3	2025	Yes
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	Yes
Brant Peterson	Johnson, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	Yes
Jason Shamburg	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	No
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Keadron Pearson	KWO	Austin McColloch	KDA – DWR
Victoria Potts	KWO	Jason Norquest	GMD3
Angela Anderson	KWO	Mark Rude	GMD3
Brownie Wilson	KGS	Chris Law	GMD3
Gary Bolt	N/A		

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by RAC Chair Roy Dixon. All present provided self-introductions.
2. **Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes were made.
3. **Review of August 2022 and September 2022 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were no changes requested by the RAC members. The motion was made by Joe Jury to approve the notes as written. Bill Simshauser seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Regional Activities**
 - a. **Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) Aquifer State Update:** Brownie Wilson (KGS) gave an update on the current conditions of the aquifer underlying the region. The presentation was followed by questions and answers from members of the RAC.
 - b. **7th Annual Playa Lakes Workshop & Tour Overview:** Abe Lollar (Ducks Unlimited) gave an overview of the 7th Annual Playa Lakes Workshop & Tour that had taken place in Liberal the previous month. He

Membership: Kyle Nelson (Chair), Holcomb, KS; Joe Jury (Vice-Chair), Ingalls, KS; Kyle Averhoff, Garden City, KS; Hugh Brownlee, Syracuse, KS; Roy Dixon, Garden City, KS; Titus Jaeger, Lakin, KS; Fred Jones, Garden City, KS; Monte Morgan, Deerfield, KS; Bill Simshauser, Lakin, KS; Abram Lollar, Garden City, KS; Ray Slattery, Dodge City, KS; Brant Peterson, Johnson, KS; Jason Shamburg, Deerfield, KS
KWO Planners: Keadron Pearson, 620-765-7489, keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov

also mentioned the deadline for the upcoming CRP sign up that focused on playa areas and the upcoming KAWS event taking place in Dodge City. The presentation was followed by questions and answers by member of the RAC.

5. Updates

- a. **January KWA/RAC Member Legislative Visits:** Fred Jones gave a report on his recent trip to Topeka to visit with members of the state legislature along with members of the KWA to inform and seek support for the Kansas Water Plan Fund. The report was followed by discussion from members of the RAC.
- b. **Kansas Water Office (KWO):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) gave an update on the recent agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting.
- c. **Kansas Legislature & Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** Victoria Potts (KWO Manager, Policy & Governmental Affairs) gave an in-depth report on recent events that had taken place with the Kansas Legislature and Kansas Water Authority. She also presented updated information available on the KWO website that showed where any bill pertaining to water issues is being tracked so that individuals could easily access information about them. The report was followed by discussion from members of the RAC.

6. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports:**
Mark Rude (GMD3): Mark reported on recent GMD3 meetings and activities.
- b. **Public Comments:** Brant Peterson shared a brief report on his results from the past year with the use of dragonline in his farming operation.
- c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** The request was made to have an update on the John Martin Reservoir Pilot Project. It was the consensus of the RAC members present to have the next meeting be on March 31st at 9:00 a.m.
- d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** Titus Jaeger introduced a message to the RAC. The message was reviewed and discussed by members of the RAC with additional information being added to the original draft. The motion was made by Brant Peterson to pass on the updated message to the Kansas Water Authority. It was seconded by Joe Jury. Additional discussion by RAC members was had. The motion passed with a majority vote of 7 for and 5 against.
- e. **Future Meetings:**
 - i. GMD3 Board Meeting: February 6th
 - ii. GMD3 Annual Meeting & Board Meeting: March 8th
 - iii. KWO WISE Tour – Spring 2023: March 23rd
 - iv. Kansas Water Authority: April 19th

The motion to adjourn was made by Brant Peterson and seconded by Bill Simshauser. No discussion was had and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Upper Arkansas RAC- Draft Revised Action Plan (11/19/2020)

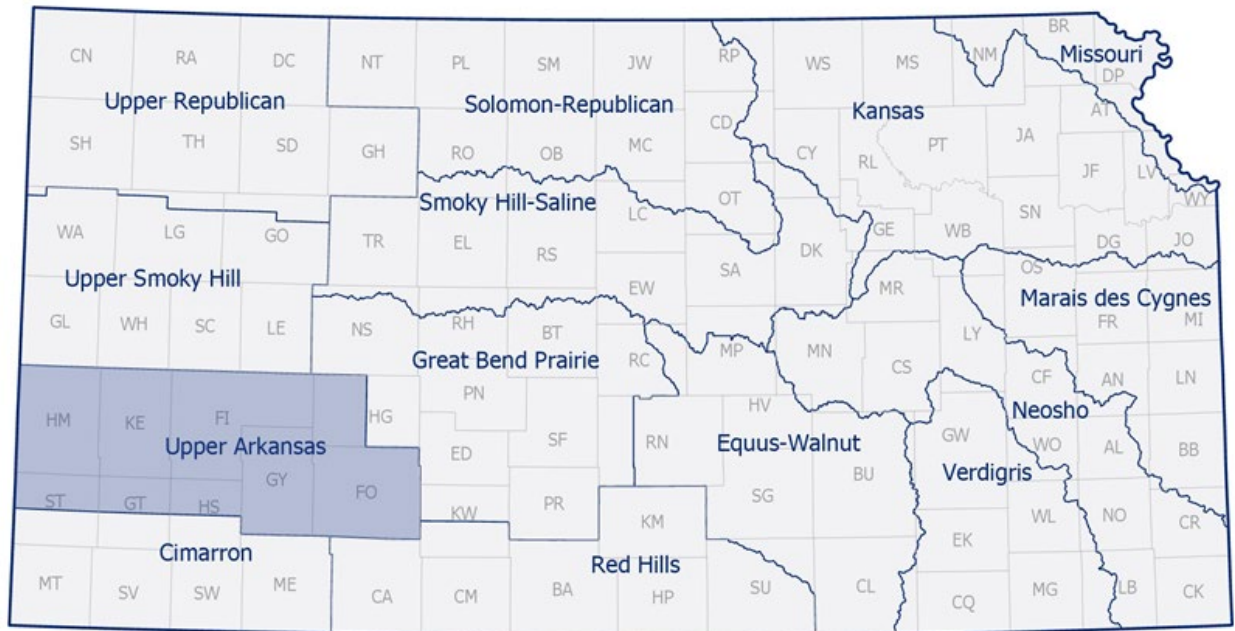
Goal #1: Establish a diversified, usable water supply by 2030, to motivate a vibrant growing economy with conservation-minded stewardship focused on increasing the life of the aquifer, reestablishing streamflow in the Arkansas River, and accelerating recharge; benefiting: economic prosperity, wildlife, habitat, recreation, and all water users while protecting property rights and providing safe drinking water.

Action Steps:

- 1) Develop alternative sources of supply by 2030
 - a) Collaborate and coordinate with local shareholders, stakeholders, policymakers, organizations, agencies, (i.e. GMD3, KWO, KDA, KDHE, Kansas Dept. of Commerce, and other State agencies) surrounding States, and federal agencies and authorities.
 - b) Research, study, and initiate any changes necessary to current or new statutes, to develop and perfect new or existing water rights to serve as alternative sources of supply.
 - c) Explore multi-state support for an interstate water transfer system.
 - d) Evaluate potential intrastate water transfers
 - e) Initiate and participate in research to determine the value an alternative source of supply would generate directly and indirectly for local, regional, state, & federal areas and agencies.
 - f) Develop a fact-based education initiative to inform Kansans and our neighbors how we can plan and prepare for tomorrows challenges related to the shortages or excess of water for everyone.
 - g) Support alternative sources of supply.
 - h) These may include greater streamflow of interstate rivers or engineered solutions such as an aqueduct or pipelines from alternate sources of supply.
- 2) Educate all water users on the importance of water saving, increased water use efficiencies, and the supporting data (SWLs, SWL change rates, conservation targets, etc.).
 - a) Support the educational efforts through the Kansas Runs on Water Campaign.
 - b) Support educational activities through the Conservation Districts such as (The Ark Water River Festival, Earth Day at The Zoo, Safety Days, Poster contests at the schools, The Bottom Line Conference, and other informational meetings or conferences) put on by the Conservation Districts.
 - c) The Water Authority supports these activities by funding the budget line item, Aid to Conservation Districts, to the full amount mandated by the Kansas Water Plan Funding.
 - d) Support educational meetings hosted by the K-State Extension, the GMD3, and other agencies or organizations.
 - e) Encourage the Kansas Water Authority's continued support and funding for the irrigation technology farms.
 - f) Formalize a list to add to a calendar on the Water Authority, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, GMD3, and K-State Extension web sites to help inform landowners, producers, and the general public of events throughout the year.
- 3) Promote irrigation conservation
 - a) Support voluntary decreased water consumption in the Upper Arkansas RAC geographic area per the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) recommendations.
 - b) Encourage adoption of water conservation programs such as LEMA's and WCA's.
 - c) Support producer incentives through the KDA-DOC, KDHE, KDA-DWR, and other state agencies to reduce usage through proven technologies and best management practices.
 - i) These may include programs such as CREP, Playa Lake restoration, cost-share on reduced irrigation systems, cost-share on soil moisture probes, and other technologies that reduce water usage.
- 4) Promote conservation of municipal and industrial water use through incentives and education.
- 5) Recognizing distinct differences between domestic, irrigation, stockwater, municipal, industrial, and other types of beneficial use.



Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee



Members with Current Terms			
Name	City	Category	Term
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Fred Jones (Vice-chair)	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2025
Brant Peterson	Johnson, KS	Groundwater Management	2023
Jason Shamburg	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 2	2023
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023
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