

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

12:00 pm, Thursday, June 13th, 2019

Haskell County EMS

700 W LaLande Avenue

Sublette, KS 67877

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	No
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	No
Ted Boersma	Cimarron, KS	Dairy	2021	No
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Mike O'Brate	Ingalls, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	No
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	No
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	No
Hal Scheuerman	Deerfield, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Jason Norquest	GMD3
Brandon Friedman	KDA-DWR
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Matt Unruh	KWO
Armando Zarco	KWO
Alexandra Geisler	KWO
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC
Gary Boldt	Cimarron RAC

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:15pm by Chairman Fred Jones. All present provided self-introductions. A quorum was present; five of the thirteen committee members were present.
- Approval of Agenda:** Alexandra Geisler (KWO) recommended to move Budget Information & Recommendations to after the RAC Goals/Action Plan Review & Timeline. Roy Dixon motioned to approve the agenda, Kyle Nelson seconded. The agenda was approved as amended.
- Review and Approval of April Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the April meeting were discussed and several corrections were made. Roy Dixon motioned to approve the meeting notes, Kyle Nelson seconded. The April notes were approved as amended.

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; Hal Scheuerman, Deerfield, KS

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

- 4. RAC Goals/Action Plan Review & Timeline: Matt Unruh (KWO)** explained that working with the RACs on updating goals and action plans is the kick start to KWO updating the Vision and incorporating it into the Kansas Water Plan. The intent for today is to provide the committee a status update, and get feedback on if and where work is needed within the current goals and action plan. Following this round of meetings, there will be public meetings scheduled in the Fall to give the public an opportunity to provide input to KWO and the RACs. That feedback will be compiled and provided back to the RACs to be taken into consideration when finalizing revised and/or new goals and action plans. The new administration recognizes the progress that has been made on raising awareness and action taken, and wants to continue to build upon that momentum.

Alexandra Geisler (KWO) presented a PowerPoint on the process of updating the RAC's Goals and Action Plans. The RAC then went through the Goals and Action Plans and they, along with other attendees at the meeting, had the following suggestions, questions, and comments:

Priority Goal #1: Extend the usable lifetime of the Ogallala Aquifer for at least 25 years in the planning region through the promotion of multiple Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMAs), Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) and other incentive-based programs. Slow the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer by 25% in 10 years in the planning region maximizing the opportunity to make use of emerging technologies. Encourage conservation through added flexibility. Find additional sources of water and a place to store water for irrigation and recharge. Increase the opportunity to use wastewater for other beneficial uses. Increase education of aquifer conditions.

- Keep the reference to LEMAs and WCAs
- Take out depletion
- Take out 25 years and add an actual end year
- Possibly streamline the goal to hit the main points and put the rest in the action plan

Priority Goal #2: By 2020, continue to re-establish and maintain flows along the Upper Arkansas River in the amount of one cubic feet per second at the USGS gage located at Dodge City for 100% of Kansas' share of compact water and a quantified share of high flows that is currently stored in Colorado that is over and above the compact amount through management of river flows and maintenance of open channel conveyance through 100% of tamarisk control. Ensure we maintain compact compliance and enforce the compact when necessary.

- Discussed changing or removing the year 2020, decided that it was better to keep it so the issue/goal doesn't get pushed down the road

Priority Goal #3: Maximize available water and promote conservation of municipal use through incentives, education and outreach, reduced water loss, and increased data availability to reduce gallons per capita per day usage.

- May need more education on management & rate structures vs. conservation, need to think on it more and improve it
- Add in piece about drought response plan
- Fred Jones & Ray Slattery as the PWS representative will look at rewording

Priority Goal #4: Maximize available water and promote conservation of industrial use through incentives, education and outreach, benchmarking efforts, and increased data availability to reduce gallons per production unit usage.

- Think more deeply about this goal because sometimes an industry can be a municipal user
- Kyle Nelson as the Industry representative will work on rewording (together with Fred Jones and Ray Slattery)

Generally, the committee wants to work on trimming goals down to streamline and simplify.

- 5. Budget Information & Recommendations:** **Matt Unruh (KWO)** presented on the KWA budget recommendation for FY20 and FY21, developed in the last week of May by the KWA Budget Committee. Matt explained the overall budget process and timeline pointing out that similar to the involvement of the RACs in last year's budget process, today is an opportunity for the committee to evaluate the proposed budget and determine if it is consistent with their goals and regional priorities. They have the opportunity to provide feedback such as what projects are the highest priority for this region, changes needed to funding amounts, or if there are projects not listed that should be included. This feedback will be compiled from all fourteen RACs and provided to the KWA Budget Committee for consideration when putting together recommendations to bring forward to the full KWA.

Matt briefly discussed the Governor's budget and how the SWPF is utilized, funded, as well as the \$3.25 million and the \$8 million transfer. Matt then went through the budget recommendations, highlighting changes from the previous fiscal year and budget items that may be of interest in this particular region. The RAC discussed which programs and projects they felt were a priority to fund in order to accomplish the goals and action plans for the Upper Arkansas Region. The RAC put together the following recommendations to send out the group as a whole for approval, and once approved provide as a message to the KWA.

The Upper Arkansas RAC requests a funding line to be established for new sources of supply for the region. As groundwater supplies continue to decline there is concern about the future of irrigated agriculture as the basis of the region's economy. Obtaining new sources of supply is the highest priority for this region, and is important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the goals and action plan of the Upper Arkansas RAC.

6. Agency and Public Input

Jason Norquest (GMD3): reported that the CIG Grant ended, and the district had a meeting a couple weeks ago with NRCS to attempt to get MDI on the list. Fred did an excellent job at the GMDA conference speaking about the report card, that presentation was well received. While in DC they had meetings with both Kansas and Colorado representatives about the water transfer and needing to act before other states do. Meter inspections will be starting soon.

Steve Frost (KDA-DOC): reported that he is thankful to be able to attend today's meeting. In regards to questions about CREP, over 40,000 acre/feet has been retired.

Mike Meyer (KDA-DWR Garden City Field Office): stated that he is not a budget person, so send any questions about budget to KDA headquarters in Manhattan. They are still working on tracking down late water use reports, for which there is a \$1000 fine and the potential to have the right suspended. There are still missing reports from 2017 being tracked down, they are most likely abandoned wells that are not being used and have absentee landowners.



Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

7. Future Meetings

GMD3 Board Meeting: July 10th @9am – Garden City

Kansas Water Authority: July 30th & 31st – Goodland

Bottom Line Conference: August 14th & 15th – Lakin

Next RAC Meeting: September TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23pm.

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; Hal Scheuerman, Deerfield, KS
KWO Planner: Alexandra Geisler, 785-296-0865; alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov
Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov