

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
1:00 pm, Monday, February 12, 2018
Finnup Center for Education, Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City, KS

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Fred Jones (Chair)	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Y
Michael MacNair	Jetmore, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	N
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Y
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	N
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Y
Ted Boersma	Cimarron, KS	Dairy	2021	N
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Y
Mike O'Brate	Ingalls, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	N
Steven Hines	Coolidge, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2021	Y
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	N
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2019	N
Bill Simshauser	Lakin, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	N
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	Y

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Lane Letourneau	KDA
Randy Hayzlett	KWA
Larry Powell	Public
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Tracy Streeter	KWO
Jason Norquest	GMD3
Mark Shriwise	Ford County
Gary Boldt	Public, Cimarron RAC
Richard Rockel	KWO
Alexandra Davis	KWO

Welcome and Introductions

A quorum was not present; six of the thirteen committee members were present. The meeting was started by Chairman Fred Jones at 1:05pm. **Correction: a quorum consists of 4 members, therefore a quorum was present*

Approval of Agenda

Steven Hines suggested adding discussion on flow of the Arkansas River in relation to Colorado and the compact under other business. Steven Hines motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, Kyle Nelson seconded, the motion carried.

Review & Approval of November Meeting Notes

Just a review, cannot vote to approve without a quorum. **Correction: a quorum was present, but the minutes were not voted on due to confusion regarding the number of members needed to constitute a quorum*

Letters of support

DWR Arkansas River Compact Administration (ARCA) Position: No comments

Division of Conservation Xeriscaping: No comments

Update on Industrial Water Use – Kyle Nelson

Kyle gave a presentation on how the electric system has evolved from when it was first built in the area up until now. He pointed out changes in water use throughout the years, and how as power generation went up water use went drastically down. The reduction in the latest facility is greater than 99% or 225:1. He referenced several stations in the area and pointed out recent changes they have made and differences in their operation.

Legislative, Funding, and Vision Updates – Tracy Streeter

Current Water Bills

- HB2452 – Duration of conservation easements
- HB2513 – Surface water fee increases to SWPF
- HB2528 – EDIF transfer increase, SGF repeal to SWPF
- HB2564 – End gun removal
- HB2665 – Establish water law study commission
- HB2691 – MYFA notification
- HB2726 – Non-corn irrigation & low water use crop
- HB2730 – DWR study of GW use on surface water impairment
- HB2732 – State operated water bank
- HB2733 – Appropriations act amendments – sand/gravel pits
- SB194 – GMD assessment caps
- SB379 – Establish water law study commission

Appropriations

- Agencies appearing before House budget last week (KDA) and this week (KWO)
- Senate will have water budget hearings in early March
- KWA recommendations not recommended by Governor but receiving attention from Legislators
- School funding

KWA FY2018-FY2019 Funding Recommendation

State of the Resource Project Outreach Event Planning

Richard Rockel noted that there have been some modifications since the last version. Monte Morgan asked that in the section about Dwane's farm to note something about the exceptional rainfall for the year. Monte & Hugh Brownlee agreed that the importance of water in the river is more important than you can state. Both of them have seen levels stall out or go up on their wells with the river flowing the last two years. Roy Dixon asked for the report from KGS on the LEMA to be provided once it comes out, and asked how aggressively we are addressing the water quality of water coming in from Colorado. Randy Hayzlett answered saying that the compact has nothing to do with quality, but that there is a subcommittee of the compact talking about some of these issues with Colorado and they are just now in the process of dealing with them on this issue. Higher flows are always the best answer.

Jason Norquest stated that the GMD is working with KGS, Don Whitmore, on collecting samples along the Arkansas River. The GMD applied for a grant to establish a committee to address these same issues (Bureau of Reclamation Grant). Fred Jones added that this is a huge issue for municipals. Steven Hines noted that an issue coming up on the compact is that all of the dams are about full.

For outreach a presentation will be put together to pre presented at the Garden City Water Day event. Other events that were discussed as potential outreach opportunities included a crop production field day by K-State, Kearny County conservation in August, the GMD3 annual meeting, conservation district meetings, and county fairs. The idea was brought up to invite reporters to the meetings or to get information out to the reporters. Tracy Streeter explained that a formal announcement of the SOTR documents should be coming soon in March or April and that the official release should be covered. Kyle Nelson stated that there is no singular event for industries, but that he would be willing to personally reach out to those who hold their own water rights and are concerned about long term management plans. Richard has that information and can get it to Kyle. Richard noted that he will add to the report information from Kyle's presentation and information from Fred on how Garden City shows water use in comparison to neighbors.

Priority Goals & Implementation Needs for Region

Richard Rockel gave an update on needs that were discussed at the last meeting. Fred Jones mentioned the City of Wichita Micro-filtration plant. Steven Hines asked what the cost would be to clean up oil water per acre/foot because at the last meeting it was mentioned that it was not affordable. The question was answered with a description of the process and all of the complications that go along with it. Reference was made to the distilling of sea water which is very expensive and inexpensive, and produced water starts out in a much worse state than sea water does. It is not economically feasible.

Other Business

Steven Hines

Arkansas River Quarry Discussion

Agency Reports

Mike Meyer KDA-DWR: Water use reports due March 1st

Jason Norquest GMD3: Handed out a vision action priorities document. The document was staff recommended and have been updated, reviewed, and approved by the board. Contingent of Board is going to DC in April to look at issues there with the farm bill and infrastructure. The grant was touched on earlier. Finney Kerney LEMA Status: not definite on a plan yet, discussion is to do it almost like Wichita County. Everyone in the room agreed they needed to conserve they just don't know how to implement corrected controls because of the diversity, should know more soon. There was no discussion on LEMA for surface water rights. There has been an increase in MYFAs, receiving a lot of renewals. Monte Morgan: Has there been talk about reducing ditch water use because of recharge potential? Lane Letourneau: There is potential for buyouts or payouts for a year.

Public Comments – None

Messages to Kansas Water Authority – None

Future Meetings

KWA April 18, 2018, Lenexa KS; RAC Chair or designee attend

GMD3 Annual Meeting: March 14, 2018, Liberal KS 9am

Next RAC Meeting: look at some time in April or May, shoot for before KWA meeting. Updated study from Forest Service on Tamarisk will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Adjourn
3:38pm