

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
1:00 pm, Tuesday, May 8, 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	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	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
Steven Hines	Coolidge, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2021	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	Yes
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Jason Norquest	GMD3
Kevin Salter	KDA-DWR
Dennis Wieberg	NRCS
Gary Boldt	Public, Cimarron RAC
Richard Rockel	KWO
Alexandra Davis	KWO

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Fred Jones began the meeting at 1:10pm. A quorum was present; eight of the thirteen committee members were present.

Approval of Agenda

Roy Dixon motioned to approve the agenda. Hugh Brownlee seconded. The agenda was approved as presented.

Review & Approval of November & February Meeting Notes

Roy Dixon motioned to approve the November meeting minutes. Bill Simshauser seconded. The November minutes were approved.

Titus motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. Roy Dixon seconded. The February minutes were approved.

Review of Garden City Water Conservation Field Day – Fred Jones

There were more state representatives than local representatives. There was the League of Municipalities big finance conference that kept some people from coming. Individuals from Hays and the Water Office were there. Yesterday's addition of the High Plains journal has an article on the Conservation Day. Fred himself started the field day with a review of the State of the Resource. He also gave a presentation on Garden City water use, giving an update on the project and a review of the report that goes out to all customers. That report compares customer's water consumption to their neighborhood, giving them a grasp as to what their water consumption is. Most people don't know how much water they use; they just know they get a bill. The city has had several people come in with questions about their reports, and the report itself serves as a good educational tool. Other presentations included water reuse planning with the Bureau of Reclamation and Burns & McDonnell, and from Dwane Roth a section on his technology farm and some information on the Kearny Finney LEMA project.

The meeting went until noon. The group then left for the tour, going around the DFA plant they learned about reuse and wastewater, and toured the UV Disinfection System at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. To end the day they stopped at the ballfield to look at the subsurface irrigation. It had been planned to go out to Roth Farms but weather was not conducive. It was a good half day and his recommendation in the future is to not do Friday's. Fred stated that they were trying to present more on how and where to get started, not that they were experts. Alexandra added that Bobbi has already started work on planning out the next one.

State of the Resource Report & Outreach Opportunities

The final draft has been submitted and is going through in house revisions at the Kansas Water Office before release. The Kansas RAC put together a presentation addressing SOTR materials as well as funding shortages which was shown to the members. The idea behind the presentation is to build up from the vision and how money would be allocated if it were there. The Kansas RAC wanted a uniform message that would push to get funding (laid out by the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force). There is narrative on each slide because it was created so that all members would be able to go out and present to different groups.

Thoughts/comments on the presentation included the following:

- On the hydrographs – add a note that the wells are observation wells near those cities
- Fred – what narrative is meant by putting the LEMA boundary on the Sulfate Conservation Map?
- Titus – Also the Kearny Finney LEMA does not exist today, it is only proposed, and what does it look like if it is just the boundaries of the Upper Arkansas?
- Hugh – In Hamilton County there are issues with water quality. Producers are trying to push the salt down to try and keep the soil salt level the same as the water salt level. Gypsum is used but you have to make the bottom line work.
- Go with the map that is used in the SOTR instead
- The preliminary water quality data in concerns to yield comes from Dwane Roth's Farm
- Fred has given more of the background story on Lakin when presenting
- Fred: change the dot color on WCA map so that it is not the same color as the background, make sure dots aren't hidden behind the label
- Have not added anything yet regarding funding, and email should be sent out today.
- Titus – last line on "Let the People of Kansas Decide" instead of it saying to preserve our water resources why not have it say enhance our water resources.
- Bill – instead of the word preserve use manage

- Mike Meyer – whatever it says it needs to reflect your goals, conserve and enhance
- Change from “water resource” to “the quantity and quality of our water resources”
- Concern about money going to Eastern Kansas
- Richard pointed out that the four counties generating the most money are in the east, and some of that will be spent out west
- Alex pointed out that many of the projects in the east are paid for by grant money and cost-share put in by stakeholder groups
- Bill – can different groups be added to the Blue Ribbon Taskforce, or is it just showing who was on it
- Richard – Showing who was on it, haven’t heard anything about reassembling
- Fred – Conservation districts and GMD’s participated. The group is no longer active, the list is just those that were on the committee
- Kyle – everyone knows Gary Harshberger right? He is very passionate about what the Blue Ribbon Taskforce put together, last he heard him speak he said it was not easy to put together and a lot of time and effort was put in to make the recommendations that they did.
- Richard – The Blue Ribbon Taskforce information in on the KWO website, it was a long process including many meetings to put this together
- Mike O’Brate – Eastern Kansas has a plan if the funding comes, we should too.
- Fred – We have a little more diversity when it comes to issues than they do in the east. Problems differ depending on where you are at in the aquifer. They already have infrastructure to transport water to one general area because the major use in the east is municipal. Looking at a use map of the state we probably have the most in common with Great Bend Prairie..
- Richard – Kansas has a basin management plan on where they would distribute money. They are talking about getting methodology developed there and then taking that statewide.

Update on Industry Outreach – Kyle Nelson

Kyle had the idea but said he has not implemented it well yet. Richard pulled all industrial users within scale and sent that list to him. Kyle then sent a letter out to everyone on that list in which he introduced himself, the vision, the Upper Arkansas RAC, and included links to websites with information. If they have any information to share then we can provide a good forum to leverage and share that with other industrial users or as part of the education process. He can report next meeting on whether or not he hears back from anyone. Industries are all over the place, there is not a single meeting they all go to, and they have little in common other than using the same resource. He is hopeful that he gets some response, and wants to transition from this to sending an update once or twice a year. The goal is to engage them a little bit more, right now they don’t know that most of these programs exist.

Water SMART Grant Opportunity

Alexandra from KWO explained the opportunity to apply for a small Water SMART grant to line the ditch through Deerfield. She explained that with the water quality issues seen in Lakin and Garden City that if Deerfield were to experience the same problems as such a small municipality would they be able to address it or not. Discussion was had regarding whether or not lining the ditch would fix any potential future problems and if there were other solutions if issues were to arise. Richard from KWO elaborated on the size of the project as he looked into applying for this grant for the same project last year. Alexandra asked if anyone knew of any potential funding sources for cost-share, nobody knew of any. The Garden City Company has already been contact and cannot contribute however the City of Deerfield itself has not. It was also pointed out that Monte Morgan would be a good committee member to ask because he lives in Deerfield. Jason Norquest added that GMD No. 3 is also applying for a Water SMART Grant. After debating for several minutes

Bill motioned to draft a letter of support for a Water SMART grant for both the GMD No. 3 application and the application for lining the Deerfield Irrigation Ditch. The committee voted to move forward with both letters of support and Fred will get those written.

Drought Update

Richard Rockel gave a presentation with updates on the current drought. Right now it is looking worse than it did this time in 2011. The Governor did sign an official drought declaration in March, and the USDA approved 28 counties for haying and grazing.

Legislation and Funding Update

The budget was passed by both the House and Senate and would put \$3,250,000 in the Water Plan. It has not yet been signed by the Governor. Be on the lookout for an email from the Water Office that will be sent out with information once it has been officially signed.

KSU LEMA Report

Reports from KSU regarding the LEMA were provided as requested at the last meeting. There were four separate SD6 LEMA Reports passed out to the committee members.

Roy stated that he got a text from Randy Hazlett about an update on the lawsuit against the GMD4 LEMA and that there is one in GMD5 also. Mike Meyer explained that there is no lawsuit in GMD4. The Chief Engineer issued an order of designation, and the intervenors opted to have a review with the Secretary of Ag. We hope that we did our job right in following the law, and are waiting to see if she finds anything. There was a lawsuit filed against the Chief Engineer saying that he must implement the rules of the LEMA before it is issued. In GMD5 they are discussing and drafting a LEMA Plan.

Forest Service Updated Tamarisk Study

The committee asked for the most recent study two meetings ago. The study was handed and emailed out at the last meeting. Additional copies were brought to this meeting if anyone needs or wants another copy. They are in the process of updating this.

Other Business

Joint Meetings – Richard brought up interest from the Upper Smoky Hill RAC about having a joint meeting. The committee was interested in trying to do that. Central Prairie was brought up as another good group to have a joint meeting with. When talking to other groups like Great Bend Prairie Fred asked to keep him updated on if they are interested in meeting together

Agency Reports –

Mike Meyer KDA-DWR: Your drought tool if you need one is a MYFA. There are about 15-20 WCA's across the state, about 30,000 acres enrolled, and 24 people in Wichita County alone. He encouraged the committee members to read the GMD No. 3 management plan, stating that, "you are an advisory committee, here is your chance to advise to help meet your RAC Goals."

Kevin Salter KDA-DWR: Gave an update on several reservoir levels as requested in questions by the committee

Jason Norquest GMD3: Members and staff of GMD3 went to DC recently and the President has been talking about water infrastructure. In Cimarron there are applications for new appropriations in Colorado, 29 wells and

6,000-7,000 acre/ft. appropriation. The GMD believes it will affect Cimarron alluvial flow and the natural grasslands, and are in the process of fighting it. It is a company out of Georgia who wants to develop and then sell it once it's developed, possibly as an alfalfa based farm. The Board is looking at the possibility of putting in a monitoring well, and the Forestry Service is happy to work with them and is looking to push that through. Summer meter inspections are going on. The monthly board meeting is tomorrow, and the big topic is the Management Program which covers all of the topics discussed here and more. If you want a copy he has some and it can be found on their website. Any feedback is welcome. Hugh asked about attendance, and Jason said that it has not been very good at all the past few years.

Dennis Wieberg NRCS: (Ulysses, Stanton, & Grant Counties) He is doing EQIP obligations, about 89% complete now. RCPP has started to kick off; there is interest in soil moisture probes. They are starting to get more interest in CSP.

Public Comments –

Gary Boldt: Asked Alexandra to give an overview of the Water Workshop coming up in Leoti. In response she gave a quick snapshot of what the workshop entailed and why it is being put on.

Messages to Kansas Water Authority – None

Future Meetings –

Water Authority: Next meeting is August 22nd in Manhattan (was originally in Dodge City)

RAC: Doodle Poll

Adjourn

3:50pm