



Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

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:

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	Yes
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	Yes
Steven Hines	Coolidge, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2021	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

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.

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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 innovative 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 Lamar 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. Steven 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: <https://kwo.ks.gov/about-the-kwo/regional-advisory-committees> Monte asked where to find information about WCAs online. That information can be accessed on KDAs website.

<https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/managing-kansas-water-resources/wca>

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

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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

Armando KDA-DWR: 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.



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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.

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