

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

2:00 PM (CST), Wednesday, July 28, 2021

GoTo Webinar/Conference Call

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Mike Schultz (Chair)	Brewster, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Shannon Kenyon (Vice-Chair)	Colby, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	Yes
Brian Baalman	Menlo, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	No
Adriaan (Ian) De Waal	St. Francis, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No
Sue Evans	Colby, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Gary Fisher	Atwood, KS	Local Government	2021	No
Tyson McGreer	Colby, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Scott Ross	Atwood, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Kenneth Sanders	Goodland, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2023	Yes
VACANT		At Large Public 2	2023	N/A
VACANT		Agriculture Industry	2023	N/A
VACANT		Agriculture 2	2021	N/A

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC
Travis Sieve	KDHE
Kristen Kloft	KDA-DOC
Chelsea Erickson	KDA-DWR
Michael Nyhoff	KDWP

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:05 AM. (CST) by Chairman, Mike Shultz. All present provided self-introductions.
2. **Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members.
3. **Review of February 2021 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were no changes requested by the RAC members.
4. **Updates**
 - a. **Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** Matt Unruh (KWO) informed the RAC of recent updates that had occurred at the KWA meeting.
 - b. **Kansas Water Officer (KWO):** Kirk Tjelmeland (KWO) gave an update on the recent membership drive and other agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting.

Membership: Mike Schultz (Chair), Brewster, KS; Shannon Kenyon (Vice-Chair), Colby, KS; Brian Baalman, Menlo, KS; Gary Fisher, Atwood, KS; Tyson McGreer, Colby, KS; Adriaan (Ian) De Waal, St. Francis, KS; Sue Evans, Colby, KS; Scott Ross, Atwood, KS; Kenneth Sanders, Goodland, KS

KWO Planner: Keadron Pearson, 620-765-7489; keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov

5. Regional Activities

- a. **Budget Discussion & Recommendations:** A presentation was given by Matt Unruh (KWO) over the State Water Plan Fund that included budget information specific to the region. The presentation was followed by discussion from RAC members on areas of interest that they wish to pass on as budget recommendations to the KWA budget committee for consideration. No action was taken by the RAC due to a quorum of members not being present due to a member having to leave the meeting early, however those in attendance wanted to send the following budget recommendations to the KWA Budget Committee for consideration. It was the consensus of the committee members present to send the following Budget Recommendations to the KWA:

“The Upper Republican RAC supports the proposed budget and wishes to place emphasis on the following items that are important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the goals and actions plan of the Upper Republican RAC. These items of interest include increased support for programs that provide education and outreach to the public, regional efforts that help promote water conservation and water quality, Water Technology Farms (KWO), Water Conservation Areas (KDA), Certified Irrigator Program (GMD 4), and Kansas Runs on Water (KWO).”

6. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports:**

Chelsea Erickson (KDA-DWR Stockton Field Office): reported on the upcoming Interstate Water Annual Republican River Compact Meeting in August and they she would be sharing about the projects going on in Cheyenne County.

Shannon Kenyon (GMD4): reported that GMD3 is currently in the process of filming for the modules for their Certified Irrigator Program.

- b. **Public Comments:** None

- c. **Questions and Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** It was requested to have Keadron Pearson (KWO) send out a doodle poll with dates for the last week of September to set up the next meeting.

- d. **Messages to the KWA:** The request was made to send the following message to the KWA, however due to a quorum of members not being present at the time, it was agreed to table this message until the next meeting.

“The Upper Republican RAC would like to raise awareness on water quality issues that are being created by chemical applications and contaminations, the possible long-term effects, cost associated with issues that are caused, and how it is paid for.”

- e. **Future Meetings:**

- i. GMD4 Board Meeting: August 4
- ii. Kansas Water Authority Meeting: August 17
- iii. Governor’s Water Conference: November 16-18

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM (CST).

Membership: Mike Schultz (Chair), Brewster, KS; Shannon Kenyon (Vice-Chair), Colby, KS; Brian Baalman, Menlo, KS; Gary Fisher, Atwood, KS; Tyson McGreer, Colby, KS; Adriaan (Ian) De Waal, St. Francis, KS; Sue Evans, Colby, KS; Scott Ross, Atwood, KS; Kenneth Sanders, Goodland, KS

KWO Planner: Keadron Pearson, 620-765-7489; keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov