



Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Notes

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

1:00 pm, Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Northwest Kansas GMD #4, 1290 W. 4th, Colby, KS

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Sid Metcalf (Chair)	Oberlin, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2019	Yes
Mike Schultz (Vice-Chair)	Brewster, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Brian Baalman	Menlo, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	No
Shannon Kenyon	Colby, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Gary Fisher	Atwood, KS	Local Government	2021	Yes
Ken McCarty	Rexford, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	No
Tyson McGreer	Colby, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Ian de Waal	Saint Francis, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Sue Evans	Colby, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Vacant		Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	
Vacant		Agriculture 2	2021	

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Chelsea Erickson	KDA/DWR
Kenny Sanderson	Public
Alexandra Davis	KWO
Richard Rockel	KWO

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Chairman, Sid Metcalf. A quorum was present; six of the nine committee members were present. Chairman Sid Metcalf welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Mike Schultz motioned to approve the agenda. Gary Fisher seconded, it passed.

Review & Approval of January 2017 & 2018 Meeting Notes

Shannon Kenyon moved to approve both meeting minutes. Mike Schultz seconded, it passed.

Update on GMD No. 4 District Wide LEMA

The LEMA will no longer be a district wide LEMA, it will just be a GMD No. 4 LEMA. Chief Engineer David Barfield sent down an order of decision with proposed modifications. The board accepted those changes unanimously, and with that acceptance the LEMA immediately goes into effect. An order of designation will come within the next 30 days. The office staff have started planning and working on implementation. Litigation all depends on whether the intervenors choose to move forward or not. There is now a new map, the changes included eliminating all the blue and green areas from the original map.

Membership: Sid Metcalf (Chair), Oberlin, KS; Mike Schultz (Vice-Chair), Brewster, KS; Brian Baalman, Menlo, KS; Shannon Kenyon, Colby, KS; Gary Fisher, Atwood, KS; Ken McCarty, Rexford, KS; Tyson McGreer, Colby, KS; Adriaan De Waal, St. Francis, KS; Sue Evans, Colby, KS
KWO Planner: Richard Rockel, 785-296-3185; richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov

Legislative, Funding, and Vision Updates – Ginger Harper via Conference Call

Ginger provided an update to the committee regarding legislation, funding, and the vision. The 8 million transfers have not been happening for some time. During legislative visits RAC Chairs and Water Authority Members met with 90 legislators. The budget situation in Topeka is far from resolved, however the appropriations subcommittee recommended 4 million in water funding from the state general fund. It then went to the senate subcommittee which met yesterday but ran out of time.

It has been a quiet legislative session so far, not very many actual bills have come out. The groundwater management assessments fee for raising the cap from 1.5 to 2 was passed by the senate and is going to the house. Changing the filing deadline for MYFA was passed by the house and is going to the senate.

State of the Resource Outreach Event Planning

The committee agreed that the SOTR document contains great information that should be used to educate many different groups within the public. It was decided not to have a stand-alone event, but instead to reach out to groups and give presentations. The committee wants to wait until the documents are official, and then get a copy so that they can have it ready to print and be available to hand out at meetings.

Sue Evans brought up various ideas for outreach including going to rotary clubs, having book reviews at libraries about water, and noted the importance of having someone at these events for people to interact with. The committee requested that Alexandra Davis put together a handout to use containing the major points of the document, and to put together presentations that can be given to groups throughout the year. Those presentations include a general SOTR presentation, a public friendly SOTR Presentation that includes more simple and relatable facts, and a SOTR Presentation that can be used for talking to kids. Mike Schultz brought up the idea of including a note on the SOTR documents and handout that lets people know that the RAC is willing to go out and present the information to interested parties. As for educating students, the committee would like to wait until the start of the new school year to see how successful the pilot projects and workshop going on the Upper Smoky Hill are.

Other Business

Agency Reports

KDA-DWR: Chelsea Erickson noted that Colorado & Nebraska came to an agreement: Colorado paying 4 million for losses so that Nebraska won't sue. Compact meeting is in Manhattan this year; the 3 states still meet on a regular basis. No hot topics at the moment. Spring measurements start this week.

Public Comments

Kenny Sanderson asked if there is someone from Sherman County on the committee. Currently there is not. He then stated that he would be interested in applying to join the committee.

Messages to Kansas Water Authority – None

Future Meetings

Kansas Water Authority: April 18, 2018, Lenexa KS; RAC Chair or designee attend

Next RAC Meeting: Sometime in June – will send out doodle poll

Adjourn

3pm