



Water Office

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MEMO

DATE: July 27, 2021
TO: Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Keadron Pearson
RE: August 03, 2021 GoTo Meeting and Conference Call

The Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be having a GoTo Meeting and conference call on **August 03, 2021 at 7:00 AM (CST)**. Call-in details are below.

Join the meeting from your computer, table, or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/475781637>

Join by phone:

Dial: 1-669-224-3412

Access Code: 475-781-637

The main agenda item is discussion of the RAC's budget input for consideration by the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) in the State Water Plan Fund FY 2023 KWA budget recommendation development process

Enclosed are the materials for the August 03, 2021 Meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the April 06, 2021 Meeting
- 2020 Upper Smoky Hill RAC Budget Discussion Information from last year
- 2020 Upper Smoky Hill RAC Message to the KWA for SFY 2022 Budget Recommendations
- Upper Smoky Hill RAC Draft Goals & Actions Plan
- Upper Smoky Hill RAC Membership Table

If you cannot participate, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (620) 765-7489 or by e-mail at Keadron.Pearson@kwo.ks.gov.



UPPER SMOKY HILL
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA

DATE: August 03, 2021
TIME: 7:00 AM (CST)
LOCATION: GoToMeeting Conference Call ([Meeting Materials](#))

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AGENDA DETAILS

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – RAC Chair/KWO Planner
- II. **Review of Agenda** – RAC Chair/Members
- III. **Review of April 2021 Meeting Notes** – RAC Chair/Members
- IV. **Updates**
 - a. **Kansas Water Authority** – KWO Planner
 - b. **Kansas Water Office** – KWO Planner
- V. **Regional Activities**
 - a. **Budget Discussion & Recommendations**- RAC Chair/Members
Recommendations to send to the KWA on the State Water Plan Fund
- VI. **Other Business**- RAC Chair
 - a. **Agency Reports**
 - b. **Public comments**
 - c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members**
 - d. **RAC Messages to the KWA**
 - e. **Future Meetings**
 - i. *GMD1 Annual Board Meeting: August 11*
 - ii. *Kansas Water Authority Meeting: August 17*
 - iii. *Governor's Water Conference: November 16-18*

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC



Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

8:00 AM (CST), Tuesday, April 6, 2021

GoTo Webinar/Conference Call

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Frank Mercurio (Chair)	Scott City, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
Farrin Watt (Vice-Chair)	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
Kyle Spencer	Scott City, KS	Groundwater Management	2021	Yes
Alicia Allen	Tribune, KS	Irrigation	2023	Yes
Perry Nowak	Scott City, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Louis "Bo" Parkinson	Scott City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Stephen Mangan	Tribune, KS	Agriculture Industry	2023	Yes
Landon Frank	Scott City, KS	Financial	2021	Yes
VACANT	VACANT	At Large Public (cc)	2021	N/A

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Lauren Koons	KWO
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Dan Wells	KDHE
Brownie Wilson	KGS

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 8:05 A.M. (CST) by Chairman, Frank Mercurio. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. There were no adjustments or additions needed.
- Review of February 2021 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the February 2021 meeting were discussed. There were no additions or corrections.
- Updates**
 - Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) informed the RAC of recent updates that had occurred to the KWA.
 - Kansas Water Office (KWO):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) gave an update on personnel and agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting.
 - Legislative:** Keadron Pearson (KWO) gave an overview on the House Committee on Water and provided an update on what has been occurring with the State Water Plan Budget.
- Regional Activities**

Membership: Frank Mercurio (Chair), Scott City, KS; Farrin Watt (Vice-Chair), Leoti, KS; Kyle Spencer, Scott City, KS; Alicia Allen, Tribune, KS; Perry Nowak, Scott City, KS; Louis "Bo" Parkinson, Scott City, KS; Landon Frank, Scott City, KS

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

- a. **Upper Smoky Hill Region Aquifer Depletion Update by Brownie Wilson (KGS):** Brownie Wilson (KGS) gave an updated on the Upper Smoky Hill Region Aquifer depletion. The presentation was followed by questioned from RAC members and discussion.
- b. **Wichita County LEMA Update:** Kyle Spencer (GMD1 Manager) presented to the committee an update on the recent Wichita County LEMA. He informed the group that the Chief Engineer had issued an approval for the LEMA and that notification letters had been sent out to water right owners. It was mentioned that things were moving forward and they were working to implement the LEMA. They are also currently reviewing appeals on allocations that have been received. The presentation was followed by questioned from RAC members and discussion.
- c. **Membership Status:** The Chair informed members of one vacancy on the RAC for “At Large Public (cc)”.

6. Other Business

a. **Agency Reports:**

Mike Meyer (KDA-DWA Garden City Field Office): Expressed support towards GMD1 on LEMA efforts. Mentioned that they are working on meter repairs in the region and making sure they are all in working order and are getting water use records.

Kyle Spencer (GMD1): Provided an overview to the RAC of current programs and services being offers. It was mentioned that GMD1 is working to offering a cost-share for the TAPP H2O to producers in the region. He also reported that future LEMA planning is still on going by the GMD1 Board.

Dan Wells (KDHE): Reported that they are partnering with Fort Hays State University to do a mineralization study in the Northwestern county of the state. He also mentioned that the city of Dighton had recently enrolled in the Drinking Water Protection Program and they are encouraging more communities to participate.

b. **Public Comments:** None

c. **Questions and Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** It was requested to have the next RAC meeting in late July or early August

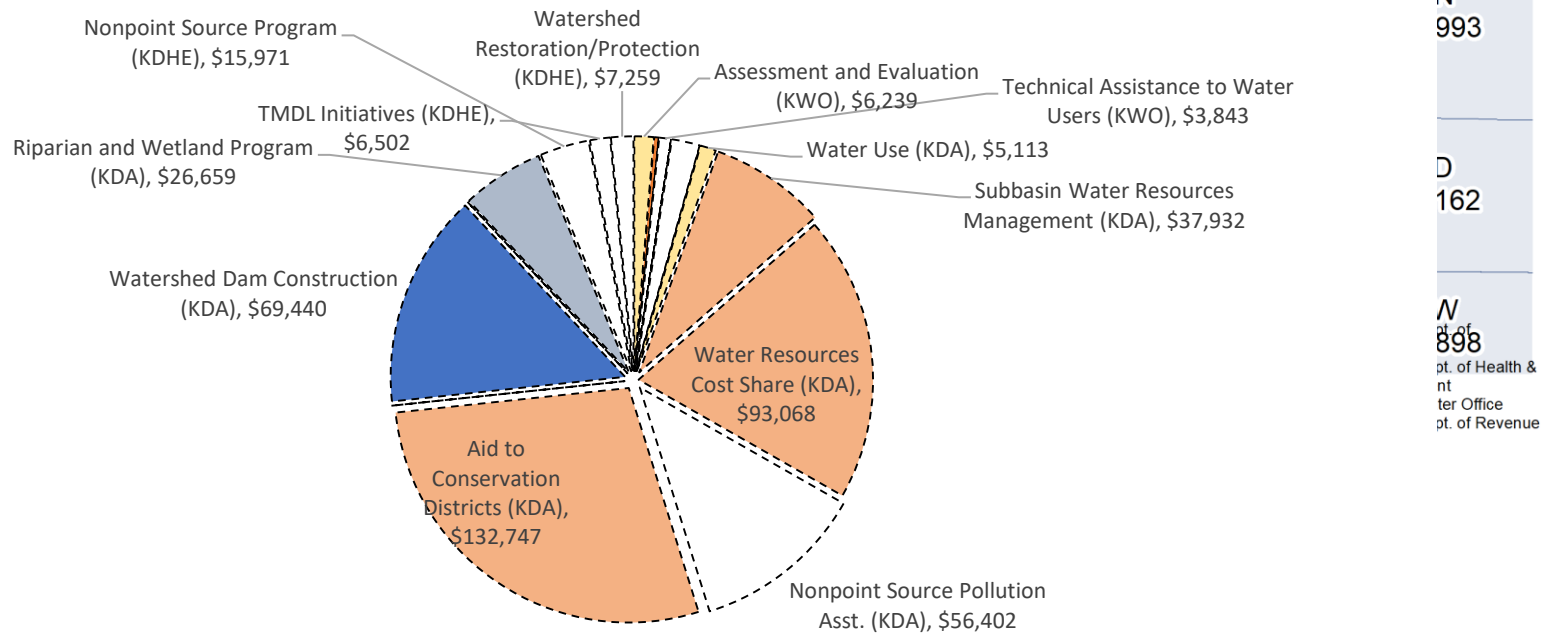
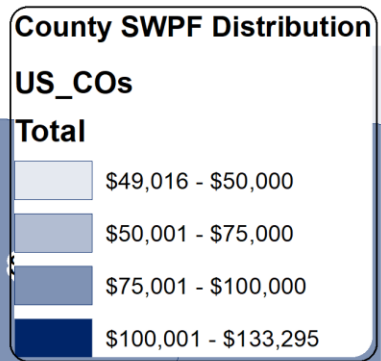
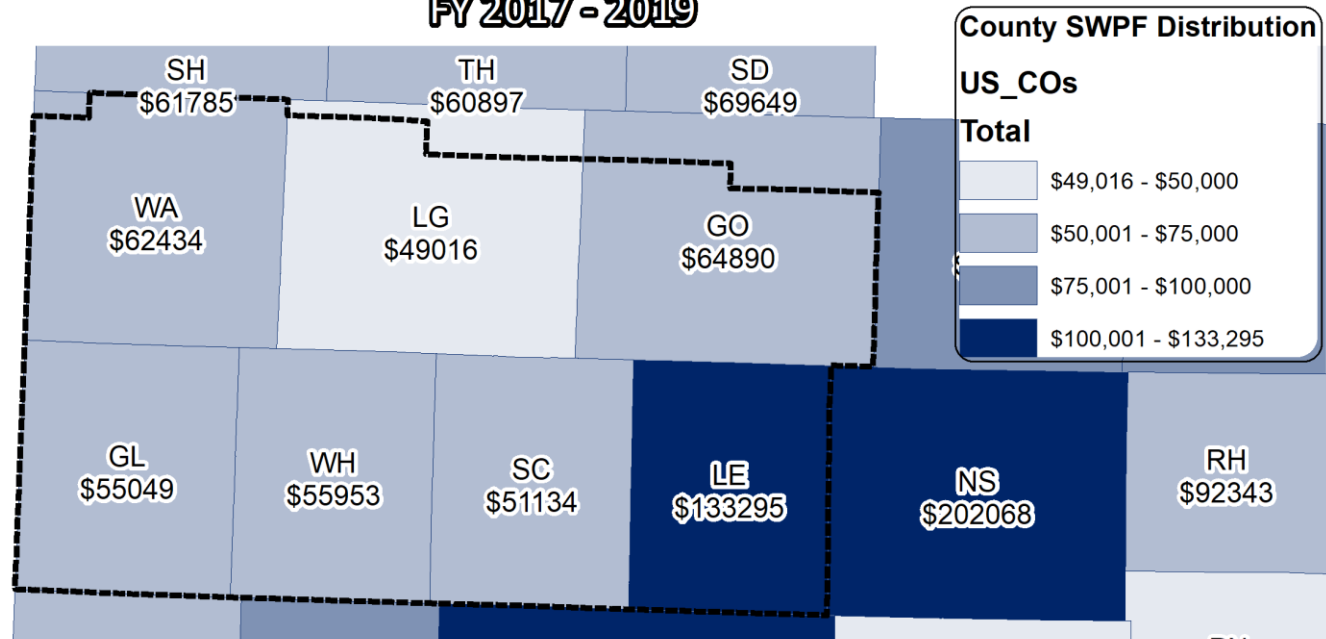
d. **Messages to the KWA:** None

e. **Future Meetings:**

- i. GMD1 Board Meeting: April 21
- ii. Governor’s Water Conference: November 16-18

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 A.M (CST).

Upper Smoky RAC State Water Plan Expenditures FY 2017 - 2019



N 993
D 162
W of 898
pt. of Health & nt
nter Office
pt. of Revenue

FY2017-19 SWPF Average

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Groundwater Initiatives - Water Quantity and Quality - State Water Plan Fund Budget

Issue: Water supplies for many Kansans have been impacted by both long term and developing conditions. Groundwater supplies in some areas of the state are suffering from the impacts of over use leading to aquifer declines and impacts of naturally and human caused contamination.

Prevention

Monitoring & Study

Adaptation & Conservation

Program	Description	RAC Avg. Expenditure FY17-19	KWA FY 2021 Requested	FY 2021 Appropriated	FY 19/20 metric	FY 2022 Goal	Cost Share Funding	Full Funding Need	RAC Goals Supported
Water Use (KDA)	Kansas has the most thorough and accurate water use reporting system in the nation. Funding helped develop an online water use reporting system to further improve the accuracy of water use data and reporting efficiency. Program also includes contract with KGS to maintain and enhance online water use reporting system, and a contract with USGS to perform independent quality control on the water use data.	\$ 5,113	\$ 72,600	\$ 72,600					Supports RAC Priority Goal 1, 2
Riparian and Wetland Program (KDA)	Enrollment of additional acres in new sediment & nutrient reduction program.	\$ 26,659	\$ 154,024	\$ 154,024			Yes		
Aid to Conservation Districts (KDA)	To maintain and enhance conservation district operations by addressing annual inflationary costs. This enhancement provides opportunities for matching by county governments as per K.S.A. 2-1907b.	\$ 132,747	\$ 2,192,637	\$ 2,342,637					Supports RAC Priority Goal 2
Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst. (KDA)	To implement additional soil health education activities in 105 county conservation districts as well as increasing landowner/operator scholarships to soil health educational seminars such as the annual No-Till on the Plains conference. Additional technical assistance in high priority areas through the use of contribution agreement conservation technician positions in partnership with NRCS.	\$ 56,402	\$ 1,857,836	\$ 1,857,836			Yes		Supports RAC Priority Goal 4
Subbasin Water Resources Management (KDA)	Works to improve enhanced basin-level water management through the gathering and analysis of water right and hydrologic data, and the development of decision support products to help state and local stakeholders make sound water management decisions	\$ 37,932	\$ 608,949	\$ 608,949					Supports RAC Priority Goal 1, 2, 3
Nonpoint Source Program (KDHE)	Address nonpoint source pollution issues through locally administered plans and programs including Local Environmental Protection, Information, Education, and Technical Assistance, and existing plan and program integration	\$ 15,971	\$ 303,208	\$ 303,208			Yes		Supports RAC Priority Goal 3
Water Resources Cost Share (KDA)	To increase implementation of best management conservation practices that reduce sediment, phosphorus and other specified pollutants in high priority HUC 12 watersheds. Also increasing the implementation of practices that aid in the conservation of surface and ground water through the adoption of irrigation technology such as soil moisture probes.	\$ 93,068	\$ 2,448,289	\$ 2,698,289			Yes		Supports RAC Priority Goal 1, 2, 4
Assessment and Evaluation (KWO)	Used to contract for a variety of data collection and studies. The overall objective of the program is to provide the water planning and vision process with the background information necessary to make decisions and improve implementation.	\$ 6,239	\$ 700,000	\$ 829,900					Supports RAC Priority Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Technical Assistance to Water Users (KWO)	Per K.S.A. 82a-2101, not less than 15% of the Clean Drinking Water Fee shall be used for technical assistance to water users to aid such systems in conforming to responsible management practices and complying with regulations of the U.S. EPA rules and regulations of the department of health and environment.	\$ 3,843	\$ 423,000	\$ 325,000					Supports RAC Priority Goal 3

End Goal or Policy Intent: Increased water security. Extending of the usable lifetimes of groundwater aquifers, by securing both the quality and quantity of water available for consumption by Kansans.

Groundwater Initiatives - Water Quantity and Quality

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee
SFY 2022 Budget Recommendation
Message to the KWA

The Upper Smoky Hill RAC supports the proposed budget and would like to highlight the following priorities that are important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the goals and actions plan of the Upper Smoky Hill RAC. These items include Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMA) (KDA), Water Conservations Areas (KDA), Subbasin Water Resources Management Programs (KDA), Water Technology Farms (KWO), support for Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (NRCS), Water Transition Assistance Program (KDA), support the development of a Certified Irrigator Program (GMD 4), increased support for programs that provide research, education, and outreach to the public, and Kansas Runs on Water (KWO).

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee
Goals & Actions Plan
Draft Revisions

Goal #1

Work with agencies to identify areas within the region that have similar aquifer characteristics and establish long-term use levels that will extend the useful life of the aquifer in those areas until 2070.

Action Steps:

1. Support implementation of the Wichita County LEMA submitted by Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD 1).
2. Support implementation of the Groundwater Recharge and Sustainability Project (GRASP) RCPP that was recently approved.
3. Continue to support enrollment in the Wichita County WCA.
4. Provide recommendations to GMD 1 for additional LEMAs based upon the information developed by KGS for the proposed revision of Goal #1.
5. Support KDA and other agencies in exploring options on ways to help citizen groups submit conservation proposals for LEMAs and other tools to the Chief Engineer.
6. Establish methods for local producers that will identify provisions within USDA farm programs that conflict with Goal #1. This would include crop insurance and loan programs.
7. Education:
 - a. Provide education and outreach to crop consultants concerning specific information on water use reductions and technologies available to achieve water conservation related to irrigated crop production.
 - b. Conduct seminars with local agricultural lenders to explain the purpose and implementation of Goal #1.
 - c. Publish an annual report for the region showing annual water use and trends in irrigation use and aquifer levels.

Goal #2

Encourage public water supplies within the planning region to complete studies of municipal water consumption and develop goals and plans for conservation by 2025.

Action Steps:

1. Assemble information about programs and grants that are available from state agencies and related entities (KWO, KDHE, Kansas Rural Water Association, KWRA) to evaluate water consumption and quality; identify sources of waste; plan and fund infrastructure improvements; and provide incentives to establish landscaping with lower water requirements.
2. Provide information and education on how rate structures can provide incentives for water conservation.
3. Education may include presentations to city governing bodies on remaining aquifer life and the process for acquiring water rights and changing beneficial use to municipal use.

Goal #3

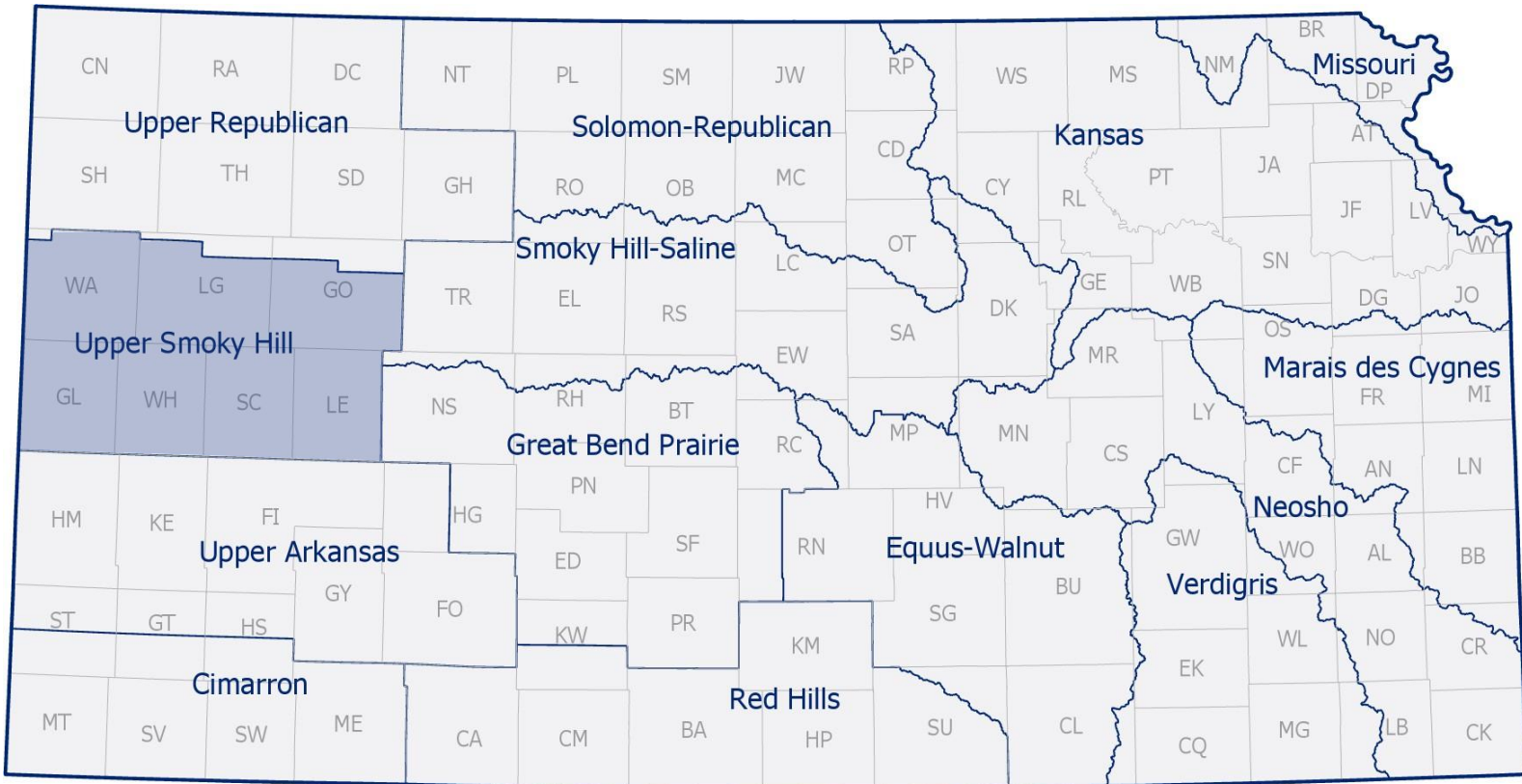
Encourage the implementation of water conservation measures at confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the region.

Action Steps:

1. Investigate and determine the most effective format for sharing information about water treatment and recycling systems with CAFO owners and managers. Note that this may include field days, online posts and videos, and presentations to companies and producer organizations.
2. Provide information on existing technology and vendors for water conservation systems: a. Water tank overflow treatment and recycling systems b. Water tanks and fountains that do not require continuous overflow c. Devices that regulate overflows based on water temperature
3. Determine the availability of programs and funding for research of technology for wastewater treatment and reuse for livestock consumption. This includes evaluation of livestock health impacts associated with such systems.



Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee



Membership

Name	City	Category	Term
Frank Mercurio (Chair)	Scott City, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023
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VACANT	VACANT	At Large Public (cc)	2021

(cc) – Core Category