



# Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

7:00 AM (CST), Tuesday, August 3, 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	No
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	No
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	No
VACANT	VACANT	At Large Public (cc)	2021	N/A

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Dan Wells	KDHE
Logan Smith	KDHE
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 April 2021 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were no changes requested by the RAC members.
- Updates**
  - Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** Matt Unruh (KWO) informed the RAC of recent updates that had occurred at the KWA meeting.
  - Kansas Water Officer (KWO):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) gave an update on the recent membership drive and other agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting.
- Regional Activities**
  - 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

**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](mailto:keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov)

to the KWA budget committee for consideration. A motion was made by Alicia Allen and seconded by Stephen Mangan to send the following Budget Recommendation Message to the KWA Budget Committee:

*“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, specifically programs and technologies that educate and promote the importance of water conservation. These items include:*

- a) *Increased support for programs that provide research, education, and outreach to the public, and Kansas Runs on Water (KWO), specifically targeted towards producers*
- b) *Full restoration of the \$8 million allotment to the Kansas State Water Plan*
- c) *Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMA) (KDA)*
- d) *Water Conservations Areas (KDA)*
- e) *Sub-basin Water Resources Management Programs (KDA)*
- f) *Water Technology Farms (KWO)*
- g) *Drinking Water Protection Program (KDHE)*
- h) *Support for Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (NRCS) and other federal programs*
- i) *Water Transition Assistance Program (KDA)*
- j) *Support the development of a Certified Irrigator Program (GMD 4)”*

There was no discussion and unanimous approval was given.

### 6. Other Business

#### a. **Agency Reports:**

Mike Meyer (KDA-DWA Garden City Field Office): reported that their office currently had one vacancy posted for anyone interested in applying and that everything has been business as usual. Currently his office is busy with reviewing civil penalties from over pumping.

Kyle Spencer (GMD1): reminded everyone about the GMD1 annual meeting on August 11.

Dan Wells (KDHE): reported that there was not HAB’s in the region and that the closest one was in Horse Thief but it had been minor. Last winter KDHE received a grant to do waste water sampling in the region to test for Covid cases versus the variant count of the community they are taking samples from.

#### b. **Public Comments:** None

c. **Questions and Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** It was requested to have the next RAC meeting in the last two weeks of October and to have Keadron Pearson (KWO) send out a doodle poll for it.

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

#### e. **Future Meetings:**

- i. GMD1 Annual Meeting: August 11
- ii. Kansas Water Authority: August 17
- iii. Governor’s Water Conference: November 16-18

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 A.M (CST).