

Upper Republican & Upper Smoky Hill Joint Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am, Wednesday, January 23, 2019
Buffalo Bill Cultural Center, Oakley, KS

Upper Republican 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	No
Scott Ross	Atwood, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Kenneth Sanderson	Goodland, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2019	No
VACANT		Agriculture 2	2021	

Upper Smoky Hill Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Shane Mann (Chair)	Quinter, KS	Irrigation	2019	No
Frank Mercurio (Vice-Chair)	Scott City, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Maurice Miller	Healy, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	Yes
Mike Todd	Scott City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	No
Farrin Watt	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
Kyle Spencer	Scott City, KS	Groundwater Management	2021	Yes
Richard Randall	Scott City, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Shelly Turner	Healy, KS	Financial	2021	Yes
VACANT		Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	

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KWO Planner: Alexandra Geisler, 785-296-0865; alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov
Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Armando Zarco	KWO
Dan Morgan	ServiTech
Steven Wolters	KDA-DWR
Greg Graff	KWA & GMD1
Abram Lollar	Ducks Unlimited
Weston McCary	NW Tech – Precision Ag Program

Welcome and Introductions

Armando Zarco began the meeting at 10:20 am.

Chairs Presentation

Both RAC Chairs, Sid Metcalf and Vice-Chair Frank Mercurio, gave a brief presentation on committee interests and activities in their respective regions.

Agency Reports

Groundwater Management District No. 4 – Shannon Kenyon:

Shannon provided a brief report on GMD4 activities to include the GMD4 LEMA. She indicated that there are some interveners for the GMD4 LEMA but those are ongoing court cases that may take months or years before a resolution may be determined.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources: Stockton – Steven Walters:

Steven provided a brief update on the new 2018 Water Use Reporting method. There is now a \$20 paper fee, per water right, should producers submit the paper card fee. There is no fee if producers submit their water use reports online through a KDA water use reporting website. Steven also spoke briefly on Water Conservation Areas and how they can allow additional flexibilities in the LEMA. Lastly, Steven reported that Mike Beam has been appointed as the new Secretary of Agriculture.

Groundwater Management District No. 1 – Kyle Spencer:

Kyle provided a report on the potential Wichita County LEMA that is being worked up by GMD1 and that it will be reported at their February 20th Annual Meeting. He also spoke briefly on their cost-share program and that funds are still available for soil moisture probes and other technology.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources: Garden City – Armando Zarco:

Armando reported that the SW KS Water Commissioner, Mike Meyer, was not able to attend the meeting today but wanted to mention that his office will be offering satellite assistance for online Water Use Reporting on February 4th, 2019 at 316 W Ramon Street in Sharon Springs, KS from 9am until 4pm.

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Kansas Water Office – Armando Zarco:

Armando reported that a new KWO director has yet to be appointed and that Earl Lewis is still acting as Interim Director until Governor Kelly appoints one. He also mentioned that the KWA Annual Report and KDA Budget Reports are now available online for the public to access.

Lunch Break

Northwest Kansas Technical College: Precision Agriculture Program

Weston McCary presented on the Technology program offered by NW KS Technical College. He went on to talk about the last few years of the program and how the program has increased drastically in student enrollment.

Sponsor Presentations

ServiTech

Dan Morgan presented products that are offered by ServiTech. He also went on to talk about options and the setup for irrigation technology offered by his company.

Ducks Unlimited

Abram Lollar gave a short presentation on the projects that Ducks Unlimited has going on in NW Kansas. In particular, he talked about Playas and how they are in great need for duck migration through the Midwest. Lastly, he mentioned that Ducks Unlimited is interested in leasing out, or even purchasing, land for playas and would be willing to meet to discuss further.

Public Comments

Greg Graff, GM1 President, wanted to report that GMD1 is in talks of considering implementing a water transfer project to their district. He also noted that they are also talking about implementing LEMA's for the other counties in their district within a year or two; and that the LEMA's would be county by county.

Upcoming Meetings

Kansas Water Authority – January 31st – Topeka KS

Groundwater Management District No. 4 Annual Meeting – February 13th – Hoxie KS

Groundwater Management District No. 1 Annual Meeting – February 20th – Leoti KS

Next RAC Meeting - April

RAC Breakout

Upper Republican: Very short discussion on the next meeting date for April 3rd at 1:30 pm.

Upper Smoky Hill: The board members present requested a poll sent out for a meeting on the 1st or 2nd week of April.

Adjourn 3:10pm

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