

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

1:00 pm, Wednesday, January 11, 2017

KLA Environmental Services, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, KS

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Shane Mann (Chair)	Quinter, KS	Irrigation	2019	Yes
Lonnie Busch	Leoti, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	No
Kurt Maurath	Logan County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	No
Frank Mercurio	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	Yes
Farrin Watt	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	Yes
Danny Welsh	Wallace County, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Scott Noll	Scott City, KS	At Large Public	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Mike Meyer	KDA/DWR
Richard Rockel	KWO
Greg Graff	KWA/GMD1
Kyle Spencer	GMD 1
Gary Boldt	Public
Dan Wells	KDHE

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman, Shane Mann. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review and Approval of October Meeting Notes:** Notes from the October meeting were approved.
- 2017 Water Talk Series Update and Planning:** The Committee discussed the agenda and lunch setup for the Water Talk Series. The list of vendors was discussed and ideas were given for some content to be added.
- Wichita County Water Conservation Area Update:** Frank Mercurio gave an update on the Wichita County Water Conservation Area (WCA) development and details on the public informational meeting that will be held on March 9th. An update was given on the Water Right information days where 12-15 people came and over 100 water rights were reviewed. Farrin Watt gave details about the planned public meeting and the interest he has been hearing from the public, continued by sharing that he has been asked what the GMD's role and support of the process was. That the WCA group would like to know what the GMD's plan was for a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) and that folks are waiting to see what the GMD will take action on. Mike Meyer added that he has heard from folks that they are waiting to see what happens with the WCA process and what action the GMD takes.

Farrin stated that if there was a threat of a LEMA being developed, more people would sign up for the WCA with its flexibilities. That people are getting into passionate debates in church and at social gatherings about conservation. Gregg Graff asked how the GMD could give the WCA process a boost. Mike Meyer stated that giving the process a boost did not need to be hard, that the GMD could take the WCA plan and turn it into a LEMA.

Farrin and Frank gave details about conversations they've had with producers about the WCA process and that they have heard mostly positive responses and questions.

5. **Priorities to highlight at Legislative Education Session on January 24:** The Committee discussed items to be highlighted at the legislative water education session. Sid Metcalf will represent the Committee and speak with legislators, no other members of the Committee volunteered to attend.
6. **Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force Update:** Gregg Graff gave some details on items he had heard from the funding task force meetings.
7. **Update on proposed legislative action:** Mike Meyer gave an update on legislative actions that were proposed by the Division of Water Resources (DWR), spoke about the planned changes to streamline the Water Conservation Area statute. That there was a bill proposed to modify the water right impairment process and the steps that would be followed by DWR.
8. **Public Input:** Gary Boldt stated that he found the meeting very informative. Gregg Graff asked Chairman Mann if GMD should be doing cost share if there was money available, Mann replied that funds should be focused to WCA areas.
9. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. Kansas Water Authority: May 17-18, Garden City, KS
 - b. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: TBD most likely July 2017.