



Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

1:00 pm, Monday, November 27, 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	No
Lonnie Busch	Leoti, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	Yes
Kurt Maurath	Logan County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	No
Frank Mercurio	Scott City, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	No
Maurice Miller	Healy, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	No
Mike Todd	Scott City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	No
Farrin Watt	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	No
Danny Welsh	Wallace County, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	No
Scott Noll	Scott City, KS	At Large Public	2017	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Mike Meyer	KDA/DWR
Armando Zarco	KDA/DWR
Lexi Kiniston	KDA/DWR
Gary Boldt	Public
Richard Rockel	KWO
Alexandra Davis	KWO

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 1:15 p.m., a quorum was not present; one of the nine committee members was present. All present provided self-introductions.

Review and Approval of January Meeting Notes

Notes from the April meeting were reviewed; no issues or modifications were noted as being needed. No motion could be made for approval of minutes.

State of the Resource Project

Richard Rockel gave an explanation of the drafting of a State of the Resource document and planning for a public outreach event specific to the region. Comments were received from the Committee on a rough draft of the document and input was requested. Discussion continued as to what the Committee would like to see highlighted as Implementation Needs for the region to implement their approved Action Plan and Priority Goals.

Education was a major talking point that was brought up as a need. A basis is needed to measure progress on a regular basis. Important educational points include the declining aquifer and side by side comparisons of where we are now vs. where we would be if conservation had not been started. The point was brought up that there is a need for more real time index wells, and that those could be located in townships that exceed a threshold of wells and/or use and decline. New



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educational demonstrations could be developed and funding for such projects may be found from local, private, or federal sources. A resource that should be utilized is partner groups such as KFB and local coops, providing an opportunity for committee members to go to other meetings and provide educational presentations.

Incentives for conservation are another need that was discussed. Would there be a way for more technology to qualify for cost share and how can communication on BMPs and the promotions of LEMAs and WCAs be improved. The topic of developing a water reduction plan came up, but was tabled until the next meeting due to the need of the full RAC being present to discuss.

In development of the SOTR outreach event, it was suggested to have a talk in concert with the GMD No. 1 annual meeting in February. A committee member could speak and the GMD could talk about their cost share program. Other ideas included having a producer from the Wichita County WCA talk.

Education Outreach and High School Programs

Alexandra Davis with KWO provided an update on High School Education initiatives that will be taking place in the Upper Smoky Hill Region. There has been concern in regards to having water subject matter specific to Western Kansas. Discussions with GMD No. 1 about their Cost Share Program have sparked ideas to utilize that program to get local farmers working with the schools and new technologies. The plan is to make contact with several teachers in the area to assess interest and work with those teachers to incorporate regional water education into the classroom with the first step being to get in front of a class and give a presentation on the basics of their water. Several suggestions and ideas were discussed on how to best approach educating high school aged students. Timing is important when keeping students attention, field days and getting outside of the classroom can spark students' interests. There is a need for teacher education which should be a focus, and collaboration with other student groups such as FFA and 4H can be a useful resource.

Other Business

Agency Reports - None

Public Comments – None

Messages to Kansas Water Authority – None

Future Meetings – KWA January 23-24, Topeka, KS