



Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00am

Friday February 22, 2019

Old Iron Club

10392 Jade Road

Fredonia, KS 66736

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
John Black (Chair)	Howard, KS	Agriculture	2019	Yes
Ken McNickle (Vice-Chair)	Mound Valley, KS	Public Water Supply	2021	Yes
Doug Blex	Independence, KS	WRAPS	2019	No
John Ditmore	Coffeyville, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Harold Engle	Madison, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Brian Graff	Neodesha, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Gary Kelley	Sedan, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Chuck Shively	Coffeyville, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Vacant		Conservation/Environment	2021	
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Pamela Walker	Wilson County CD
Chris Janssen	KDHE
Rob Reschke	KDA-DOC
Caleb Fabrycky	KDA-DWR (Parsons)
Adam Johnson	City of Tulsa
Scott McCrone	USACE-Tulsa District
Chris Shultz	KWO
Gary Koons	KWO
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson, John Black. All present provided self-introductions. John thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked Pam and the Wilson County Conservation District for hosting the RAC.
- Review of the September Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the September meeting were discussed. Caleb Fabrycky (KDA-DWR) stated the September meeting notes under his report should reflect that while no MDS administration occurred, there was still protection of releases. There were no additional corrections.
- KWA December Meeting Report: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO):** reported that at the December KWA meeting in Wichita several items were discussed including RAC membership and training, Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative, Water Technology Farms, Water Injection Dredging (WID), HABs, the Annual Report, and the 2019 Surplus Water Report.

Membership: John Black, Howard, KS: Chair; Ken McNickle, Mound Valley: Vice-Chair, KS; Doug Blex, Independence, KS; John Ditmore, Coffeyville, KS; Harold Engle, Madison, KS; Brian Graff, Neodesha, KS; Gary Kelley, Sedan, KS; Charles Shively, Coffeyville, KS; Ronald Smith, Fredonia, KS; KWO Planner: Bobbi Luttjohann, 785-296-3185; bobbi.luttjohann@kwo.ks.gov

4. **KWA January Meeting and Legislative Visits Report: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO):** reported that on January 30th 27 KWA and RAC members conducted 69 legislative visits at the Capitol. The following day the KWA had their meeting in Topeka, at which Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers spoke at the meeting. Other topics covered were sorghum research, PWS Committee and Bathymetry Program updates and an update from KDWP&T.
5. **WRAPS Program Changes: Chris Janssen (KDHE):** Chris gave a history of the WRAPS program and how EPA is involved, and how changes within the EPA have affected the WRAPS program. Due to funding, all WRAPS projects could not be funded through the current program to promote adequate delistings. Therefore, the 34 total WRAPS projects were divided into two programs. Fifteen of these will be under the Active Implementation Program and will be funded through grants from KDHE and EPA. The remaining 19 will be placed in the Partnership Program. The Partnership Program will be managed by a sponsoring organization. KACD will be the sponsor of the grant for partnership program. KACD will receive funds and the CDs will implement funds on the ground for projects. Applications will go through the CSIMS program that the CDs are currently using, much like the Reservoir Protection Initiative Program. KDHE continues to build strategic plans to compliment the already completed 9 Element plans for the active program to implement practices to promote delistings. The Upper and Middle Neosho, Fall, and Toronto WRAPS will be sponsored through KACD. The Active Implementation Program will be based on the efficiency of practices to remove phosphorus. The program will still focus on target areas and the grants will be awarded on an annual basis. More information on the WRAPS Program and contact information can be found here: <http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/wraps/>
6. **Drought Contingency Plan Update: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported for Nathan Westrup (KWO),** stating that Nate has been working with the USACE on a new Drought Contingency Plan. The Plan is not approved yet, but the process is going well.
7. **Lake Levels Animation: Chris Shultz (KWO)** gave a presentation on the Lake Level Animation Program that he has built. The program shows how a reservoir's storage is reduced during the historical drought of record, as well as other years that can be programmed in. Chris presented 2018 data to show how the storage changed and then compared those animations to 2012, which was a drier year, and to the historical drought of record. The animations will be on the KWO website in the future. Chris asked for the feedback from the RAC.
8. **Legislative Update: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO):** reported that not much has gone on in this legislative session so far. Bobbi did handout a schedule of the legislative calendar and important dates. Bobbi reported that HB 2185 and HB 2188 are under consideration. The KWO does not have much input on these bills at this time. She then reported that SAKW has proposed draft legislation to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee concerning tax exemptions for donated easements. Bobbi noted information about bills and the Kansas legislators can be found at <http://www.kslegislature.org>
1. **RAC Membership, Chairmanship, and Expiring Terms: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO):** reported that in 2019 five members of the RAC will have terms expiring. Bobbi provided a list of the members and when their term expires, along with the timeline for the RAC membership drive. Bobbi also discussed the application process. She stated all members wishing to reapply for their position will need to turn in an application no later than May 31, 2019. The application can be found on the KWO website here: https://kwo.ks.gov/docs/default-source/regional-advisory-committees/rac-membership/application_rac_060915.pdf?sfvrsn=56f28414

Bobbi also reported that starting with the next round of RAC meetings, Gary Koons (KWO) will be taking over as planner for the Verdigris RAC. Gary introduced himself and stated he will also be the planner for the Equus-Walnut Region.

9. RAC Member Trainings: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO): reported that session board leadership training series was offered through the K-State Research and Extension. While most dates have passed, there was still one left on February 26th. However, the KWO is planning on doing RAC member training in the fall once new members are appointed. Format for this has not been completely laid out at this time. There will be more to come on the training once time gets closer.

10. Goal Revisions: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO): Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that in 2019 the RACs and the KWO will look at the goals and action plans set forth for each Region and determine if these need to be changed. Bobbi asked for the RACs thoughts on this.

11. Future RAC Meetings Planning: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO): reported that at 2019 continues the RAC meetings will be planned to coincide with certain issues. The next meeting is planned to be in June to address budget. If the budget is not completed at that time, a July RAC meeting will be held to give recommendations to the KWA about the budget. The fall RAC meeting will be held once the KWA has appointed new members and approved a budget. This meeting will focus on new member training.

12. Questions and Future Issues from Members: None at this time.

13. Agency and Public Input:

Caleb Fabrycky (KDA-DWR): reported that water right owners and water use correspondents have until the March 1st deadline to turn in their water use reports (WUR) to KDA-DWR. Caleb also reported that there is a \$20 fee per file if a paper WUR is filed. Caleb said to contact the DWR if anyone needs help with their WUR. The RAC asked how the new electronic filing process was going. Caleb stated that the process has been fairly smooth, with very little backlash. He stated DWR moved to the electronic filing process because it's more efficient and reduces cost and saves tax dollars. RAC members who have tried the electronic filing said it was fairly easy and smooth.

Rob Reschke (KDA-DOC): commented on the WRAPS Program changes. Rob stated that they work with local CDs to deliver these programs. He noted that KDHE approached KACD to be the sponsoring organization for the sponsor grants. He believes this is a positive partnership.

14. Future Meetings:

Kansas Water Authority: April 18, 2018, Abilene, KS

Tentative Kansas Water Authority Meeting: July 30th-31st in Goodland, KS

Verdigris RAC: The next meeting will be held in June. A doodle poll will be sent out to pick date.