



Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00pm

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Toronto Lake Shelter House

Toronto Point

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	No
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
Debbie Smith	Neodesha, KS	Conservation/Environment	2021	No
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Kimberly Jones	KDWP&T – Cross Timbers Fall River
Katie Tietsort	KDA/DWR
Hakim Saadi	KDA/DOC
Caleb Fabrycky	KDA-DWR (Parsons)
Julie Carey	USACE
Bob Culbertson	Toronto WRAPS
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** Kimberly Jones (KDWP&T) welcomed everyone to Toronto Lake and gave a brief history, summary of recreational opportunities, staffing, and overview of the Lake. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. by Chairperson, John Black. All present provided self-introductions. The RAC discussed if they wanted to take the tour of Toronto Lake that is scheduled at 3pm to be given by the USACE. The RAC decided to take the scheduled tour beginning at 3pm.
- Review of the March Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the March meeting were discussed. Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR) stated that in the March meeting notes her statement regarding the release of water and the MOA should be clarified to explain that while the MOA currently prevents water to be passed through, modifications could be made and this could change. There were no additional corrections or additions.
- MEKRO Model Update: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO)** reported that the KWO is continuing to refine the MEKRO model. As part of the refinement they are looking at additional demands in the Region and also what changing Coffeyville Resources intake would do. John Ditmore (Industry/Commerce) had discussed this possibility in his report at the March RAC meeting.

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; Debbie Smith, Neodesha, KS
KWO Planner: Bobbi Luttjohann, 785-296-3185; bobbi.luttjohann@kwo.ks.gov

4. **Watershed Dam Construction Above Fall River Reservoir: Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO)** reported that a meeting was held with several watershed districts, their engineer, KDA-DOC, and KWO in Eureka on June 26th. The City of Eureka's water supply needs were discussed, along with potential dam construction and O&M concerns. At this time no new dams are planned to be constructed to meet the needs of sediment reduction and to secure water supply. The possibility of moving towards streambank stabilization projects was discussed.

Hakim Saadi (KDA-DOC): gave an overview of the Watershed Districts in the upper portion of the Verdigris Region. Hakim reported that the Watershed Districts have done preliminary feasibility studies on dam construction. He then explained the nuances of state and federal funding for watershed dams. Hakim also explained the meaning of the life of the dam, the maintenance of the dams, and ownership and use.

5. **City of Madison Water Supply and the PL-566 Program: Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO)** reported that there had been a meeting held in Madison in May. The City of Madison, the City of Hamilton, local RWDs, NRCS, and SAKW attended the meeting. Those at the meeting discussed the possibility of using PL-566 funds to rehab a dam close to Madison in order to create a secondary water supply to make the Cities and the surrounding RWDs less vulnerable to drought. The DWR has provided a water right review for the City. The City will use this information, along with additional information supplied by KRWA, to create a feasibility report with NRCS to see if they can receive PL-566 funding to rehab the dam and include water supply.

Howard Engle (Agriculture): gave a history of the City's water use and use of wells and the watershed dams. Howard also explained the need for the dam height to be increased to increase pool capacity and how the hazard class may change.

6. **City of Eureka Water Supply and Watershed District Dam Construction: Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO)** reported that at the meeting in Eureka on June 26th, it was discussed to rehab a dam close to the City to create a secondary water supply source. The KDA-DOC will work with the City and local Watershed Districts to see what funding sources can be used for this project and if the project is feasible. It was determined at this time that constructing a new dam for water supply was not the best option.

Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR): discussed the City of Eureka's water rights and ability to access their point of diversions and who has right to the water.

6. **Budget Updates: Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO)** reported that at the last KWA meeting it was discussed that the RACs will now be a part of the budget review process. Once the KWA Budget Committee has provided its recommendations, the RACs will review these recommendations and provide feedback. This feedback will be discussed at a July RAC meeting via conference call. Follow-up for scheduling the July RAC meeting will be provided as soon as the KWA Budget Committee has met and reviewed the budget.

7. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:** There were none at this time.

7. **Agency and Public Input:**

Julie Carey (USACE): reported that if anyone is near the Region's Lakes they may see Purple Prism Traps to monitor the spread of Emerald Ash Borer. The USACE is also doing a tree inventory in July. Julie reported that President Trump has announced his proposal to reorganize federal programs, including Departments within the USACE.

Hakim Saadi (KDA-DOC): reported that the Watershed Administration Workshop will be held in Emporia in October and there will be additional workshops in the Spring of 2019.

Bob Culbertson (Toronto WRAPS): reported that there will be soil health workshops held in July and September. They are scheduled July 2nd in Parsons, July 9th in Iola, July 24th in Waverly, and September 18th in Eureka. The workshops will feature Regional Health Specialists from other states.

Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR): reported that DWR held their Water Rights Holder meeting in Neodesha on March 14, 2014 at 10am. Katie stated it had a great turnout and was successful. Katie also discussed the recent changes in regulations concerning water use reports and penalties, as well as over-pumping issues and additional penalties. Additional changes may be occurring to the regulations to solve some unintended consequences of the previous regulation changes.

8. Future Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority: August 22, 2018, Manhattan, KS
- b. Verdigris RAC: The next meeting (conference call) will be held in July once the Budget Committee finalizes recommendations. A doodle poll will be sent out to pick the best date.
- c. Verdigris RAC Fall Meeting: The next full RAC meeting will be in September. A doodle poll will be sent out to pick the best date.