



Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00pm, Wednesday September 26, 2018

Madison High School

Library Meeting Room

1500 SW Blvd.

Madison, KS

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	Yes
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	No
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
Paul Dean	Mayor – City of Madison
Pamela Walker	Wilson County CD
Bob Culbertson	Toronto WRAPS
Hakim Saadi	KDA-DOC
Caleb Fabrycky	KDA-DWR (Parsons)
Julie Carey	USACE-Tulsa District
Chris Shultz	KWO
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, John Black. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review of the June Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the June meeting were discussed. John Black (Chair & Agriculture) noted that under the “City of Madison Water Supply and PL-566 Program” Harold Engle (Agriculture) was listed as Howard Engle. The correction was recorded and noted. There were no further corrections or additions.
- City of Madison Water Supply and Area Water Issues: Caleb Fabrycky (KDA-DWR)** gave an overview of the City of Madison’s water rights. Caleb also discussed the potential water supply that would be available from the proposed watershed dam the City is considering to use as a secondary water supply source.
Hon. Paul Dean (Mayor of the City of Madison): presented on the City of Madison’s water supply use and future needs. Mayor Dean also discussed the collaboration with KDA-DWR, NRCS, and KRWA to review the possibility of using the proposed watershed dam. Mayor Dean noted the necessity of having a secondary water

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

supply source for the City in cases of drought, contamination, and ANS, such as zebra mussels. It was mentioned that proceeding with the project is timely because the RAC has the use of the PL-566 program as part of their goals and action plans and NRCS has funding for the PL-566 dam rehab and water supply addition program. Evaporation, seepage, and sedimentation were also discussed.

4. **MEKRO Model Update - Chris Shultz (KWO)** reported on the MEKRO Model that is used to simulate the reservoir operations for past, current, and future water supply storage. Chris discussed the projected dates when water supply storage would be insufficient to meet projected demands for the Region and what operational changes could extend water supply for the Region.
5. **KWA Meeting Report:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that at the August 22nd KWA 3 RAC chairs gave a report to the KWA on their RAC's goals and progress. Bobbi also mentioned that the SOTR documents were presented at the KWA meeting. The KWA budget recommendations were also discussed.
John Black (Chair & Agriculture) noted that some RACs reported that they feel they have no measurable results for their RAC goals and action plans. However, the RACs are working hard and accomplishments are being made.
Doug Blex (WRAPS) mentioned that the RACs are there to connect with the grassroots, and even if it seems that progress is not being made on goals and plans, it actually is, but it is a long term and slow process. Doug noted that the RACs can't get ahead of the agencies and KWA and their processes and funding. He mentioned that the RACs need to keep working on Vision items and remember that RACs are a part of the process and work for and with the KWA.
6. **State of the Resource Document (SOTR):** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that the [SOTR documents](#) for each region were presented at the KWA meeting in August and can now be found online. The one page infographic fact sheet for each region that summarizes the SOTR highlights will also be found online in the near future and can be used as a handout to educate people, including legislators, on the issues facing each region. Bobbi also reported that as part of the state of the water resources in Kansas, the drought is continuing, however some areas have improved. Bobbi presented the RAC members with maps of current drought conditions, as well as maps of the improvement of drought condition since June, 2018. She also noted that the most up-to-date [Climate and Drought](#) information can be found on the KWO website.
7. **Chairs Meeting Conference Call:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that the Chairs met via conference call on August 14th. Bobbi reported that the Kansas RAC PowerPoint was presented and can be sent out to anyone wanting to use it as a tool for presentations to disseminate information about the RACs and water issues.
8. **John Black (Chair & Agriculture)** reported that RAC member Debbie Smith (Conservation/Environment) has stepped down from the RAC. The RAC now has 9 members and is seeking candidates to fill open categories on the RAC.
9. **Watershed Dam Construction Above Fall River Reservoir – Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO)** reported that the KWO is still in discussion with the local WJD, including Otter Creek to build a watershed dam. Bobbi stated that the KWO is looking at several planned watershed dams in Otter Creek to see the viability and effectiveness of building these dams in order to reduce sediment.
Questions about Horse Thief Reservoir were brought up. Hakim Saadi (KDA-DOC) explained the history and funded of the reservoir.

10. Budget Updates and Budget Process Feedback: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that she sent out the latest budget recommendations via email and if there were any questions or concerns to let her know.

Bobbi then asked the RAC how they felt the RAC's involvement in the KWA Budget Recommendations process went for the RAC. The RAC members appreciated their involvement in the process. The RAC liked the idea of having the RAC's summer meeting dedicated to the budget process. With the summer meeting dedicated mostly to the budget, there would be more time to prepare for it and the meeting would be face-to-face as opposed to a conference call (which may have been less effective).

11. Future RAC Meetings Planning: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) asked the RAC if they would tentatively like to schedule the next year of meetings. Bobbi stated that since the Governor's Conference was November 13th and 14th, 2018 and there was not a KWA meeting until December (2018), with one following in January (2019) with legislative visits, if the RAC would find it reasonable to hold off until late February or early March (2019) for the next RAC meeting. The RAC thought it would be acceptable to have the next meeting in late February or early March. The RAC also noted again that it would be beneficial to have a summer meeting (either June or July, 2019) to discuss the budget and anything else that required attention at that time. The RAC stated that having a meeting in late September or early October (2019) would work out well.

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

13. Agency and Public Input:

Caleb Fabrycky (KDA-DWR): reported that [Minimum Desirable Streamflow \(MDS\)](#) administration orders were issued throughout the Region. However, with the recent rainfall the orders were rescinded for the Region.

Julie Carey (USACE – Tulsa District): reported that the USACE is working to assist producers with managing the impact of the drought. The USACE is allowing federal lake withdrawals once the withdrawals have been verified by the KWO. Julie asked the RAC to help educate producers and the public about water resources and the USACE.

Julie reported that they are closing out FY18 and moving into FY19. She noted that they did not receive any funds for the streambank stabilization project submitted last fiscal year. However, she will submit another funding package request in February for this project. While the streambank stabilization project did not get funded, the request to conduct T&E species bat surveys did receive funded. Also, the USACE will be wrapping up the emerald ash borer surveys and pulling traps and analyzing insect data.

14. Future Meetings:

[Governor's Water Conference:](#) November 13th and 14th, 2018, Manhattan, KS

Kansas Water Authority: December 18th and 19th, 2018, Wichita, KS

Kansas Water Authority and Legislative Visits: January 29 and 30th, 2019, Topeka, KS

Verdigris RAC: The next meeting will be held in late February or early March. A doodle poll will be sent out to pick date.