

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm
Tuesday, May 18, 2021
GoTo Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
John Ditmore (Chair)	Coffeyville, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Bob Culbertson (Vice Chair)	New Strawn, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Doug Blex	Independence, KS	WRAPS	2023	Yes
Ken McNickle	Mound Valley, KS	Public Water Supply	2021	No
Harold Engle	Madison, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Brian Graff	Neodesha, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Gary Kelley	Sedan, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
John Black	Howard, KS	Agriculture	2023	No
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	No
VACANT		Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Angela Anderson	KWO
Pamela Walker	Wilson County Conservation District
Terry Medley	KDA - DWR
Amelia Nill	KWO
Angela Puls	KDHE
Katie Tietz	KDA - DWR

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at by Chairperson, John Ditmore at 1:04pm (Industry/Commerce). Mr. Ditmore expressed his appreciation for those able to attend the meetings virtually. He took roll call.
- Approval of Agenda:**
Harold Engle (Agriculture, cc) moved to approve the agenda. Vice-Chair Bob Culbertson (Conservation/Environment) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Review of the December 2020 RAC Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the December meeting were reviewed. There were no changes to the notes.

4. **KWA April 26th and May 18th Meeting Review:** Mr. Ditmore initiated the review of the two KWA meetings by recognizing that RACs now seem to be focused more on managing the current resources and are less about building structures. He stated the meetings have been informational. Rep. Doug Blex (WRAPS) commented that the May 18th KWA meeting highlighting the opportunity to work with federal dollars was good, as well as the plan to incorporate the Vision Document into the updated Water Plan. A lot of work, time, and input went into formulating the Vision Document.
Angela Anderson then highlighted the agenda items discussed in both KWA meetings.
5. **Budget Webinar Follow-Up:** Angela Anderson briefly discussed the budget webinar that the KWO hosted in order to prepare the RACs for their budget recommendation meetings that will take place mid-summer. She directed the group that were unable to attend webinar to the [KWO website for viewing](#) when it is convenient for them.
6. **Draft Updated Verdigris Regional Section of the Kansas Water Plan Overview:** Angela Anderson provided an overview of the draft Verdigris Regional Section that will be incorporated into the Kansas Water Plan. The RAC members provided local knowledge to be mentioned in the document, including:
 - Corn is a major crop for the region
 - Wind energy facility is now present
 - Brine issues from abandoned wells are a priority for the Toronto and Fall River WRAPS projects
 - Deer hunting recreation has increased in the region which has led to significant dollars for agricultural operations
 - Osage Aquifer is not a term; it is now classified as the Douglas Aquifer
 - The region, specifically Coffeyville, continues to see the impacts on streambanks from the 2007 flood which was bigger than a 500-year flood
7. **Membership Discussion:** Angela Anderson highlighted the upcoming call for membership to the Regional Advisory Committees, listing the position that is vacant – the Public Water Supply category, which is a core category.
8. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:**
 - Angela Anderson posed the question before the RAC members as to how they prefer to meet for future meetings, with any in-person meetings always having a virtual option. Members thought that meeting in person at least 2 times per year would be preferable.
 - Doug Blex (WRAPS) stated that he was very proud of the Verdigris RAC for their impact on statewide goals as one of the region’s goals and action plans was deemed important enough for a statewide goal.
9. **Agency Input:**
 - Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR): The agency will continue to need at least a hybrid option in order to attend RAC meetings. Upcoming guidance on opening the office June 13th will be delivered to their personnel soon. As of present, there is only one person in the office until June, but there continues to be a lot of field work being done. Caleb Fabryky took a new job in Parsons; his position is now open. Their office is working to get water right files scanned.
10. **Public Input:** There was no public input.

11. Adjournment

Bob Culbertson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm.

Future Meetings

- a. Verdigris RAC – June/July – Budget Recommendation – Doodle Poll
- b. Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 17-18th
- c. KWA – Wednesday, June 9th, 9am-12pm

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