

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am
Friday, July 17, 2020
GoTo Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Chuck Shively (Chair)	Coffeyville, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	YES
John Ditmore (Vice Chair)	Coffeyville, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	YES
Doug Blex	Independence, KS	WRAPS	2023	NO
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	YES
John Black	Howard, KS	Agriculture	2023	YES
Bob Culbertson	New Strawn, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	YES
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	NO

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Taylor Herman	KCC
Angela Anderson	KWO
Gary Koons	KWO
Cara Hendricks	KWO
Pam Walker	Wilson Co. Conservation District
Lauren Koons	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:01am by Chairperson, Chuck Shively (Public Water Supply). Chuck informed the group that the agenda sent out needed to be amended adding “Message of State Water Plan Fund Budget Recommendation to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee” to the agenda.

Harold Engle (Agriculture) moved to amend the agenda. Bob Culbertson (Conservation/Environment) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Harold Engle moved to accept the amended agenda. John Ditmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Review of the June Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the June meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. The notes were accepted as presented.
- RAC Goals/Action Plans Discussion/Possible Vote:**

The RAC reviewed the Goals/Action Plans that had been drafted at the June meeting. Angela Anderson was asked to review the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) webinar that Chris Steffen with the Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks & Tourism (KDWPT) had facilitated.

Bob Culbertson moved to add Goal 3:

“Continually work to prevent the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), including Zebra and Quagga mussels, into Kansas Lakes that are not currently infested, by working with the agencies focused on ANS.

Action Steps:

- The KWO and the RAC will work to prevent the spread of ANS into Kansas Lakes that are not currently infested, by working with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP&T) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to install four Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination stations near the federal reservoirs within the Verdigris Region.
- The RAC will work with the KDWP&T and USACE on an ongoing basis to provide education for lake users concerning the spread of ANS and how to prevent it.
- The RAC will encourage funding for the ANS Program through the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF).”

Harold Engle seconded the motion.

Discussion: Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO) informed the group as to the threat the Quagga mussels potentially have on the state reservoirs.

Motion passed unanimously.

Harold Engle moved to strike the words drawing attention to a specific entity in the basin in Goal #1 and add the words “and utilization”. Bob Culbertson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob Culbertson moved to approve all of the Goals and Action Plans for the Verdigris RAC. Harold seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously. The Verdigris RAC Goals and Action Plans now read:

Goal 1.

Increase drought tolerance in the Verdigris basin by optimizing reservoir releases and maintaining storage capacity.

Action Plans:

- Encourage agencies and private entities to work with water users to improve intake and utilization efficiencies.
- Evaluate ways to pass accumulated sediment through reservoirs.
- Continue to promote the use of sediment-reducing best management practices (BMPs) above water supply reservoirs.
- The Kansas Water Office will continue to find ways to optimize reservoir operations and mitigate drought.

Goal 2.

Protect watershed dam functions.

Action Plans:

- Evaluate the structural and financial health of watershed districts within the region.
- Utilize results of the evaluation to identify ways to maintain or improve the functionality of existing structures.

Goal 3.

Continually work to prevent the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), including Zebra and Quagga mussels, into Kansas Lakes that are not currently infested, by working with the agencies focused on ANS.

Action Plans:

- The KWO and the RAC will work to prevent the spread of ANS into Kansas Lakes that are not currently infested, by working with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP&T) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to install four Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination stations near the federal reservoirs within the Verdigris Region.
- The RAC will work with the KDWP&T and USACE on an ongoing basis to provide education for lake users concerning the spread of ANS and how to prevent it.
- The RAC will encourage funding for the ANS Program through the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF).

Goal 4.

Improve water conservation through a public education campaign, with priority given to youth, to increase awareness and protect water supply for future generations.

4. Message of State Water Plan Fund Budget Recommendation to the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) Budget Committee:

Cara Hendricks (KWO Asst. Director) highlighted the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) and informed the group that the State Water Plan will be updated this year as part of the five-year update. In her powerpoint, she explained how fees feed into the SWPF as do Demand Transfers, which are a State mandated statute. The Demand Transfers are to total \$8 million originating from the State General Fund (SGF) and the Economic Development Initiative Fund (EDIF). In State Fiscal Year 2020, the SWPF received \$4 million from SGF and about \$500,000 from EDIF. State Fiscal Year 2021, the SWPF was slated to receive \$6 million from SGF and about \$1 million from EDIF. However, with the state of the State presently due to the pandemic, the amounts have been decreased to the 2020 level.

Cara reviewed the SWPF overarching categories of Groundwater Initiative, Water Quality, and Reservoir Water Supply and Sedimentation. Cara shared a chart put together by Richard Rockel (KWO) indicating which funding programs align with which Verdigris RAC goals/action plans. Cara highlighted more examples of projects in the Verdigris region that utilize the various budget program funding.

The RAC worked through developing the message they would send to the KWA Budget Committee.

Gary Kelley moved to accept and send the message. Chuck Shively seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Verdigris RAC message:

“The Verdigris RAC supports the budget and would like to highlight the following priorities that are important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the goals and action plans of the Verdigris RAC. They are listed below in no particular order of priority.

- *Sediment Management through WID and BMPs (KWO)*
- *Assessment and Evaluation to optimize reservoir operations using FIRO and structures that improve efficiencies during dry periods. (KWO)*
- *Stream gaging (KWO)*
- *Watershed dam construction (KDA)*
- *Aid to conservation districts (KDA)*

**Support funding of the Aquatic Nuisance Species program through the Kansas Dept. Wildlife Parks & Tourism (KDWPT)*

Additionally, the RAC shows support for positions related to implementation of the Vision. (KWO)

5. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:

There were no questions or future issues.

6. Agency Input:

Cara Hendricks informed the group that there will be an August Kansas Water Authority meeting at a day and time yet to be determined.

Angela Anderson thanked the group for working through the full agenda via the virtual meeting method with smooth efficiency.

7. Public Input:

There was no public input.

8. Future Meetings:

- KWA – July 30th – 9am (GoTo Meeting)

9. Adjournment

Bob Culbertson moved to adjourn the meeting. Harold Engle seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.