

# Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm

Monday, December 14, 2020

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	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	NO
John Black	Howard, KS	Agriculture	2023	NO
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	YES
VACANT		Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Taylor Herman	KCC
Angela Anderson	KWO
Gary Koons	KWO
Lauren Koons	KWO
Pam Walker	Wilson Co. Conservation District
Sara Maguire	KWO
Nathan Westrup	KWO
Richard Rockel	KWO
David Solano	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Scott Henderson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Terry Medley	Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
Dylan Oney	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm by Chairperson, John Ditmore (Industry/Commerce). John took roll call.
- Approval of Agenda:**  
Angela Anderson informed the group the agenda would need to be amended, removing Agenda Item VI due to Adam Johnson, City of Tulsa, notifying the group that morning that he would be unable to attend due to extenuating circumstances.  
Harold Engle (Agriculture) moved to approve the agenda as amended by Angela. Ron Smith (Industry/Commerce) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Review of the July Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the July meeting were reviewed. Harold noted that Goal 1 Action Plan, fourth bullet should read, "The Kansas Water Office will continue to find ways to optimize

reservoir operations and mitigate **the effects of drought.**”, instead of “The Kansas Water Office will continue to find ways to optimize reservoir operations and mitigate drought.”

The meeting notes were accepted as corrected. Angela will make the necessary notifications within the Kansas Water Office to get that wording adjusted.

- 4. Governor’s Conference Review:** Angela showed the group where they could find the Governor’s Conference presentations on the [KWO website](#) to view at their leisure.

- 5. Kansas Water Plan Update/Input on draft Water Quality Section & Education Resource Sections**

Angela informed the group that the Kansas Water Plan is currently going through its regular 5-year update. The Water Plan is one of the primary tools used by the State to address current water resource issues and to plan for future needs. The Kansas Water Plan guides the coordination of local, state, and federal actions. The two draft Guiding Principles documents provided in the meeting materials were provided due to the expressed interest in the RAC’s Goals/Action Plans in regards to Water Quality and Education. There are other Guiding Principles that will be shared with the RAC.

Angela stated that the Kansas Water Office is accepting feedback/comments on the draft Water Plan. Anyone may send those comments to the email on the website, [kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov), or to Angela.

Ron Smith (Industry/Commerce) inquired concerning the lack of nitrates measured in southeast Kansas as depicted in the “Nitrate Test Results in Public Water Supply Systems, December 2010 to March 2019” map provided by KDHE. Angela Anderson will contact some individuals to find an answer. Richard Rockel indicated on KDHE’s website, some nitrate monitoring results are posted on the Drinking Water Watch tab.

- 6. Public Water Supply Vacancy** – John informed the group that with Chuck Shively’s retirement, the Public Water Supply (cc) is open. It was noted that a representative from Fredonia Public Wholesale 23 might serve the committee well. A couple of names were provided to the group. Ron Smith and others will make some connections. Angela informed the group that the person interested would need to fill out an application to join the Committee. The application would then be brought forth to the Kansas Water Authority after going through a KWA subcommittee. Names may be brought to Angela and she will supply an application.

**(The GoTo Meeting shutdown the meeting four times, resulting in loss of attendees. No action was taken from this point.)**

- 7. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:**

Bob Culbertson (Conservation/Environment) asked if the southern portion of the basin is still facing drought conditions. John answered that the river levels appear good and that the intermittent, small amounts of precipitation have helped. Gary Koons (KWO), currently serves as KWO lead representative on monitoring drought, highlighted [the Drought Webinar the KWO hosted](#) which indicated drought conditions are forecasted to persist at least until Spring 2021.

- 8. Agency Input:**

Gary Koons informed the group that through his drought monitoring, he has been keeping an eye on the Verdigris Basin and Southeast Kansas, both specifically. He will continue to keep the group informed.

Angela Anderson thanked John Ditmore for his great leadership with his first meeting wrought with technical difficulties.

### 9. Public Input:

John Ditmore thanked everyone for attending and persisting in attending.

### 10. Future Meetings:

- Angela will keep everyone informed in regards to future meetings, especially concerning the Legislative Visits if those will or will not happen due to COVID concerns.

### 11. Adjournment

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

DRAFT