



# Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:30pm, Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Coffeyville Resources

808 E. New Street,

Coffeyville, 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	No
Doug Blex	Independence, KS	WRAPS	2019	No
John Ditmore	Coffeyville, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Harold Engle	Madison, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
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	Yes
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	Yes

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Pamela Walker	Wilson County CD
Katie Tietsort	KDA/DWR
Terry Medley	KDA/DWR
Caleb Fabrycky	KDA-DWR (Parsons)
Julie Carey	USACE
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. by Chairperson, John Black. All present provided self-introductions. John thanked John Ditmore and Coffeyville Resources for hosting the meeting.
- Review of the October Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the October meeting were discussed. There were no corrections or additions.
- Watershed Dam Construction Above Fall River Reservoir – Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO)** reported that a meeting was held with several watershed districts in the upper Verdigris region to discuss the possibility of constructing an already planned watershed dam to reduce sediment and/or provide water supply. Bobbi stated that the KWO, NRCS, KDA-DOC, and SAKW were also in attendance.
- PL-566 Program and Water Supply: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO)** reported that there has also been discussion with NRCS and the watershed districts to add water supply to the PL-566 dams that may be eligible for rehabilitation. NRCS spoke about this at the watershed district meeting and the SOTR event. Working to include water supply into the PL-566 rehabilitation projects is part of the RAC’s goals and action plans.

*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*

5. **State of the Resource Event:** John Black (Chair) and Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) discussed the SOTR event that was held on February 21, 2018 at the Old Iron Club in Fredonia and sponsored by the Wilson County CD. Bobbi reported that a total of 20 people participated and that there were speakers from the KWO, KDA, USACE, and NRCS. A big thank you was given to Pamela Walker, Wilson County CD for coordinating the venue and dinner.

6. **Legislative, Funding, and Water Resource Updates:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that Ginger Harper (KWO) had put together an update and that it was sent out in an email on February 28th. If there are any questions, she will pass them on to Ginger.

This is the update that was given: The Kansas Legislature has wrapped up their first two months of the 2018 calendar. Earlier in the session, members of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) and Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) met with more than 100 legislators to discuss priorities for the \$8 million State General Fund/Economic Development Initiatives Fund (SGF/EDIF) transfer. KWA Chairman Gary Harshberger also testified before three committees, highlighting the 2018 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

There are several pieces of water-related legislation that were given hearings in various committees, but only two were considered by the full House and Senate. One bill which has passed the house favorably is HB 2691. This bill, as amended, would change the deadline to file an application for a multi-year flex account (MYFA) with the Chief Engineer from on or before October 1 to on or before December 31, of the first year of the MYFA term for which the application would be made. The Senate passed SB 194, which would permit groundwater management district boards to increase the maximum water withdrawal charge from \$1.50 for each acre-foot to \$2.00 for each acre-foot. In addition, the bill would eliminate a provision of current law that permits the boards of groundwater management districts to assess a greater annual water withdrawal charge if more than 50 percent of the authorized place of use of the water is outside the district.

The appropriations process will continue into March, as the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee has met to consider the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) budget, and will make a recommendation to the full House Appropriations Committee next month. The Senate Ways and Means Water Subcommittee will meet the week of March 5th to discuss the SWPF. We continue to hear from numerous legislators that water is an important issue they want to address this session.

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

**John Ditmore (Industry/Commerce):** commented that Elk City Reservoir is being affected more by sedimentation than previously thought and that perhaps the RAC should focus on this reservoir and issue more. By beginning to focus on this, the process will be started now, so when the need for additional water supply comes up in the future, the Region will be better prepared. John mentioned that the RAC needs to look at several options to ensure adequate water supply in the Reservoir, such as dredging, altering reservoir management practices, raising pool levels, etc. John then stated that it may be beneficial to alter or raise Coffeyville Resources' intake structure and/or lowhead dam and assess the affects. A meeting will need to be held between Coffeyville Resources, the KWO, the KDA-DWR, and the USACE to discuss this option. John also mentioned that there could be a possibility of the City of Neodesha using Toronto Reservoir as a water source.

**Ron Smith (Industry/Commerce):** mentioned the possibility of changing Toronto Reservoir's operation to release water to Elk City Reservoir to pass through water for water supply. Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR) addressed this and informed the RAC that water cannot be released for this per the MOA. Ron also mentioned the possibility of PWWSD No. 23 using both Toronto and Fall River Reservoirs as a water source.

Altering reservoir operations and piping water from the reservoirs to different users are options the KWO may be able to evaluate within the MEKRO model. Feasibility, cost, and interest by involved entities would need to be assessed.

### 6. Agency and Public Input:

Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR): reported that DWR will be holding their Water Rights Holder meeting in Neodesha on March 14, 2014 at 10am. The meeting will inform attendees of how water is managed within the Region, how this affects users, details about the MOA, and also how flows are released, measured and assessed.

Terry Medley (KDA-DWR): reported that the Montgomery Flood Rate Map appeal that was slated for February has been extended and will continue to May 1, 2018. Therefore, KDA-DWR can continue to take comments until then. After the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline it will go final. Terry then reported that the draft Wilson County Flood Map will be available for public review until April 13, 2018 and then will go preliminary. He then reported that they are flying the upper Verdigris to obtain Q-L2 LiDar. Therefore, 2-D modeling will be possible in the future. The next step is to begin FY2019 mapping.

Julie Carey (USACE): reported that the USACE is in the second quarter of the federal fiscal year and that the Environmental Stewardship Budget was put together for the 2020 Budget. Julie reported that the proposal submitted included streambank stabilization projects above Elk City, Fall River, and Toronto Reservoirs. She did note that the projects may not be funded because national priority is often given to those projects impacting cultural resources, however inclusion of the RAC goals and action plans is important and helps with priority.

### 7. Future Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority: April 18, 2018, Lenexa, KS
- b. Verdigris RAC: The next meeting will be held in June at/near Toronto Lake, with a touring of the lake following the meeting. A doodle poll was sent out to find the best date.