



# Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00am, Thursday, October 19, 2017

City of Independence

Veterans Room

410 N Penn

Room 106 & 108

Independence, KS 67301

### 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	No
Harold Engle	Madison, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
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
Katie Tietsort	KDA/DWR
Terry Medley	KDA/DWR
Caleb Fabrycky	KDA-DWR (Parsons)
Julie Carey	USACE
Bob Culbertson	Toronto Lake WRAPS & KAWS
Bobbi Lutjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson, John Black. All present provided self-introductions. John welcomed new RAC member Brian Graff.
- Review of the June Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the June meeting were discussed. There were no corrections or additions.
- Toronto Lake WRAPS Presentation – Bob Culbertson (Toronto Lake WRAPS & KAWS):** presented on the Toronto Lake WRAPS including current projects and issues, load reductions, funding, and future goals. Bob reported on the Toronto Lake Information and Evening Tour held on August 10, 2017 that was held at Toronto Lake. He then mentioned that an informational Soil Health and Cover Crop Field Day will be held on October 30, 2017 in Madison, KS.
- Division of Water Resources: Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR-TFO):** gave an overview of the water right workshops that had been held in the Neosho Region. Katie then reported that this winter DWR will possibly hold

*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 Lutjohann, 785-296-3185; bobbi.lutjohann@kwo.ks.gov*

2 hour workshops discussing water management in the Region that will focus on education about water rights, reservoir operations, the MOA, and Lake Level Management Plans. She asked for input from the RAC on the workshops and possible locations.

5. **RAC Drought Workshop:** John Black (Chair) and Chuck Shively (PWS) reported that the Joint RAC Drought Workshop was held on September 1, 2017 at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Learning Center. John reported that HydroLogics and KWO hosted the Workshop with sponsorship from Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant and KRWA. Bobbi stated that the MEKRO model was used to run drought scenarios to show how the model can be used for water planning and to reach RAC goals. The workshop had 32 individuals attend, 3 states, and 3 RACs were represented.
6. **Legislative, Funding, and Water Resource Updates:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that Rep. Doug Blex (WRAPS) sent in the following report: Montgomery County is in the top 3 for choices in locating the Tyson plant. He stated Tyson is willing to purchase water from Elk City and there will be enough supply for both Coffeyville Resources and Tyson during an extreme drought. Doug then reported that the Water Interim Committee will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup> at 9am and November 13<sup>th</sup>. This committee will look at possible funding sources for the Vision. The KWO and others have been asked to testify. This Committee is chaired by Rep. Tom Sloan. Others on the Committee are Rep. Victors, Rep. Rahjes, Senator Kerschen, Senator Francisco, and Senator Estes.
7. **RAC Membership:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that the KWA approved all new nominations and term extensions to 2021.
8. **State of the Resource:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) discussed the SOTR document drafted by the KWO. Bobbi asked for feedback on what the RAC would like to see in the document and what would be useful to have in order for the RAC to talk to others in the public. It was stated that information about preserving existing structures should be including in the document. Soil conservation education, including the true cost of it, needs to be considered. Possible taxes or credits could be considered. However, voluntary incentives and compliance may be better. Need to include how to reevaluate goals and plans.  
Bobbi then stated that the RAC would be hosting a SOTR meeting. It was up to the RAC to determine how they would like to put on this meeting.

The RAC determined to host the following event:

### **State of the Resource Meeting to be held on the evening of January 11, 2018**

- Meal will be provided

**Possible sponsors include:** Wilson County Conservation District

**Invite list will include:**

County Commissioners

Elected Officials

Ag Producers

Farm Bureau Members

KLA Members

Municipalities in the region

PWWSD No. 23

**Presenters will include:**

USACE

KDWP&T

**Possible locations include:**

Old Iron Club  
County Courthouse Basement

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

**Gary Kelly:** Asked about the John Redmond Reservoir Dredging Project. An update of the project was given. <http://www.kwo.org/projects/john-redmond-dredging>

6. **Agency and Public Input:**

**Julie Carey (USACE):** reported that a lot of activity will be occurring at Toronto Lake to assess the basin below the reservoir. She stated that this occurs about every 5 years.

Julie also informed the RAC that the USACE was in the first quarter of the federal fiscal year and that the Environmental Stewardship Budget will be put together in the second quarter for the 2020 Budget. If the RAC has projects that could fit into this or can partner on any projects, they should let her know. All projects that are suggested must occur on federal land. Identifying partnerships helps in the approval of projects.

Julie also provided the RAC with a book with information about the USACE assistance programs.

**Terry Medley (KDA-DWR):** reported that the Montgomery Flood Rate Map is currently going to go through the appeal period. Terry then reported that the Draft Wilson County Flood Map will be available for public review. He also stated that Greenwood, Woodson, and Labette Counties are waiting for funding. Terry then mentioned that the Dam Safety Conference will be held on March 6, 2018 at the Sheraton in Manhattan, KS. There will be discussion related to the new mitigation guidelines.

**Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR):** reported that DWR is considering changes to K.A.R. 566 filling and refilling of reservoirs. It is currently in the public comment period.

7. **Future Meetings:**

- a. Governor's Conference: November 8th – 9th in Manhattan, KS
- b. State of the Resource Meeting: Tentatively January 11, 2018
- c. Verdigris RAC: Late February or early March