



Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm
Tuesday June 4, 2019
Coffeyville Resources
808 E New St
Coffeyville, KS 67337

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	Yes
John Ditmore	Coffeyville, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Harold Engle	Madison, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Brian Graff	Neodesha, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Gary Kelley	Sedan, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Chuck Shively	Coffeyville, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Vacant		Conservation/Environment	2021	
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Caleb Fabrycky	KDA-DWR (Parsons)
Nate Westrup	KWO
Cara Hendricks	KWO
Gary Koons	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, John Black. Mr. Black thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked Mr. Ditmore and Coffeyville Resources for hosting the RAC. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review of the February Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the February meeting were discussed. There were no corrections.
- Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative (KRPI) Update: Gary Koons (KWO):** reported that last year's program was very successful. All \$900,000 allocated for the program was spent. The vast majority of sign-ups came from the Kansas River Basin and were used for cover crop cost share. Year 2 of KRPI is now accepting applications for the same targeted watersheds through July. The program has \$700,000 available for cost share this year.
- Vision Progress Report and Potential Revisions: Gary Koons (KWO):** reported that the KWO has been internally analyzing progress made on the goals and action plans developed across the state. Five years after its creation, the Vision now has the opportunity to be evaluated, and altered if needed. A timeline of this process can be found in the mailing materials sent to RAC members.

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; KWO Planner: Gary Koons (785) 296-0863, gary.koons@kwo.ks.gov

5. **System Efficiencies and Drought Contingency Plan Update: Nate Westrup (KWO)**, Mr. Ditmore discussed Coffeyville Resources' water intake issue and how permitting was the main obstacle to improving water withdraws in dry years. Mr. Westrup described a temporary, inflatable bladder dam that should be considered as an alternative to a permanent structure. He also discussed the importance of operational efficiencies in the system (Toronto, Fall River, Elk City lakes). KWO has investigated and implemented these system efficiencies that originated as a goal for the region. KWO has been looking into a project piloted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that could improve system efficiencies in Kansas. Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) is being piloted by USACE and more information can be found here: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Archive/Story-Article-View/Article/1750155/the-corps-approves-major-deviation-for-forecast-informed-reservoir-operations-e/>

Mr. Westrup gave an update on the drought contingency plan. An appendix to the Water Control Manuals has been re-drafted and is awaiting final approval. This will allow the State to utilize full storage in Toronto and Fall River reservoirs.

6. **SFY 2021 Budget Recommendations: Cara Hendricks (KWO)**: reported on the KWA's budget recommendation process that includes RAC input to be shared at the July KWA meeting in Goodland. This will include requesting the full 6 million from the State General Fund and the 2 million from EDIF or lottery funds transferred to the State Water Plan Fund. Ms. Hendricks explained line items from the Water Plan budget and took questions from RAC members. After a thorough review, the RAC was asked to put fourth their priority budget items.

The Verdigris RAC identified six items that are of the highest priority within the region. They are listed below in no particular order of priority.

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

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

7. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:** None at this time.

8. **Agency and Public Input:** None at this time.

9. **Future Meetings:**

- Kansas Water Authority **July 30th & 31st** Goodland, Kansas
- Verdigris RAC **TBD**
- Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas **November 7th & 8th** Wichita, Kansas