

2:00pm, Monday, July 10th, 2023

Joint Maintenance Facility, 1000 Levee Drive, Manhattan, KS

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Marlene Bosworth, Chair	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
Darci Meese, V-Chair	Lenexa, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Adam Bauer	Milford, KS	WRAPS	2023	Yes
Bill Heatherman	Manhattan, KS	Public Utility	2025	Yes
Brad Bradley	Overland Park, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2025	No
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2025	Yes
Sarah Hill-Nelson	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce	2023	No
Leslie Holthaus	Beattie, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Daniel Howell	Frankfort, KS	Agriculture	2025	No
Sylvia Davis	Topeka, KS	Water Assurance District	2025	Yes
Melissa Michels	Maple Hill, KS	Industry/Commerce	2025	Yes
Ian Fannin-Hughes	Overland Park, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2025	No
Vacant	Vacant	At Large Public	2023	

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Amelia Nill	KWO	Mike Beezhold	KDHE
Connie Owen	KWO	Britini Jacobs	KDHE
Angela Anderson	KWO	Steve Frost	KDA-DOC
Victoria Potts	KWO	Allyn Lockner	Public
Lucas Kowalewski	KDWP	Ellen Parker	Public-Water One
Chris Steffen	KDWP		

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by RAC Chair, Marlene Bosworth (Conservation/Environment). Marlene called on each attendee to provide a brief introduction before beginning the meeting.
- II) **Review of April 25th meeting notes:** The meeting notes from the June meeting were discussed. A motion was then made by Adam Bauer (WRAPS) and seconded by Leslie Holthaus (Conservation/Environment) to accept the notes with no additions or changes.
- III) **RAC Business:**
 - a. **Budget discussion & recommendations:** Connie Owen (KWO) provided the RAC with the background and context in regard to the current budget situation from the State’s perspective. He informed the RAC that their input today in essential in determining water priorities and resources looking into the upcoming fiscal year. It was noted by the RAC that it seems to be important to demonstrate success in terms of the funding, in order to prove that the increased funding in warranted. The RAC members discussed the questions provided from the KWO and

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gave their feedback. A motion was made by Glenn Brunkow (Agriculture (cc)) and seconded by Adam Bauer (WRAPS) to submit the RAC budget feedback to the KWA Budget Committee.

The RAC's budget input was approved to send onto the KWA Budget Committee.

“The Kansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to pass the following feedback to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee for consideration for the FY 2025 State Water Plan Fund.

- i. *The RAC would like to highlight the following progress of note for the regional and statewide water resource issues:*
 - a. *Increased funding allocated for water from Legislature – ability to purchase storage in Kansas Region reservoirs*
 - b. *Funding for WID*
 - c. *Extending the Milford RCPP for another 5 years*
 - d. *Conversations had between RAC and KDWP about land surrounding Kansas Region reservoirs*
 - e. *Emphasis being placed on regenerative ag and soil health*
- ii. *The RAC would like to highlight the following activities that could potentially be most impactful under the Guiding Principles.*
 - a. *Water security – could be from reduction of sedimentation*
 - b. *Purchasing remaining storage in Milford and Perry*
 - c. *Investing in water education – statewide*
 - i. *Media, in school curriculum (all ages), social media*
 - ii. *Education of soil health – partnering with groups (Soil Health Alliance)*
 - iii. *Partnering with universities i.e. for testing of reservoirs, scenario analysis, data collection, other research opportunities*
 - iv. *Developing a compelling narrative – what is the ultimate message*
 - d. *Drinking water protection program – especially for small communities*
 - i. *Water quality, both ground and surface*
 - e. *Developing resiliency plans for small, rural communities*
 - f. *Investment in keeping farmers engaged once projects are completed*
 - i. *Education to make the connections*
 - g. *Increased funding for workforce development*
 - h. *Protecting sensitive areas, such as riparian areas*
 - i. *Potential regulations on buffer zones*
- iii. *The RAC would like to recognize the following activities that should be prioritized for the region under the Kansas Water Plan 5 Guiding Principles and the actionable items:*
 - a. *WID – furthering research and development of these tools*
 - b. *Soil health initiatives, especially upstream of projects like WID to proactively address the issue*
 - c. *Education and outreach*
 - d. *Non-science research (social/policy research) – how to effectively utilize the existing structures*
- iv. *The RAC would like to share a basic ranking of priority of the 5 Guiding Principles in terms of funding:*
 1. *Education and outreach*
 2. *(2a). Reservoirs*
 3. *(2b). HPA*
 4. *(3) Water Quality*
 5. *(4). Extreme Events*
- v. *The RAC believes the previously state priority activities can be grouped within the 5 Guiding Principles as follows:*
 - a. *Secure, protect & restore Kansas Reservoirs*

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- i. *Water security – could be from reduction of sedimentation*
 - ii. *Purchasing remaining storage in Milford & Perry*
 - b. *Education*
 - i. *Investing in water education – statewide*
 - ii. *Media, in school curriculum (all ages), social media*
 - iii. *Education of soil health – partnering with groups (Soil Health Alliance)*
 - iv. *Partnering with universities i.e. for testing of reservoirs, scenario analysis, data collection, other research opportunities*
 - v. *Developing a compelling narrative – what is the ultimate message*
 - c. *Water Quality*
 - i. *Drinking water protection program – especially for small communities*
 - 1. *Water quality, both ground & surface*
 - ii. *Protecting sensitive areas, such as riparian zones*
 - 1. *Potential regulation on buffer zones*
 - d. *Extreme Events*
 - i. *Developing resiliency plans for small, rural communities*
 - ii. *Scenario analysis to identify the most vulnerable communities*
 - e. *Reservoirs & Water Quality*
 - i. *Investment in keeping farmers engaged once projects are completed*
 - 1. *Educating to make the connections*
 - f. *All 5 Guiding Principles*
 - i. *Increased funding for workforce development*
- vi. *The RAC would like to highlight the following as “low hanging” issues or priorities that should be addressed:*
- a. *Education – coordinated & consistent message*
 - i. *Marketing campaign running: website & other media*
 - b. *Technical support for GMD reporting & implementation*
 - c. *Soil health projects*
 - i. *More “boots on the ground”*
 - 1. *Salary support for these positions*
- vii. *The RAC would like to address the following urgent emerging issues, priorities, and unique opportunities:*
- a. *Drought*
 - b. *Water quality for economically challenged users*
 - c. *Providing support for utilities to address PFAS and federal regulations*
 - i. *Education for congressional delegation*
- viii. *The RAC would like to bring attention to the following issues that are currently missing from SWPF expenditures:*
- a. *Ecological focus on rivers & lake systems*
 - b. *Riverbed degradation – studies to understand the speed of it*

b. KWO/KWA Updates: Connie Owen (KWO) shared with the RAC that the House Water Committee has been approved to meet in the interim in early August.

c. Regional Event Sharing: No regional events were shared at this meeting.

Messages to the KWA: The RAC discussed the previously drafted message to the KWA Budget Committee regarding the RAC’s support of education efforts regarding water. Some minor edits were made to the language. A motion was then made by Bill Heatherman (Public Utility) and seconded by Glenn Brunkow (Agriculture) to send the message onto the KWA Budget Committee. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

IV) Agency or Public Comments:

Membership: Marlene Bosworth (Chair), Sabetha, KS; Darci Meese (Vice Chair), Lenexa, KS; Adam Bauer, Milford, KS; Brad Bradley, Overland Park, KS; Glenn Brunkow, Westmoreland, KS; Sarah Hill-Nelson, Lawrence, KS; Leslie Holthaus, Beattie, KS; Daniel Howell, Frankfort, KS; Melissa Michels, Maple Hill, KS; Ian Fannin-Hughes, Overland Park, KS; Sylvia Davis, Topeka, KS; Bill Heatherman, Manhattan, KS; **KWO Planner:** Amelia Nill, 785-296-0878: amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov

- a. Chris Steffen (KDWP) thanked the RAC for their support which enabled KDWP to receive funding for Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) concerns. KDWP is currently working to increase their education and outreach for ANS.
- b. Allyn Lockner (Public) shared 6 questions with the RAC in regard to current water issues. They were 1. Is there a need to collaborate with other states and indigenous groups? 2. Is there record of the wetland areas lost? 3. What waters in the Kansas Region are affected by the EPA's decision on WOTUS? 4. Does the mention of conservation in the Kansas Water Plan include household water conservation? 5. What is being done to address Fort Riley's water needs? 6. What provisions are there from the Farm Bill for conservation?

V) Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Next Kansas RAC meeting (October/November– Doodle Poll)
- b. Next Kansas Water Authority meeting on August 23rd in McPherson, KS.

VI) Adjourn: A motion was made by Adam Bauer (WRAPS) and seconded by Leslie Holthaus (Conservation/Environment) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 4:02 pm.



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