

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting 2:30 PM (CDT), Thursday July 27, 2023 Hybrid Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Roy Dixon (Chair)	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2025	Yes
Fred Jones (Vice-Chair)	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2025	Yes
Kyle Averhoff	Garden City, KS	Dairy	2025	No
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2023	Yes
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2025	No
Bill Simshauser	Lakin, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	Yes
Abram Lollar	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 3	2025	Yes
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	Yes
Brant Peterson	Johnson, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	No
Jason Shamburg	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	Yes
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Connie Owen	KWO
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Angela Anderson	KWO
Victoria Potts	KWO
Wade Kleven	KDHE
Gary Bolt	N/A
Jim Minnix	Kansas House Representative
Joselyn Monarrez	GMD3
Trevor Ahring	GMD3
Mark Rude	GMD3
Kevin Salter	KDA-DWR
Austin McColloch	KDA-DWR
Callan Izatt	KDA-DWR
Michael Beezhold	KDHE
Randy Hazlett	KWA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:37 PM by the Chair. All present provided self-introductions.
- 2. Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes were made.

Membership: Kyle Nelson (Chair), Holcomb, KS; Joe Jury (Vice-Chair), Ingalls, KS; Kyle Averhoff; Garden City, KS; Hugh Brownlee, Syracuse, KS; Roy Dixon, Garden City, KS; Titus Jaeger, Lakin, KS; Fred Jones, Garden City, KS; Monte Morgan, Deerfield, KS; Bill Simshauser, Lakin, KS; Abram Lollar, Garden City, KS; Ray Slattery, Dodge City, KS; Brant Peterson, Johnson, KS; Jason Shamburg, Deerfield, KS
KWO Planners: Keadron Pearson, 620-765-7489, keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov

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3. **Review of May 2023 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were no changes requested by the RAC members. The motion was made by Bill Simshauser to approve the notes as written. Ray Slattery seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Updates**
 - a. **Kansas Legislative:** Upon request by the Chair, Representative Jim Minnix very kindly provided an update on happenings with water legislation that had passed during the recent legislative session.
 - b. **Kansas Water Office (KWO):** Connie Owen (KWO) gave an update on the recent agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting.
 - c. **Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** It was asked of KWA Member, Randy Hazlett, to provide an update to the RAC on the recent KWA meeting .
5. **Regional Activities**
 - a. **Tabled Draft Messages from Previous Meeting:** Keadron Pearson (KWO) asked members of the committee to hold discussion of the two tabled messages from the previous meeting until the next in order to accommodate the time needed for the upcoming budget recommendations discussion. It was the consensus of the RAC members to table the two draft messages until the next meeting.
 - a. **FY2025 Budget Discussion & Recommendations:** Connie Owen (KWO) presented information on the FY2025 RAC Budget Recommendations Process and lead discussion with RAC members. After providing feedback on a series of questions asked from the RAC Budget Input Questionnaire, the motion was made to pass on the following input to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee as recommendations for the FY2025 State Water Plan Fund from the Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee by Mike Shultz. The motion was seconded by Shannon Kenyon. There was not discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Upper Republican 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. *KWA set aside approximately \$30,000 to do a water reclamation project for Garden City. As a result, that let to two additional reclamation projects following that. Through these projects, Garden City has been able to help sustain the needs for their community and continue to grow.*
 - b. *Dodge City is also pursuing projects to help expand their water reuse*
 - c. *Water Technology Farms in the region*
 - d. *Cost-Share Opportunities*
 - e. *Aid to conservation districts*
- ii. *The RAC would like to prioritize the following activities that would be most impactful for the region under the Kansas Water Plan 5 Guiding Principles and the actionable items:*
 - a. *Establish a diversified, usable water supply by 2030, to motivate a vibrant growing economy with conservation-minded stewardship focused on increasing the life of the aquifer, reestablishing streamflow in the Arkansas River, and accelerating recharge; benefiting: economic prosperity, wildlife, habitat, recreation, and all water users while protecting property rights and providing safe drinking water.*

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- b. *Achieving a sustainable water source*
 - c. *Ensuring all states comply with Compacts*
 - d. *Targeting investment opportunities where it would be impactful.*
 - e. *Promoting new management practices.*
 - f. *Addressing water quality issues*
 - g. *Well Construction and maintenance for water quality*
 - h. *Continuing research opportunities*
 - i. *Keeping management of the resource local and voluntary, while emphasizing stewardship and innovative conservation incentives.*
 - j. *Cost-share funds for conservation practices.*
- iii. *The RAC would like to address the following issues and priorities as “low hanging” opportunities:*
- a. *Funding to KDHE to hire additional personnel to help with domestic well testing, specifically for uranium, or negotiate statewide contracts, whichever is the most cost-effective.*
 - b. *Additional engagement and involvement from local representatives and increasing the opportunities to have those bridge building conversations*
 - c. *Funding towards projects and organizations that are working to leverage additional funding from other sources*
 - d. *Ducks Unlimited phreatophyte work/removal in the Arkansas River corridor from Lamar, Colorado east to Dodge City, Kansas. Salt-cedar (Tamarisk spp.) is a deciduous, woody shrub that dominates much of the floodplains of the Arkansas River Watershed in Colorado and Kansas. See attachment for additional information.*
 - e. *Incentives to encourage water rights retirement.*
- iv. *The RAC would to address the following activities they feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures:*
- a. *Water Quality monitoring data collection*
 - b. *Augmentation and alternative sources of supply*
 - c. *Water supply stabilization for all water sources*
 - d. *Federal groundwater conservation programs/1985 Food Security Act*
 - e. *Leverage the benefits from our Compacts with neighboring states (i.e. Oklahoma)*
- v. *The RAC would like considered the following missing activities for future SWPF expenditures:*
- a. *More emphasis on state water law*
 - b. *Infrastructure such as rail facility to provide water and water intensive commodities instead of growing them locally that will leave room for less water intensive crops could be grown.*
 - c. *We request a seat at the table for developing the formal process to establish goals and actions to: “halt the decline of the Ogallala Aquifer while promoting flexible and innovative management within a timeframe that achieves agricultural productivity, thriving economies and vibrant communities — now and for future generations of Kansans.” (quote from KWA 12-14-2022 mtg)*

b. **Other Regional Updates:** RAC members provided updates on events and matters occurring in the region.

6. Other Business

a. **Agency Reports:**

Mark Rude (GMD3): Provided an update on the recent public outreach meetings they host throughout the district and other programs being offered.

Wade Kleven (KDHE): Reported on the status of HABs in the region and upcoming events taking place in the next month.

Callan Izatt (KDA-DWR): Reported on the recent call for water from Colorado and that there is currently water flowing in the ditches.

b. **Public Comments:** None

c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** It was requested to have a meeting in the early fall and to have Keadron (KWO) send out a doodle poll to set a date for it.

d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** None

e. **Future Meetings:**

i. GMD3 Board Meeting: August 9

ii. Kansas Water Authority: August 23

iii. Governor's Water Conference: November 15 & 16

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.