



UPPER ARKANSAS
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA

DATE: July 18, 2024
TIME: 9:00 AM (CDT)
LOCATION: In-Person/Virtual ([Meeting Materials](#))

Finnup Center for Conservation Education
Hart Conference Room
312 E Finnup Dr
Garden City, KS 67846

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88178492156?pwd=6qZiDpACcGub8wazS4n7b7B8psO6M9.1>

Meeting ID: 881 7849 2156
Passcode: 302838

AGENDA DETAILS

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – RAC Chair
- II. **Review of Agenda** – RAC Chair/Members
- III. **Review of March 2024 Meeting Notes** – RAC Chair/Members
- IV. **RAC Member Orientation** – KWO Planner
- V. **Updates**
 - a. **RAC Member** – RAC Members (2 min each)
 - b. **Kansas Water Office** – KWO
 - c. **Kansas Water Authority** – KWO
- VI. **Regional Activities**
 - a. **KWA Strategic Planning Process Update/Official RAC Input** – KWO
- VII. **Other Business**- RAC Chair
 - a. **Agency Reports** – *limited to 5 minutes
 - b. **Public comments** – *limited to 5 minutes
 - c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members**
 - d. **RAC Messages to the KWA**
 - e. **Future Meetings**
 - i. *Arkansas River Watershed Meeting: July 23*
 - ii. *GMD3 Board Meeting: August 14*
 - iii. *Kansas Water Authority: August 21*
 - iv. *Bottom Line Conference: August 22 & 23*
 - v. *Governor's Water Conference: November 13 & 14*

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC

MEMO



Water Office

900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.ks.gov

DATE: July 16, 2024
TO: Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Keadron Pearson
RE: July 18, 2024 RAC Meeting

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be having an in-person meeting, with a virtual attendance option, on **July 18, 2024 at 9:00 AM (CDT)**. In-person meeting location and call-in details are below.

Meeting Address:

Finnup Center for Conservation Education
Hart Conference Room
312 E Finnup Dr
Garden City, KS 67846

Join the meeting from you computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88178492156?pwd=6qZiDpACcGub8wazS4n7b7B8psO6M9.1>

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The main items on the agenda will be a presentation and discussion on the KWA Strategic Planning Process Update/Official RAC Input.

Enclosed are the materials for the July 18, 2024 Meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the March 27, 2024 Meeting
- Upper Arkansas RAC Draft Goals & Actions Plan
- Upper Arkansas RAC Membership Table
- Press Release

If you cannot participate, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (620) 765-7489 or by e-mail at Keadron.Pearson@kwo.ks.gov.



Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 AM (CDT), March 27, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Abram Lollar (Chair)	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 3	2025	Yes
Bill Simshauser (Vice-Chair)	Lakin, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	Yes
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2025	Yes
Fred Jones	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	2027	No
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2025	No
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2027	No
Gina Gigot	Garden City, KS	Groundwater Management	2027	Yes
Jason Shamburg	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 2	2027	No
Emily Vsetecka	Garden City, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	Yes
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2027	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Wade Kleven	KDHE
Gary Bolt	n/a

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by the Chair. All present provided self-introductions.
- II. **Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes were made.
- III. **Review of December 2023 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were no changes requested by the RAC members. The motion was made by Fred Jones to approve the notes as written. Roy Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **RAC Member Orientation:** Keadron Pearson (KWO) presented the RAC Member Orientation. She reviewed the purposes of the RACs, the KWA and the KWO, highlighting the specific responsibilities of the Regional Advisory Committee Members.
- V. **Updates**
 - a. **RAC Member:** Each committee member provided a two minute update on regional events and issues.
 - b. **Kansas Water Office (KWO):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) gave an update on the recent agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting.

Membership: Abram Lollar (Chair), Garden City, KS; Bill Simshauser (Vice-Chair), Lakin, KS; Joe Jury, 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; Gina Gigot, Garden City, KS; Ray Slattery, Dodge City, KS; Emily Vsetecka, Garden City, KS; Jason Shamburg, Deerfield, KS

KWO Planners: Keadron Pearson, 620-765-7489, keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov

- c. **Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) provided an update to the RAC on the recent KWA meetings and reviewed the Memo of Resolution from the KWA on the recent messages from the RAC.
- d. **Legislative:** Keadron Pearson (KWO) shared information regarding the status of the State Water Plan Fund proposed budget through the Legislature. She also shared further details about Grant Programs that were offered through the Kansas Water Office.

VI. Regional Activities

- a. **Regional Educators Outreach Discussion:** The Chair lead the a conversation with committee members on the need to engage with regional educators and school administrators to help better inform students of all ages. He mentioned reaching out to the location Community Colleges and Vo-Techs. Working with Teacher groups and looking at examples in the state of communities they are currently doing school education. It was also asked during the discussion if there was currently any grants available to educators for water related curriculum and if so how can this information be shared.
- b. **Other Regional Activities/Topics Discussion:** RAC members each shared different activities and projects that they knew of taking place in the region. It was noted that there are currently two large-scale municipal water reclamation projects in the region for Garden City and Dodge City. Additionally the group discussed a perspective water quality grant opportunity and the Ark River Water Festival that helps to inform regional 5th and 6th graders about water.

VII. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports:**
 - Wade Kleven (KDHE): Reported on the Soil Matter Conference in Dodge City and the ARKWIN Summit. He also shared other regional issues that KDHE was currently working on.
- b. **Public Comments:** None
- c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** Follow-up on additional information future regional educators outreach discussion at upcoming meeting.
- d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** None
- e. **Future Meetings:**
 - i. GMD3 Board Meeting: April 10
 - ii. Kansas Water Authority: April 17
 - iii. ARKWIN Water Quality Summit: April 18 & 19
 - iv. WISE Tour: May 29

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Upper Arkansas RAC- Draft Revised Action Plan (11/19/2020)

Goal #1: 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.

Action Steps:

- 1) Develop alternative sources of supply by 2030
 - a) Collaborate and coordinate with local shareholders, stakeholders, policymakers, organizations, agencies, (i.e. GMD3, KWO, KDA, KDHE, Kansas Dept. of Commerce, and other State agencies) surrounding States, and federal agencies and authorities.
 - b) Research, study, and initiate any changes necessary to current or new statutes, to develop and perfect new or existing water rights to serve as alternative sources of supply.
 - c) Explore multi-state support for an interstate water transfer system.
 - d) Evaluate potential intrastate water transfers
 - e) Initiate and participate in research to determine the value an alternative source of supply would generate directly and indirectly for local, regional, state, & federal areas and agencies.
 - f) Develop a fact-based education initiative to inform Kansans and our neighbors how we can plan and prepare for tomorrows challenges related to the shortages or excess of water for everyone.
 - g) Support alternative sources of supply.
 - h) These may include greater streamflow of interstate rivers or engineered solutions such as an aqueduct or pipelines from alternate sources of supply.
- 2) Educate all water users on the importance of water saving, increased water use efficiencies, and the supporting data (SWLs, SWL change rates, conservation targets, etc.).
 - a) Support the educational efforts through the Kansas Runs on Water Campaign.
 - b) Support educational activities through the Conservation Districts such as (The Ark Water River Festival, Earth Day at The Zoo, Safety Days, Poster contests at the schools, The Bottom Line Conference, and other informational meetings or conferences) put on by the Conservation Districts.
 - c) The Water Authority supports these activities by funding the budget line item, Aid to Conservation Districts, to the full amount mandated by the Kansas Water Plan Funding.
 - d) Support educational meetings hosted by the K-State Extension, the GMD3, and other agencies or organizations.
 - e) Encourage the Kansas Water Authority's continued support and funding for the irrigation technology farms.
 - f) Formalize a list to add to a calendar on the Water Authority, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, GMD3, and K-State Extension web sites to help inform landowners, producers, and the general public of events throughout the year.
- 3) Promote irrigation conservation
 - a) Support voluntary decreased water consumption in the Upper Arkansas RAC geographic area per the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) recommendations.
 - b) Encourage adoption of water conservation programs such as LEMA's and WCA's.
 - c) Support producer incentives through the KDA-DOC, KDHE, KDA-DWR, and other state agencies to reduce usage through proven technologies and best management practices.
 - i) These may include programs such as CREP, Playa Lake restoration, cost-share on reduced irrigation systems, cost-share on soil moisture probes, and other technologies that reduce water usage.
- 4) Promote conservation of municipal and industrial water use through incentives and education.
- 5) Recognizing distinct differences between domestic, irrigation, stockwater, municipal, industrial, and other types of beneficial use.

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee

Membership

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Term</i>
Abram Lollar (Chair)	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 3	2025
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Gina Gigot	Garden City, KS	Groundwater Management	2027
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025
Kyle Averhoff	Garden City, KS	Dairy	2025
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2025

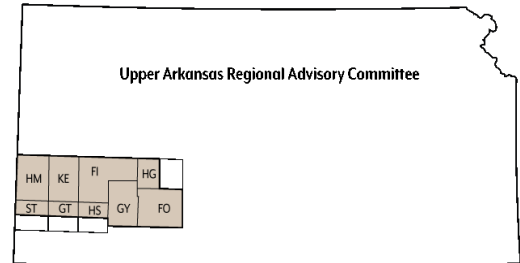


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Connie Owen, Director

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Laura Kelly, Governor

Meeting Notice:
July 16, 2024

For More Information:
Kristin Kaipust
(785) 296-3185, Kristin.Kaipust@kwo.ks.gov



Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Garden City
July 18, 9:00 A.M. (CDT), Hybrid Meeting

The Kansas Water Office’s (KWO) Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will have a meeting to discuss current water issues affecting the region as well as the state.

The hybrid meeting will be Thursday, July 18 at 9:00 a.m., in the Hart Conference Room at the Finnup Center for Conservation Education, 312 E Finnup Dr. in Garden City. The main item on the agenda will be a presentation and discussion on the KWA Strategic Planning Process Update/Official RAC Input.

The agenda, meeting materials and how to access the meeting will be available at kwo.ks.gov or you may request copies by calling (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283).

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, KS 66611-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101) requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations messages.

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As the state’s water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.

The agency prepares the KANSAS WATER PLAN, a plan for water resources development, management and conservation. KWO also reviews all water laws and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for needed legislation.