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# MEMO

DATE: September 3, 2024  
TO: Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Members  
FROM: Keadron Pearson  
RE: September 4, 2024 RAC Meeting

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Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be having an in-person meeting, with a virtual attendance option, on **September 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM (CDT)**. In-person meeting location and call-in details are below.

**Meeting Address:**

Southwestern Kansas Groundwater Management District 3  
2009 E Spruce Street  
Garden City, KS 67846

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89971851642?pwd=M4SOOYIIUxtXzrpNrym2W4o1YZeM2.1>

Meeting ID: 899 7185 1642

Passcode: 939314

The main items on the agenda will be a review of the Regional Goals & Actions Plan, and discussion of regional issues and upcoming events.

Enclosed are the materials for the September 4, 2024 Meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the July 18, 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](mailto:Keadron.Pearson@kwo.ks.gov).



UPPER ARKANSAS  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA

**DATE:** September 4, 2024  
**TIME:** 9:00 AM (CDT)  
**LOCATION:** In-Person/Virtual ([Meeting Materials](#))

Southwestern Kansas Groundwater Management District 3  
2009 E Spruce Street  
Garden City, KS 67846

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89971851642?pwd=M4SOOYIUxtXzrpNrym2W4o1YZeEm2.1>

Meeting ID: 899 7185 1642  
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## AGENDA DETAILS

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – RAC Chair
- II. **Review of Agenda** – RAC Chair/Members
- III. **Review of July 2024 Meeting Notes** – RAC Chair/Members
- IV. **Updates**
  - a. **RAC Member** – RAC Members (2 min each)
  - b. **Kansas Water Office** – KWO
  - c. **Kansas Water Authority** – KWO
- V. **Regional Activities**
  - a. **Review of RAC Goals & Actions Plan** – RAC Chair/Members
  - b. **KWA Strategic Planning Process Update** – KWO
  - c. **Other Regional Topics Discussion** – RAC Chair/Members
- VI. **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. *GMD3 Board Meeting: September 11*
    - ii. *KWA Strategic Planning Local Consult, Dodge City: September 18*
    - iii. *Kansas Water Authority: October 16*
    - iv. *Governor's Water Conference: November 13 & 14*

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC



# Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00 AM (CDT), July 18, 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	No
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	Yes
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2025	Yes
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2027	Yes
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	Yes

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Angela Anderson	KWO
Victoria Asbury	KWO
Wade Kleven	KDHE
Lorraine Lowrey	KRWA
Gary Bolt	n/a
Mike Meyer	KDA – DWR
Kevin Salter	KDA – DWR

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by the Chair. All present provided self-introductions.
- II. **Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members.
- III. **Review of March 2024 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were no changes requested by the RAC members. Roy Dixon moved that the notes be approved as written. Joe Jury seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- IV. **Updates**
  - a. **RAC Members:** Each committee member provided a two-minute update on regional events and issues.

**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](mailto:keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov)

- b. **Kansas Water Office (KWO):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) gave an update on recent agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting.
- c. **Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) informed the RAC of recent updates that had occurred at the KWA meeting.

### V. Regional Activities

- a. **KWA Strategic Planning Process Update/Official RAC Input:** Matt Unruh (KWO) presented an update on the KWA Strategic Planning Process to the RAC. Following the presentation there was discussion among the RAC members that included feedback to pass on the KWA. The motion was made by Titus Jaeger to send the following input to the KWA in response to the Strategic Planning Process. The motion was seconded by Hugh Brownlee. Following additional discussion, the motioned passed.

“ The Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to thank the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) and Implementation Team for their work in the Strategic Planning Process and seeking input from the RACs and other stakeholders. The RAC would like to pass on the following comments for consideration by the KWA and Implementation Team:

- Upper Arkansas RAC Priority Goal “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.”
- State water laws that are out of date and need to be revitalized to what the current conditions are. Water laws need to be tailored to help conserve and promote economic benefit.
- Lack of connection between innovation and preservation. Need to find a way to balance both.
- Ways to capture large rain events in the region so that it can be absorbed and to make us not just a “pass through state”
- Honor and protect private property rights
- Be completely transparent with the process and having more public input meetings and engaging the citizens/stakeholders more
- Appreciation for starting the process and encourage you continue your work GMD3 board members solely get to do decide the water use for the region and the high priority areas, this needs to also involve all stakeholders.”

### VI. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports:**
  - i. Wade Kleven (KDHE) reported on agency events and policy updates.
- b. **Public Comments:** None
- c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** RAC members requested to learn more about Kansas Soil Health Alliance and Playa Lake working being done.
- d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** None
- e. **Future Meetings:**
  - i. GMD3 Board Meeting: August 14
  - ii. Kansas Water Authority Meeting: August 21
  - iii. Bottom Line Conference: August 22 & 23
  - iv. Governor’s Water Conference: November 13 & 14

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 p.m.**

**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

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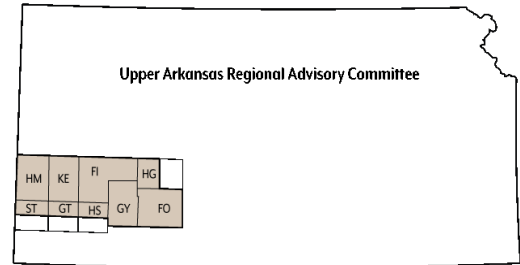


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Connie Owen, Director

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[kwo.ks.gov](http://kwo.ks.gov)  
Laura Kelly, Governor

Meeting Notice:  
August 28, 2024

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



**Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**  
*September 4, 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 Wednesday, September 4 at 9:00 a.m., at the Southwestern Kansas Groundwater Management District 3, 2009 E Spruce Street in Garden City. The main items on the agenda will be a review of the Regional Goals & Actions Plan, and discussion of regional issues and upcoming events.

The agenda, meeting materials and how to access the meeting will be available at [kwo.ks.gov](http://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.*

## 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
Bill Simshauser (Vice-Chair)	Lakin, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025
Roy Dixon (Chair)	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2025
Fred Jones (Vice-Chair)	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2025
Jason Shamburg	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 2	2027
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2027
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2027
Emily Vsetecka	Garden City, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2027
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

## 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.