

Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00 AM (CDT), Tuesday June 9th, 2020
GoToMeeting Conference Call

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Kyle Nelson (Chair)	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Joe Jury (Vice-Chair)	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Kyle Averhoff	Garden City, KS	Dairy	2021	Yes
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2023	Yes
Fred Jones	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	No
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	No
Bill Simshauser	Lakin, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Hal Scheuerman	Deerfield, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2021	Yes
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	Yes
Brant Peterson	Johnson, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	Yes
VACANT	VACANT	At Large Public 2	2023	N/A

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Armando Zarco	KWO
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Kevin Salter	KDA-DWR
Rachel Duran	KDA-DWR
Alexandra Torrance	KDA-DWR
Brownie Wilson	KGS
Kent Askren	KFB
Randy Hayzlett	KWA
Jason Norquest	GMD3
Mark Rude	GMD3
Greg Graff	GMD1
David Barfield	KS Water Resources Consulting, LLC
Gary Boldt	Member of the public

- Welcome and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chair Kyle Nelson. Roll call was taken for meeting notes.
- Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members.

3. **Review of February 2020 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members.
4. **Updates**
 - a. **Kansas Water Authority:** Armando debriefed on highlights from recent KWA meetings but referred to KWA Meeting Minutes for more detailed information.
 - b. **State Budget Updates:** Armando stated that the State Water Plan Budget may need to be reevaluated by the KWA due to COVID-19 response so RAC comments to KWA should be postponed until July.
 - c. **KGS Ogallala Update:** Brownie Wilson provided an update on the water levels in the Upper Arkansas Region and indicated that based on their model that an overall average reduction of at least 19% water use was needed for the water table to become sustainable for the region.
5. **Regional Activities**
 - a. **RAC Goals and Action Plans Update Recommendations:** The two new draft goals were mostly in line with the RAC Members thoughts and considerations. The RAC Members did not make a motion at this time to accept them as is but they did have more discussion on editing them. The overall consensus was to look at making water conservation the priority but not to stop them from working on an alternate source of supply goal at the same time (to include sourcing water from Colorado or Nebraska) but property rights and water right seniority must also be considered. There was some support for a LEMA plan but under the conditions that producers get to choose their conservation amounts and that it may not be economically feasible for some water uses. There was also much discussion about the tamarisk concerns on the Arkansas River. It was requested to incorporate the tamarisk concerns into the goals and to seek out more information on how to pursue removing them.
 - b. **Missouri Floodwater Transfer Proof-of-Concept (POC) Discussion:** Mark Rude was able to provide a document summary of the proposed project and stated that the idea encompassed taking a truck load of water from the Missouri River to the Arkansas River near Garden City to study the effects it may have when released on the Arkansas River. It was also noted that the GMD3 Board has not made a motion to pursue this project but it will be discussed at their next board meeting.
6. **Other Business**
 - a. **Agency Reports**
 - i. **KWO:** Armando provided an update on the status of KWO to include that most employees are still teleworking and are under instruction to continue to hold virtual meetings. Armando also mentioned that the next KWA meeting will be held on June 17th at 2:00 PM via GoToMeeting and that the Governor's Water Conference is still scheduled to be held on November 9th & 10th. Lastly, he gave a brief update on the KWO Water Technology Farm Program.
 - ii. **KWA-DWR:** Mike Meyer noted that DWR employees are still being directed to telework and conduct field work as needed. Kevin Salter provided a brief update on the water being released from John Martin Reservoir for Kansas.
 - iii. **KGS:** Brownie Wilson also noted that KGS employees are to telework at this time.
 - iv. **KFB:** Kent Askren had no updates at this time.
 - v. **KWA:** Randy Hayzlett mentioned the upcoming KWA meeting and a topic of discussion was to review budget recommendations for FY21.
 - vi. **GMD3:** Mark Rude mentioned the GMD3 Board meeting for the following day, June 7th, and that it will be available for in-person or calling in to participate.

- vii. **GMD1:** Greg Graff noted that GMD1 is trying to work with GMD4 on incorporating the Master Irrigator program and that they are continuing to work with Playa Lakes Venture on the Playa Lakes RCPP grant recently approved.

- b. **Public Comments**
 - i. **David Barfield:** David noted that the GMD4 LEMA is subject to court challenge at the Gove County Courthouse.

- c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** It was suggested by some RAC members to attempt to hold a RAC meeting in early July 2020 to further discuss Goal revisions and review any budget request updates.

- d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** No messages to submit to KWA at this time.

- e. **Future Meetings:**
 - i. GMD3 Board Meeting: June 10th, 2020 (Regularly every second Wed of the month at 9am)
 - ii. Bottom Line Conference: August 12-13; Kearny County Fairgrounds
 - iii. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas: November 9-10, 2020; Wichita
 - iv. KWO Winter Water Tech Expo: February 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.