

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm July 17, 2023

Bel Aire City Hall 7651 E Central Park Ave Bel Aire, Kansas 67226

Virtual Option Available

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Brian Meier (Chair)	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2025	Yes
Russell Tomevi (Vice Chair)	Winfield, KS	Integrated Planning	2023	Yes
Denise Noonan Middleton	Burden, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No
David Bogner	Mt. Hope, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	Yes
Chad Milligan	Derby, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2023	No
Don Henry	Wichita, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	No
Steve Hieger	Wichita, KS	Industry/ Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Brett Perry	Andover, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2025	No
Josh Bedel	McPherson, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2025	Yes
Richard Basore	Sedgwick, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	Yes
Tim Boese	Halstead, KS	Conservation/ Environment 2	2025	No

Others in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Angela Anderson	Kansas Water Office	Doug Cole	KDHE
Connie Owen	Kansas Water Office	David Bollenback	KCC
Matt Unruh	Kansas Water Office	Sandy Koons	Butler Co. Conservation District
Lauren Campbell	Kansas Water Office	Brad Barton	GMD2
Amelia Nill	Kansas Water Office	Brittany Jacobs	KDHE
Victoria Potts	Kansas Water Office	Michael Parr	KDWP
Ron Graber	K-State Research & Extension		

- Welcome and Roll Call:** Brian Meier (Industry/Commerce) called the meeting to order at 1:01pm. He called on each attendee for a brief introduction.
- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and a motion was made by Russ Tomevi (Integrated Planning) and seconded by David Bogner (Groundwater Management) to accept the agenda as written. RAC members approved the agenda as with no comments or changes.
- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Meeting Minutes:** RAC members provided input on some changes to the attendees list from the previous RAC meeting notes. A motion was made by Richard Basore (Agriculture) and seconded by David Bogner (Groundwater Management) to approve the meeting notes. RAC members approved the March 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes including the stated changes.

Membership: Brian Meier, Chair, Wichita, KS; Russell Tomevi, Vice Chair, Winfield, KS; Denise Noonan Middleton, Burden, KS; David Bogner, Mt. Hope, KS; Chad Milligan, Derby, KS; Don Henry, Wichita, KS; Steve Hieger, Wichita, KS; Brett Perry, Andover, KS; Josh Bedel, McPherson, KS; Richard Basore, Sedgwick, KS; Tim Boese, Halstead, KS
KWO Planner: Lauren Campbell lauren.campbell@kwo.ks.gov, Amelia Nill amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov

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4) RAC Business:

- a) **Budget discussion & recommendations:** Matt Unruh (KWO) provided the RAC with the background and context in regard to the current budget situation from the State of Kansas' perspective. He informed the RAC that their input today is 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 increased funding is warranted. The RAC members discussed the questions provided from the KWO and gave their feedback. A motion was made by Richard Basore (Agriculture) and seconded by David Bogner (Groundwater Management) 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 Equus-Walnut 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. *The legislature appropriating funding for federal reservoir storage debt payoff*
 - b. *Testing wells for the Burton Equus-Beds Chloride plume from the KGS is a good step forward for understanding this problem*
 - c. *McPherson's south wellfield project in progress which eases use on the aquifer*
 - d. *Cheney Lake's slowed sedimentation due to best management practices above the reservoir*
 - i. *Also, Winfield's city reservoir*
 - e. *Implementation of Wichita's offsite stormwater BMP program*
 - f. *Funding in the Little Arkansas watershed to address atrazine*
- ii. *The RAC would like to highlight the following activities that could potentially be most impactful under the Guiding Principles.*
 - a. *Buffer strips or WRAPS projects above reservoirs*
- iii. *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. *Reduce vulnerability to extreme events, especially for small communities or rural areas that may not be prepared for the increasing extreme precipitation event that characterize the future climate*
 - i. *Flood control, stormwater control, ponds and dams, levees*
 - b. *Continue to promote projects/outreach that have sustainable goals and purpose*
- iv. *The RAC would like to address the opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities:*
 - a. *McPherson seeking additional funding for south wellfield and ease stress of raising rates on McPherson customers due to increases costs of construction and development.*
 - b. *Identifying communities that may need DWP plans/funding within the region to support their source water protection activities/efforts.*
- v. *The RAC would like to address the following urgent emerging issues, priorities, and unique opportunities:*
 - a. *Similar protocol water quality testing as the Burton Equus-Beds Chloride Plume is needed for the Arkansas River to get additional characterization of the system.*
 - i. *What level has it reached, what is the transport path...etc.*
 - b. *Then evaluating the potential recreational impacts of changing Wichita's source water to surface water such as Cheney*
 - c. *Channel control within the Arkansas River*
 - d. *Education*
 - i. *Invasive species along the river channel such as Cottonwoods*
 - ii. *Water festivals for local elementary schools- could use increased funding*

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- iii. *Student liaison program for RAC meetings to develop emerging water leaders*
- e. *Education for municipalities on direct/indirect wastewater reuse i.e. portable trailer*
- f. *Increased FFA and 4H presence throughout the state and increased engagement with current groups with the same mindset*
- g. *Engagement with conservation districts for local groups education*
 - i. *General education on conservation districts and the services they provide*
- h. *Bromides and Atrazine issues within the Little Arkansas River*
- i. *Resource recovery of waste water reuse, especially with the changing economic dynamics i.e. phosphorus and other fertilizer chemicals*
- j. *Possible need for research on the necessity for permits for appropriated use for a conglomerate of residential communities*

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.

5) Agency Updates:

- a) Doug Cole (KDHE) began by thanking the RAC for supporting the groundwater and surface water clean up and remediation. He also mentioned that KDHE's watershed management group is currently working to address HAB issues in this region.
- b) David Bollenback (KCC) informed the RAC that they are currently drilling Burton wells in the IGUCA. The KCC has been able to recover all of the drilled cores, some of which are up to 275 feet. Additionally, he stated that they are opening an investigation above the IGUCA area because of some water supply issues. Water samples are currently being collected from landowners in the area.
- c) Brad Barton (GMD2) provided an update from GMD2 in place of Tim Boese.

6) **Public Comments:** No public comments were made at this time.

7) **Message to KWA:** No messages were sent to the KWA at this time.

8) Coming Up:

- a) **Regional Event Sharing:** The Flickner Innovation Farm field day was shared by a RAC member. It will take place on August 10th in Moundridge, Kansas.
- b) **Future Meetings:**
 - i) Kansas Water Authority Meeting – August 23rd McPherson, Kansas
 - ii) Equus-Walnut RAC Meeting – October/November (doodle poll)
 - iii) Governor's Water Conference – November 15th & 16th Manhattan, Kansas

Adjourn: A motion was made by David Bogner and seconded by Richard Basore to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 3:57 pm.