

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm June 8, 2022
Wichita Water Center
101 E Pawnee Street
Wichita, KS 67211
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	No
Denise Noonan Middleton	Burden, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No
Libby Albers	Newton, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
David Bogner	Mt. Hope, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	Yes
Chad Milligan	Derby, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2023	Yes
Don Henry	Wichita, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	No
Steve Hieger	Wichita, KS	Industry/ Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Brett Perry	Andover, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2025	Yes
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	Yes

Others in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
David Bollenback	Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC)
Kari Goldston	Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Sandy Koontz	Butler County Conservation District
Ron Graber	Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Sara Maguire	Kansas Water Office (KWO)

Welcome and Roll Call: Brian Meier called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. Changes in membership were discussed.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda: RAC members approved the agenda as written.

Kansas Water Office Updates

- a. **Updating Contact Information:** Sara Maguire of KWO asked members who had not yet sent updated contact information to her to please do so.
- b. **Statewide Updates**
 - i. **Kansas Water Plan:** Sara explained a draft of the Water Plan was posted for public comments in the fall and KWO is currently working through these comments to create a finalized document.
 - ii. **Kansas Water Authority Update:** Sara summarized the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting held on April 20, 2022.
- c. **Regional Updates**
 - i. **Open Discussion from Members:** Committee members asked about the Produced Water Pilot program and funding for the Burton chloride plume project. It was suggested the RAC form a subcommittee to better

Membership: Brian Meier, Chair, Wichita, KS; Russell Tomevi, Vice Chair, Winfield, KS; Denise Noonan Middleton, Burden, KS; Libby Albers, Newton, KS; David Bogner, Mt. Hope, KS; Chad Milligan, Derby, KS; Roger Black, Arkansas City, 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: Sara Maguire, 785-296-0867; sara.maguire@kwo.ks.gov

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address the chloride plume issue. Discussion of the red cedar tree issue was held, including thoughts on lowering the fire premiums in the region and concerns about the fires and water shortages the trees are connected to.

d. Agency Updates

- i. Ron Graber of KDHE opened a discussion regarding the WRAPS program, including talk of educational activities, former contracts, and no till practices. Additionally, Ron mentioned the newsletter that highlights producers that practice conservation. A field day at Flickner Innovation Farms was discussed as well.

Regional Activities

- a. **Review Goals I and II:** The committee opened discussion regarding their first two sets of goals and action plans.
 - i. **Goal I:** Promote sustainable balance of groundwater withdrawals with annual recharge in the Equus Beds Aquifer. Ensure safe yield and recharge rate calculations in the Equus Beds Aquifer are accurate through a district wide, integrated groundwater and surface water model.
 1. Tim Boese updated the group on the ground and surface water model, explaining that the model is complete and updated at this point.
 - ii. **Goal II:** Encourage the development and use of comprehensive water supply plans by major water users in the region. Plans should account for long-term supply and demand, vulnerabilities within a water supply system, and potential for improved water efficiency.
 1. The group decided to revisit this goal at their next meeting. KDHE will be looking into public water supply information for this region.

Other Business

- a. **Public comments:** None.
- b. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** The committee inquired about the upcoming Governor's Water Conference and the annual WRAPS meeting.
- c. **Meetings**
 - i. **Equus-Walnut RAC:** The next RAC meeting will be scheduled around early August.
 - ii. **KWA:** The next KWA meeting is scheduled for June 22nd in Pittsburgh.

Tour of the Water Center

- a. Darren Brown with the City of Wichita gave a presentation of the Water Center's history, followed by a tour of the facility for those who attended the meeting in person.

Adjourn: Brian adjourned the meeting at 3:11 pm.