

# Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

2:00pm October 27th

Ninnescah Sailing Association and Zoom

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Steve Hieger (Chairperson)	Wichita, KS	Industry/ Commerce (cc)	2027	Yes
Josh Bedel (Vice-chair)	McPherson, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2025	Yes
Brian Meier	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2025	Yes
Russell Tomevi	Winfield, KS	Integrated Planning	2027	Yes
David Bogner	Mt. Hope, KS	Groundwater Management	2027	Yes
Chad Milligan	Derby, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2027	Yes
Don Henry	Wichita, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Yes
Tim Boese	Halstead, KS	Conservation/ Environment 2	2025	Yes
Brett Perry	Andover, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2025	No
Richard Basore	Sedgwick, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	Yes
Jerry Clasen	Nickerson, KS	Agriculture 2	2027	Yes
Sandy Koontz	Benton, KS	Conservation/ Environment 2	2027	Yes
Dan Defore	Dexter, KS	Watershed Protection	2027	Yes

### Others in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
David Bollenbeck	KCC
Brenda Matson	Sedgwick County Conservation District
Mike Jacobs	City of Wichita
Cathy Corban	public
Allison Herring	KDHE
James Melland	public
Lauren Campbell	KWO
Amelia Nill	KWO

- Welcome and Roll Call:** Steve Hieger (Chairperson) called the meeting to order at 2:02pm and had everyone in attendance introduce themselves.
- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and a motion was made by David Bogner (Groundwater Management) and seconded by Brian Meier (Industry/Commerce) 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:** Tim Boese noted a misspelling on his name on the meeting notes from July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A motion was made by Brian Meier (Industry/Commerce) and seconded by David Bogner (Groundwater Management) to approve the meeting notes. RAC members approved the July 17<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:lauren.campbell@kwo.ks.gov), Amelia Nill [amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov)

## 4) RAC Business:

### a) KWA Meeting Update – August and October meeting

During the August KWA meeting, the authority took several significant actions. The KWA granted negotiation authorization to the City of Independence, approved a contract for the City of Marion, and approved the renegotiated contract with the Cottonwood and Neosho River Basin Water Assurance District #3, specifically addressing the need for additional storage space. The RAC Operations Committee presented the recommended applicants for membership on the RACs. New members on the Equus-Walnut RAC include Sandy Koontz (Conservation/Environment), Dan Defore (Watershed Protection), and Jerry Klasen (Agriculture). Also, the KWA approved the Fiscal Year 2025 budget recommendations put forth by the Kansas Water Office, considering input from all 14 RACs. Furthermore, the meeting touched upon the Hays/Russell Water Transfer discussion, with the Kansas Water Authority expressing interest in becoming a commenting agency in this matter.

In the October meeting, the KWA approved the water purchase contracts for the City of Emporia, City of Coffeyville, and City of Independence. Also, the KWA asked for meetings in 2024 to include nearby RAC chairs to provide updates on progress in goals and action plans during Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meetings. The Kansas Water Office (KWO) reported that the Annual Report is currently in progress. The meeting also featured updates on the Hays/Russell Water Transfer discussion. Other notable topics included updates from the Kansas Biological Survey, the Kansas Association of Watershed Districts, and a tour of the KBS Field Station

### b) Regional Drought Update

Lauren Campbell (KWO) provided a brief regional drought update. In the state overall, the drought has lessened yet still persists especially in the southeast and south-central portion of the state. Cheney Lake is about 6 feet below normal, and conservation pool is about 67% full. El Dorado reservoir is about 6.5 feet below normal, and conservation pool is about 71% full. El Dorado as of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is releasing about 7 CFS to meet downstream targets.

### c) RAC Goals and Action Plans Implementation Timeline

Steve Hieger (Chair) led the RAC through a discussion of an implementation timeline and prioritization of the Equus-Walnut goals and action plans. The discussion is summarized in the tables below.

Priority Goal #1: 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.

Action Step	Priority	Phase	Responsibility	Additional Needs/Info	Update on progress
I	High	1	KGS/GMD2		Model is complete and needs to be updated about every 5-10 years.
II	High	2	GMD2		McPherson and Harvey counties have already been done, but the goal is to reevaluate recharge values throughout all of GMD2. Some areas not as concerned about.
III	High	2	GMD2 wit KGS assistance		Next step, this goes hand and hand with above action plans.

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IV	High	Cumulation of above action plans			Partially done by KGS sustainability assessment
V	Low	3		Made progress, but need money and more flexibility	Currently ongoing in individual users, positive action. This is something that needs to be done with groundwater and surface water.
VI	Medium	Ongoing through previous action steps			Evaluate existing tools and programs to make sure they are applicable to all user groups, such as water bank, MYFA, WCAs...etc.... LEMAs...

Priority Goal #2: 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.

Action Step	Priority	Phase	Responsibility	Additional Needs/Info	Update on progress
I	High	1		Continued funding for the staff from the legislature to continue this program. Need to make sure this is user friendly.	Ongoing, KWO getting program up and running. Hiring the positions for these grant programs
II	Medium	2		Ongoing. Need to get KDHE in to talk about this program. Drinking water watch potentially helpful resource.	
III	Medium	2			After action goal 2 is done
IV	Medium	Subsequent with goal III		Goes with goal III	
V	Medium	Subsequent with goal IV		Goes with goal IV	
VI	Low			Remediation of water?	
VII	Medium	Ongoing			Governor's Water Conference and other outreach activities fulfill this goal.

Priority goal 3, 4, and 5 will be continued at the next meeting.

### 5) Agency Updates

David Bollenbeck (KCC) provided some updates on new drilled wells within GMD2 and the Walnut basin. The City of Galva is exploring new water sources due to increasing levels of contamination in their current water source. He also mentioned the contaminated well that has had some news from southwest of the City of Augusta that has had some issues with historical petroleum. They are working with the homeowner to have better water options. Abandoned well plugging is an ongoing effort.

Allison Herring (KDHE) provided an update regarding the Drinking Water Watch that provides water quality information which relates to information gathering for priority goal #2.

### 6) Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

### 7) Message to KWA:

There were no messages to KWA at this time.

### 8) Coming Up:

#### a) Regional Event Sharing:

No events were shared upcoming, but Brian Meier (Industry/Commerce) emphasized that this used to be a priority for the Basin Advisory Committees. Steve Hieger mentioned that it would be good to have a standard Equus-Walnut RAC presentation to have distributed to the members to give at local meetings.

#### b) Future Meetings:

i) Governor's Water Conference – November 15-16, 2023 – Manhattan, KS

ii) Kansas Water Authority Meeting – December 13 – time and location TBD

iii) Equus-Walnut RAC Meeting – around January

**Adjourn:** Josh Bedel (Public Water Supply) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Henry (Public Water Supply) seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:02pm.