

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday May 2, 2023, 1:00pm
Crawford State Park Storm Shelter

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Lyle Wobker (Chair)	Paola, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	YES
Keri Harris (Vice-Chair)	Ottawa, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	NO
Don Stottlemire	Rantoul, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	NO
Jared Morrison	Topeka, KS	Water Assurance District	2023	NO
Lori Kuykendall	Lyndon, KS	WRAPS	2023	NO
Mike Mabrey	Edgerton, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	NO
Gary Armentrout	Centerville, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2025	YES
Gayla Speer	Wellsville, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2025	NO
Ron Brown	Fort Scott, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	YES
Scott Yeargain	Ottawa, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2025	YES
James DePriest	Iola, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	NO
Ray Samuel	Richmond, KS	At Large Public 3	2025	YES
Laura Hines	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	NO

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Lauren Campbell	KWO
Doug Cole	KDHE
Katie Acree	KDHE
Kaitlin Knauss	WRAPS
Don George	KDWP
Dane Boring	KDHE

- I. **Farlington Fish Hatchery Tour**
- II. **Crawford State Park Clean, Drain, Dry Station**
- III. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:23 pm by Chairperson, Lyle Wobker (Chair).
- IV. **Agenda:** Gary Armentrout (Public Water Supply) moved to accept the agenda. Ron Brown (Conservation/Environment) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Review of October 2022 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the January 2023 meeting were reviewed. Gary Armentrout (Public Water Supply) moved to accept the meeting notes. Ron Brown (Conservation/Environment) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Updates**

a. January and April KWA meetings

Lyle Wobker (Chair and Agriculture) gave updates from the January and April KWA meetings. Lyle talked about his experience with legislative visits in January and how his experience was overall positive with a lot of good responses from the legislature. He also discussed the relevant highlights of the April KWA meeting noting the Upper Arkansas RAC message to the KWA on innovation with the Ogallala depletion and KCC well plugging in the Marais des Cygnes basin.

b. Legislature

Lauren Campbell (KWO) provided an overview of House Bill 2279 and Senate Substitute for House Bill 2302. HB 2279 outlines the annual report, priority areas, and action plan requirements for GMDs. Senate substitute for HB 2302 transfers an addition \$35 million from the State General Fund to the State Water Plan Fund, creates two new grant funds managed by the KWO, and creates guidelines for the KWA when making recommendations for the SWPF budget. It also allocates \$52 million to pay off debt from Milford and Perry reservoirs, but is it invested until interest rates shift.

VII. TMDLs in Marais des Cygnes Region – Dan Boring (KDHE):

Dane Boring (KDHE) presented on TMDLs in the Marais des Cygnes basin, specifically focusing on the impairments of bacteria in the Marais des Cygnes (near Ottawa) and eutrophication of Hillsdale Reservoir. The impairment of bacteria in the Marais des Cygnes near Ottawa is 879 cfus/100mL. The TMDL states that Ottawa needs UV disinfection to improve bacteria loadings, but there is also significant loading from non-point sources. The first TMDL for eutrophication in Hillsdale was written in 2001, and since then the populations of cities around the area has grown quite a bit, putting this resource at risk. Scott Yeargain (Conservation/Environment) asked about unassessed stream segments and expressed his concern on the lack of improvements since the RAC was developed. The RAC discussed the number of feedlots coming into the basin and Lyle Wobker (Chair and Agriculture) mentioned that it was something to pay attention to and learn more about.

VIII. RAC Goals Implementation Timeline (KWO):

This agenda item was skipped due to time constraint.

IX. RAC Messages to KWA: None.

X. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:

Scott Yeargain (Conservation/Environment) mentioned an article he read from the New York Times about foreign countries buying land and water rights. Then members discussed legislation to protect against exporting water.

Gary Armentrout (Public Water Supply) mentioned the issue of a lack of accountability in water usage by public water supplies and accounting for water loss estimates.

Ron Brown (Conservation/Environment) commented on the dust storm that caused a major accident and how this is just another reason to increase soil health practices and getting more ground covered.

XI. Educational Events in the Region:

There are no known upcoming events in the region, but Don George (KDWP) talked about the Bourbon County Conservation Day where 4th graders learned about aquatic life in rivers and streams. Kaitlin Knauss

told the RAC about the grazing workshops and horse care workshops that took place over the last couple of months., Both were successful event series taking place in multiple locations within the basin.

XII. Agency Input:

Doug Cole (KDHE) mentioned the possibility of exploring a mineralization study of uranium and looking for local participants. He also mentioned that receiving and dealing with spill calls are an important part of what KDHE does to protect the water resources in Kansas.

XIII. Public Input: There was no public input.

XIV. Adjournment: Lyle declared the meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Future Meetings:

- a. **KWA Meeting – June 7 – Dodge City**
- b. **Summer RAC meeting – Location and Date TBD**