

# Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Neosho Regional Advisory Committees Meeting

April 25, 2023 1:00pm  
Kelley Hall, Burlington, KS

### Neosho Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Wes Fleming (Chair)	Burlington, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Lisa Suderman (Vice-Chair)	Hillsboro, KS	WRAPS	2023	No
Dean Grant	Emporia, KS	Water Assurance District	2023	Yes
Joe Buchanan	Council Grove, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Jay Byers	Pittsburg, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
James Triplett	Pittsburg, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	No
Brian Obermeyer	Cottonwood Falls, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Susan Hague	Cedar Point, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2025	Yes
Dale Strickler	Iola, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	No
Tisha Conard Richardson	Wilsey, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	No
VACANT		At Large Public 3	2023	
VACANT		Industry/Commerce 2	2025	
VACANT		Ranching/Grazing	2023	

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Angela Anderson	KWO
Eugene Goff	USACE
James Ungerer	NRCS
Nate Westrup	KWO
Jack Bohannon	USFWS
Victoria Potts	KWO
Allison Herring	KDHE
Allen Zylstra	USACE

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce) at 1:10pm. Wes had RAC members and public attendees introduce themselves.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply (cc)) moved to approve the agenda. Jay Byers (At Large Public) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Review of January Joint Neosho/Verdigris RAC Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the January 2023 Neosho and Verdigris meeting were reviewed. Joe Buchanan suggested the date should be 2022, not 2021 and Jay Byers questioned whether the metal in the phosphorus box was expanded or expended. The

meeting notes were accepted as corrected.

- IV. Kansas Legislative Updates:** Victoria Potts (KWO) reviewed the Senate Substitute for HB 2302 and HB 2279 that passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor for the 2023 Legislative year. (see included fact sheet).
- V. Neosho Region Water Supply Overview:** Nathan Westrup (KWO) highlighted the state water marketing program and water assurance districts along with the water demands in the Neosho basin. What water is available is defined by what type of drought entities want to make it through. Nate explained the overview of water supply planning for the region. The question was raised as to what additional demands can the basin handle. Wolf Creek power plant represents one-half of the demand in the Basin. The other half is the assurance district, with half of the assurance district demand belonging to the City of Emporia.

Presently, modeling is being reviewed for three potential applications are predicted to be submitted for water supply in the basin. Currently, 90% of John Redmond Reservoir's storage is for Wolf Creek and 10% is for downstream usage.

There was numerous questions and discussion surrounding Nate's review.

- VI. RAC Goals & Implementation Timeline:** Angela Anderson (KWO) indicated that the RAC in the upcoming meetings will be identifying their recommended timeline for implementation for their Goals and Action Plans.
- VII. Questions and Future Issues from RAC members:** Joe Buchanan recalled that at the annual Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) convention the depletion of the aquifer was the main topic of discussion and that the RAC needs to help make sure eastern Kansas water issues are not overshadowed by aquifer issues; both are equally important to Kansas. He also mentioned that nitrate and other nutrient issues are becoming an issue in rural water areas. It was mentioned that this could be a subject to review with the goals and action plans implementation timeline.
- Jay Byers reinforced the notion that the group should not forget about nutrient and water quality issues in the region. The City of Pittsburg continues to look into nutrient trading. Chairman, Wes Fleming would like the review the nutrient trading concept at a future meeting.
- VIII. RAC Messages to the KWA:** Angela indicated that this will be a standing agenda item to bring awareness that the RAC always has the opportunity to formulate a message to send to the Kansas Water Authority (KWA). There were no messages for the KWA.
- IX. Agency Input:** Eugene Goff (USACE) appreciated the meeting location in Burlington and appreciated the information supplied. He inquired if John Shelley (KC District of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) is conducting a study at John Redmond. Nate Westrup answered that John is formulating a scope study for hydrosuction technique to potentially be done at John Redmond, which would be potentially beneficial to a national study of sedimentation of reservoirs. Eugene also mentioned the USACE is doing repairs at some of their structures of low-flow valves at Toronto and Council Grove Reservoirs, gate repairs at a couple of reservoirs in the Verdigris region and some other repairs at Marion.

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James Ungerer (NRCS) informed the group that he has been at the Emporia Field office since January and is working to familiarize himself with the numerous local cost share programs.

Allison Herring (KDHE) stated she was attending in Doug Cole's place that day. She informed the group that the Kansas Environmental Conference will occur on August 9-10 in Manhattan; the LEPP has been re-established for several counties she is working in and the KWO drought stakeholder meetings have reconvened.

Angela Anderson (KWO) announced that the RAC membership drive will be starting soon with several of the RAC members' terms expiring June 30, 2023. Any interested individual may submit an application. She also reminded the group that this summer's meeting will include the annual State Water Plan Fund budget recommendations agenda item.

- X. Public Input:** There was no public input.
- XI. Educational/Outreach events within the Region:** Angela informed the group that this agenda item will also be constant opportunity for the members to share opportunities for education and outreach or to highlight those types of events that have occurred and/or they participated in.
- XII. Public Meetings in the Region:** Angela stated this agenda item will give the members the chance to share knowledge of public meetings surrounding the topic of water.
- XIII. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:12pm.
- XIV. Future Meetings:**
  - a. KWA – Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 8 am-5pm, Dodge City, KS**
  - b. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 15-16, Manhattan**