

# Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Neosho Regional Advisory Committees Meeting

July 12, 2023 3:00pm

Emporia Public Library, Emporia, KS

Hybrid with Zoom meeting access

### 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)	2023	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	No
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
Victoria Potts	KWO
Nathan Westrup	KWO
Doug Cole	KDHE
Gary Kepley	USACE
Derek Haines	KAWS
Chris Steffen	KDWP
Richard Rockel	KWO
Joe Large	USACE
Jason Koontz	KDHE
Kristin Kaipust	KWO
Lauren Campbell	KWO
Michael Beezhold	KDHE
Terry Medley	KDA-DWR
Eugene Goff	USACE
Brock DeLong	USACE

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce) at 3:03pm. Wes welcomed the group to the Emporia Public Library.
- II. **Roll call:** Chair, Wes Fleming had RAC members and public attendees introduce themselves.

- III. Approval of Agenda:** Angela Anderson (KWO) notified the group of the need to amend the printed agenda, changing the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative report to be from Lauren Campbell (KWO) instead of the listed Angela Anderson and adding items Va. Potential Contract Report from Nathan Westrup (KWO) and Vb. Oil Spill in Northwest Lyon County Report by Doug Cole (KDHE).
- Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) moved to amend the agenda. Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply (cc)) seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) moved to approve the agenda. Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply (cc)) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Review of May Neosho RAC Meeting Minutes:** The meeting notes from the May 23, 2023 Neosho RAC meeting were reviewed. Joe Buchanan moved to approve the minutes. Lisa Suderman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. KWA June Meeting Report:** Lisa Suderman (Vice-Chair & WRAPS) provided the update from the previous Kansas Water Authority meeting that took place in Dodge City on June 7, 2023. She stated it was an informational meeting in which discussions had highlighted the Dodge City water treatment facilities, a mineralization update, and a Kansas/Colorado Arkansas River Water Quality Summit update.
- a. Potential Contract Report:** Nathan Westrup (KWO) reviewed the application by Evergy/Wolf Creek for a potential water purchase contract for supplemental water from Marion Reservoir for the nuclear power plant's cooling reservoir, Coffey County Reservoir, when natural conditions are insufficient to keep the cooling reservoir within their operational range. Nathan went on to explain that John Redmond Reservoir, which serves as the contracted back-up supply for Coffey County Reservoir, during times of a 2% drought event, is not sufficient to keep the cooling reservoir within the operational range. Council Grove Reservoir is fully committed to meet future and current water supply needs for the region. Therefore, Marion Reservoir, which has water supply contracts for the cities of Marion, Peabody, and Hillsboro, is the only water supply reservoir with reserve water supply capacity within the Cottonwood and Neosho River basins in which the State of Kansas owns an interest. Nathan also explained the difference between water marketing and the water assurance districts in addition to how decisions are made and who is involved in reviewing contract applications.
- b. Oil Spill in Northwest Lyon County Report:** Doug Cole (KDHE) reported that there was a crude oil release that hit a waterway in northwestern Lyon County. Doug explained KDHE's response system to any such incident. He informed the group that there is a KDHE spill hotline that individuals may use to alert them to such issues. In northwestern Lyon County, the oil recovery process was underway and KDHE will notify the city of Emporia when the spill has been remediated.
- VI. RAC Goals and Action Plan Review:** Angela Anderson (KWO) stated in reference to time needed for the rest of the meeting, the group was instructed that further conversations surrounding the Goals and Action Plan implementation timeline discussion will be had at future meetings.
- VII. RAC Budget Information and Recommendations:** Victoria Potts (KWO) provided an overview of the Kansas Water Plan Budget Guidelines that were highlighted in the informational webinars on June 22 & 23, 2023. Victoria also reviewed the State Water Plan Fund FY 2025 Priorities and the alignment with

## Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

implementation to the Kansas Water Plan. She then led the RAC through a series of questions for conversations and to aide the RAC in providing their official budget input.

### *SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input*

*Region: **Neosho***

#### Recent Progress/Success

- *Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?*
  - *KRPI success for the Neosho region, due to state funding and partners working together to implement practices above John Redmond Reservoir*
  - *Making progress on AIS including funding. By adding it as a RAC Goal, it has had a positive impact and response*
  - *The WRAPS funding of a demonstration project utilizing phosphorus removal structures with hopes that it shows water quality success (when water runoff occurs). There has been much positive response to the implementation.*

#### State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- *What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?*
  - *Technologies, studies, and implementation in our region of in-reservoir sedimentation removal.*
  - *Ozark aquifer storage and recovery; maintain current storage and exploring existing, but unused water storage*
  - *Water reuse/water reintroduction upstream of municipal water intakes*
- *What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?*
  - *Water quantity in reduction of sediment in reservoirs. Technologies, studies, and implementation in our region of in-reservoir sedimentation removal; specifically, those that would work best with the reservoirs located in the Neosho Basin.*
  - *Water quality, especially nitrates, in the region's water that water suppliers are forced to mitigate.*
  - *Formation of study groups to evaluate potential unused water source storage.*
- *What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?*
- *Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?*
- *Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?*
  - *Support for purchase of increased number of AIS stations in addition to support of workforce to maintain the stations.*

## Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

- *In-lake water quality task force development to work to explore ways to mitigate basin issues, such as HABs.*
- *Research other ways of sedimentation reduction options such as off-stream diversion.*
- *Explore nutrient trading.*
- *Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?*
- *Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?*
  - *May be funding too many projects, in order to make a significant change/difference, may need a more focused effort.*
  - *Funding for research for groundwater nitrate removal.*
- *Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee*
  - *Cooperation between Kansas and Oklahoma as it relates to the Neosho Basin. In order to solve the issues in the basin, the states must work together.*

**Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply (cc) moved to approve submittal of the Neosho RAC's Budget Input for FY2025 State Water Plan Fund. Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- VIII. Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative:** Lauren Campbell (KWO) provided an update on the KRPI program. She stated that no new areas were added.
- IX. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** The RAC asked about membership statuses and the process. Angela Anderson (KWO) stated that the RAC Operations Committee would be reviewing all of the applications received in order to put together their recommendations for members to each RAC. The Kansas Water Authority (KWA) would then review those recommendations and make an official vote authorizing members to the RACs. In the months following the KWA decision, the KWA Chair would make her appointments for Chair and Vice Chair positions.
- X. RAC Messages to the KWA:** The only message the RAC chose to send was the budget input message.
- XI. Agency Input:** Doug Cole (KDHE) thanked the group for their support. KDHE is in a gathering information and dissemination phase. Efforts to work on water quality issues continue to take place.
- Derek Haines (KAWS) was happy to be present at the meeting.
- Joe Large (USACE) thanked the RAC and looked forward to continue working together with the RAC.
- Michael Beezhold (KDHE) announced that the John Redmond WRAPS had a new coordinator – Derek Haines.
- Jason Koontz (KDHE) stated he is still learning more about the RACs and each RAC's issues. He stated nutrient trading could be something the RAC could explore in the future. He also informed the group that Derek's past implementation technician position is open. He stated they are looking at beaver dam analogs and other projects that could aide with some of the issues the RAC had identified. Jason appreciated the detail the RAC members added to their budget input.
- No other agency input was provided.

**XII. Public Comments:** None

**XIII. Education/Outreach Events within the Region:** Angela Anderson stated that the Twin Lakes Water Festival will take place at the Council Grove Reservoir in September for area 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**XIV. Public Meetings in the Region:** Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) informed the group that the Cottonwood and Marion WRAPS Stakeholder Leadership Team meeting will take place in August at the Marion County Lake.

**XV. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.

**XVI. Future Meetings:**

- a. **KWA – Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 8am-5pm, TBD**
- b. **Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 15-16, Manhattan**

DRAFT