

# Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 20, 2022

GoTo Meeting

### 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	YES
Kent Bacon	Council Grove, KS	Ranching/Grazing	2023	NO
Joe Buchanan	Council Grove, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	YES
Jay Byers	Pittsburg, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	NO
James Triplett	Pittsburg, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	NO
Brian Obermeyer	Cottonwood Falls, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	NO
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	YES
VACANT		At Large Public 3	2023	
VACANT		Industry/Commerce 2	2025	
VACANT		Water Assurance District	2023	

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Angela Anderson	KWO
Derek Haines	KAWS
Sharon Haun	City of Council Grove
Katie Tietz	KDA-DWR
Dean Grant	City of Emporia

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Chairperson, Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce (cc)). Wes thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Wes Fleming. There were three RAC members present, in addition to five others in attendance. (At 1:21pm, the fourth RAC member arrived allowing for a quorum to be attained.)
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was accepted as submitted.
- IV. **Review of July 2021 RAC Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the July 28, 2021 meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. The meeting notes were accepted as submitted.

- V. **Neosho Riverwalk at Council Grove presentation:** Sharon Haun, Council Grove City Council member of Ward 2, provided a presentation on the updates that have been built on the Neosho Riverwalk at Council Grove, KS. She highlighted that in 1996 the first leg of the trails had been completed along the Neosho River. The trail had been built through funding from an 80/20 grant with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). The trail was well-received and well-used. The KAW nation and Voices in the Wind People utilized the area. In 1992, a “temporary” amphitheater was put in place. Performances were held every two years for 10 years, before they decided to build a permanent amphitheater structure. A grant was received in order to extend the trail and build the new amphitheater. The River Trail was connected to the Rails to Trails. Funds are presently being raised to build a covered pavilion and restrooms. The park and amphitheater are owned by the city. Ms. Haun noted that the first event to be held in the new facility was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of wagons to go along the Santa Fe Trail.
- VI. **Watershed Conservation Technician program/services:** Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS) Conservation Technician, Derek Haines, provided a PowerPoint presentation of the new service provided by KAWS through his position. Derek provides “boots on the ground” conservation implementation in the entire John Redmond watershed (about 3,000 square miles). The conservation technician position is funded through the Pittman-Robertson Act (PR Act). He has the ability to do work on private property, which is a rare allowance/occurrence with PR Act funds. Other features of the new service are the opportunity of individuals to lease KAWS equipment and for KAWS to work with Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP) to purchase or source used equipment. They do have an interseeder that is available for producers. The KAWS Technician highlighted that they do aid producers to help producers learn and use their own personal equipment to the best of its abilities and/or Derek may use the producer’s own equipment to do some of the projects. He provided the example of using a producer’s tractor to plant the cover crops and pollinator plots for the producer as a service. In the 43 days prior to his presentation to the RAC, Derek had applied cover crops to 3,420 acres on 24 landowners’ properties. About 60-70% of those producers had used the interseeder before and chose to continue the use of such equipment.
- VII. **Governor’s Conference Review/Discussion:** Outreach & Planning Lead with the Kansas Water Office (KWO), Angela Anderson, provided a review on the virtual 2021 Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas. She directed the RAC members to the KWO website where recordings of the Conference are stored.
- VIII. **January KWA Meeting and Legislative Visit Day Overview:** Angela Anderson (KWO) highlighted the discussion from the January Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting and Legislative visits that RAC Chairs and KWA members participated in.
- IX. **Update on the Kansas Water Plan (KWP) Process:** Angela Anderson stated that the update on the KWP process is still in progress as they are currently reviewing the public comments that were received and are working to find ways to implement viable comments.
- X. **RAC Membership Update:** Angela noted that there are currently three positions vacant:
- a. Water Assurance District (2023)
  - b. At Large Public 3 (2023)
  - c. Industry/Commerce 2 (2025)

- XI. Questions and Future Issues from RAC members:** Members expressed interest in hearing more on the invasive species council and the status of invasive species in the region. Members also mentioned it might be nice to tour the Grand Lake again to see if any changes have occurred/are HABs still an issue. Tisha Richardson (At-Large Public 2) inquired where community members may supply budget recommendation comments.
- XII. Agency Input:** Katie Tietsort (Kansas Dept. of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR)) stated that they have been receiving questions from water users as to how to enter their water use reports online. The DWR has been able to get a lot of field work done and connect with customers during the pandemic. She stated they are almost done with field work in the Neosho region. As duck season approaches, pumping requests are made. The DWR had rescinded pumping orders below the Council Grove reservoir at that time.
- XIII. Public Input:** Dean Grant asked where he might acquire an application for the RAC.
- XIV. Adjournment:** The meeting was deemed adjourned at 2:36pm.

**Future Meetings:**