

## Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

October 19, 2018, 10 AM  
Salina Chamber of Commerce Annex  
Salina KS

### Member Attendance:

| Name                  | City             | Category                      | Term | Present |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| Martha Tasker (Chair) | Salina, KS       | Public Water Supply (cc)      | 2019 | Yes     |
| Tim Sanders           | Chapman, KS      | Agriculture 2                 | 2021 | Yes     |
| VACANT                |                  | Industry/Commerce (cc)        | 2019 | na      |
| Toby Dougherty        | Hays, KS         | Large Public Water Supply     | 2019 | absent  |
| Dan Baffa             | Salina, KS       | At Large Public 2             | 2021 | Yes     |
| Chris Meyer           | Sylvan Grove, KS | Agriculture (cc)              | 2019 | Yes     |
| Baron Shively         | McPherson, KS    | Conservation/Environment 2    | 2019 | Yes     |
| Allen Roth            | Hays, KS         | Conservation/Environment (cc) | 2021 | Yes     |
| Bevin Law             | Longford, KS     | At Large Public (cc)          | 2021 | no      |
| Timothy Scheck        | Russell, KS      | Industry/Commerce 2           | 2021 | Yes     |
| Alan Scheuerman       | Ellis, KS        | Small Public Water Supply     | 2019 | no      |
| Brad Shogren          | Lindsborg, KS    | Irrigation                    | 2021 | Yes     |

### Others in attendance:

| Name              | Affiliation                                       |
|-------------------|---|
| Rich Krause       | City of Russell                                   |
| Ron Graber        | KSU Research & Extension, Upper Lower Smoky WRAPS |
| Lynn Davignon     | KDWPT   |
| Brian Klager      | USGS  |
| Ken Kopp          | KRWA  |
| Doug Helmke       | KRWA  |
| Kelly Stewart     | KDA/DWR   |
| Nathan Westrup    | KWO   |
| Brian Meier       | Burns and McDonnel                                |
| Norm Mannel       |   |
| Mark Peterson     | City of Salina                                    |
| Troy Munsch       | NRCS  |
| Dustin Durr       | NRCS  |
| Karen Borcharding | Saline Co. Conservation District                  |
| Holly Dickman     | City of Hays                                      |
| Jeff Crispin      | City of Hays                                      |
| Bernie Kitten     | City of Salina                                    |
| Randy Barton      | Dickinson Co. Environmental                       |
| Marcia Cook       | Dickinson Co. WRAPs                               |
| Jennifer Nichols  | KDHE  |
| Diane Knowles     | KWO   |

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Martha Tasker welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Self introductions were made.

**Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda:** The meeting agenda as approved as presented.

**Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of past meeting notes:** The July 2018 meeting notes were approved as presented. (The motion was made by Brad Shogren, seconded by Tim Scheck.

## **Kansas Water Authority**

**August KWA:** Martha Tasker noted the highlights of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) April 2018 meeting. Three RAC chairs gave reports to the KWA on their RAC's goals and progress, including GBP on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) they developed. The regional State of the Resource documents were presented and the 14 are now posted online. The meeting also included a presentation on Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs), overview of irrigation technology, the BMP funding to reduce sedimentation and conservation district services. Extensive discussion on the SOP occurred which included that RACs are intended to connect at the local level. The other main point was that even if it seems progress is not being made on goals and plans, it actually is, but it is a long term process. It was also noted that the RACs could work on common goals together and members should talk to local people about water issues. Discussion of funding also occurred. There was general agreement that a MOU among the natural resources subcommittee agencies might help achieve the ideas in the SOP.

**Budget:** The Regional Advisory Committees advice to KWA on the FY 2020 & 2021 budgets was considered by KWA at their August meeting. KWA decision was to move forward an \$8 million budget based on the statutory state general fund transfer and lottery revenues. On the budget process, the KWA discussion noted the intent is for RACs to be part of the KWA budget process.

Discussion by the RAC included suggestions that committee members talk to their legislators on funding needs. This lead to further discussion on the process, methods of contacting and other related points including those used by KACD and KWA to educate legislators on the needs for funding.

## **RAC Business**

**Draft Letter for Water Conservation Plans** was presented by Diane and discussed by the committee. The purpose is to encourage water conservation plan development, especially those with higher than regional average use. Last meeting Diane explained her evaluation to prioritize water conservation plan development in the region based on conservation plan status and comparison of per capita usage to similar public water suppliers. After discussion, it was the *consensus for Diane to draft a letter to public water suppliers offering assistance to develop water conservation plans*. This draft letter was reviewed today. with consensus to include explanation of the RAC.

**Motion to proceed with the letter with inclusion of an explanation of the RAC, using the priorities discussed was made by Brad Shogren and seconded by Allen Roth. Motion carried.**

**State of the Resource** – the document was provided to the RAC members and is available on line. It will be updated annually. Diane also provided the one page infosheet as an educational tool or conversation starter.

**Smoky Hill-Saline Presentation Overview-** Diane briefly reviewed the presentation that originated with the Kansas RAC to aid in discussions with public groups on water issues, needs and funding support. The presentation has been

modified for this region as a tool committee members can use with organizations and the public. It can be modified to fit with specific groups or issues as needed.

### Updates on Regional Water Issues (if any)

Issues with streambank erosion due to recent rains were discussed by the RAC. Suggestions included guidelines for alternative structures (lower cost than traditional alternatives). The Lower Smoky Hill WRAPS has been trying some less expensive techniques and monitoring the effects. Information may be available next summer to review.

R9 Ranch water transfer update was provided by Kelly Stewart. Recommendations have been taken by DWR on the applications to change aspects of the water rights including points of diversion and use. The plan is to conditionally approve (if approved) so that the changes only take effect if the transfer itself is approved. The transfer process is anticipated to take about a year. At least one RAC member would like to hear about the ramifications to both sides.

FY2019 Vision Watershed BMP Implementation - Diane reported that the Smoky Hill region is one of four regions where applications were accepted. One application was received from the eligible watershed in the region. It will be funded. There were enough applications in the 4 regions to obligate all the available dollars.

### Other Business

Agency Reports not previously covered

KDHE- Jennifer Nichols noted that the flooding has created a lot of debris that may be caught on bridges. Contact her for information on assistance on this or disposal of tires.

Division of Water Resources-Kelly Stewart noted the overpumping penalties went up significantly about one year ago. Over a million dollars in fines have been issued.

Public Comments – Norm Mannel suggested land and water rights are not what many think. There is a case to be heard by the Supreme Court concerning grazing and timber rights. These issues need to be looked at.

Messages to KWA (if any)-none

Upcoming meetings of interest

Governor's Conference on Water and the Future of Kansas, Nov. 13-14, Manhattan

Kansas Water Authority December, Wichita, KS

SHS RAC: The suggestion to meet in February or March was countered by a member suggesting January. January dates were discussed. There were not many available dates.

**Meeting Adjourned-** Motion by Chris Meyer, seconded by Tim Sanders. Motion Carried.