

Minutes

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY In-Person Meeting

October 18, 2023

Lawrence, KS

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dawn Buehler called the **October 18, 2023**, Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting to order at **09:05 a.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Buehler, Michael Armstrong, John Bailey, Lynn Goossen, Randy Hayzlett, Jeremiah Hobbs, Pete Loecke, Carolyn McGinn, Allen Roth, Allan Soetaert, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg (Newly appointment member Gary Janzen was presented, but abstained from all voting)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

PRESENT: David Bollenback, Earl Lewis, Jay Kalbas, Susan Metzger, Sara Baer, Tom Stiles, Mike Beam, Andrew Lyon, Connie Owen

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Brad Loveless, Steve Frost, Kayla Savage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion No. 10-18-01 It was moved by Carolyn McGinn and seconded by Pete Loecke to approve the August 23, 2023, Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE:

John Bailey reported for the Public Water Supply Committee. Nathan Westrup then presented on contact 23-5 with the City of Emporia.

Water Purchase Contract 23-5, City of Emporia

Motion No. 10-18-02 It was moved by Mike Armstrong and seconded by David Stroberg to approve the Water Purchasing Contract 23-5 with the City of Emporia. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Nathan Westrup then presented on Water Purchasing Contract 23-6 with the City of Coffeyville.

Water Purchase Contract No. 23-6, City of Coffeyville

Motion No. 10-18-03 It was moved by Allan Soetaert and seconded by John Bailey to approve the Water Purchasing Contract 23-6 with the City of Coffeyville. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Nathan Westrup then presented on Water Purchasing Contract 23-8 with the City of Independence.

Water Purchasing Contract 23-8, City of Independence

Motion No. 10-18-04 It was moved by Jeremiah Hobbs and seconded by Randy Hayzlett to approve Water Purchase Contract 23-8 with the City of Independence. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Nathan Westrup then presented on the current Drought conditions in the State of Kansas and what that means for the reservoir levels.

KWA RAC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Jeremiah Hobbs reported for the RAC Operations Committee. He presented on a new membership application for the Red Hills RAC.

Approval of applicant Michael Grant to the Red Hills RAC

Motion No. 10-18-05

It was moved by Allen Roth and seconded by Jean Steiner for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the application for Michael Grant to the Industry/Commerce 2 category of the Red Hills RAC. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Jeremiah Hobbs then presented on proposed guideline suggestion for the RAC chairs to report and present to the KWA at future meetings. Guidelines are listed in the meeting materials. Dawn Buehler opened the floor for discussion. Main concern from all members of the KWA was that the allotted time proposal of 5-10 minutes may not be long enough.

Approval of the Guidelines for the RAC Chair Reporting at the KWA meetings

Motion No. 10-18-06

It was moved by Mike Armstrong and seconded by David Stroberg for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the guidelines for the RAC Chair reporting at the KWA meeting. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA PLANNING DISCUSSION:

Victoria Asbury then started discussion on the Kansas Water Authority's 2024 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature. Dawn Buehler open the floor for discussion.

Carolyn McGinn suggested that we include how we plan to use monies received by the legislature in innovated ways. She would also like to see an update on the uranium situation in SW Kansas and a discussion on the Water Rights process.

Tom Stiles suggested we ask house water or the Governor's office what they would like to see in the report.

Earl Lewis suggested highlighting what the infrastructure money needs really are in the State and looking at where Federal monies come from vs. where State monies come from to see how we can fill the gap.

Sara Bear suggested we add results of the research funded by monies received. She also mentioned publishing a QR code that will take people to the website.

Jay Kalbas suggested we highlight new publications that are out.

Mike Armstrong suggest we highlight projects for legislators that are in their districts. He also mentioned added information about the Water transfer act in regards to interbasin transfers.

Allen Roth suggested we identify major success stories from the past.

Jeremiah Hobbs suggested adding a map of the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer

Randy Hayzlett mentioned that he doesn't see much from the RACs and would like to see what's important to each region.

Jean Steiner would like to see a thoughtful discussion happen in regards to policy recommendations, see it defend senior water right system, and maybe include a thank you statement to the Governor and legislature for the funding they have provided. She agreed with Mike Armstrong about seeing information about the interbasin transfer change.

Dawn Buehler liked the idea of having a Thank you, but also suggested updating the funding chart from page 4 from the 2023 Annual Report. And with that ended the discussion on the 2024 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

Matt Unruh then began presentation on other planning items.

KANSAS BIOLOGICAL SURVEY UPDATE:

Sara Baer gave an update on the Kansas Biological Survey.

HAYS/RUSSELL WATER TRANSFER:

Connie Owen and Earl Lewis were absent from this discussion. Matt Unruh presented an update on the Hays/Russell Water Transfer and the KWA's potential for recognition as a commenting agency during the ongoing administrative hearing on the matter.

Dawn Buehler opened the floor for questions and comments.

Items that were discussed:

- Lynn Goossen would like to hear from GMD #5 before making a comment.
- Mike Armstrong questioned if they should pass a long message from the RAC to which Jeremiah Hobbs agreed.
- Randy Hayzlett was in favor of a more generic statement to which Jean Steiner agreed.

Approval of comments to the Hays/Russell water transfer hearing board

Motion No. 10-18-07

It was moved by Mike Armstrong and seconded by Jeremiah Hobbs for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the following comments for the ongoing Hays/Russell water transfer administrative hearing. The Kansas Water Authority also approved the Kansas Water Office to make editorial adjustments to the message as needed.

“*Insert RAC input as noted in the memo to the Kansas Water Authority* Kansas Water Authority endorses the recommendations of the RACS, but recognizes the definition of sustainability is not part of the criteria on which the hearing officer's decision is founded. The Kansas Water Authority would like to note that, if approved, this transfer should not be regarded as a precedent for future interbasin transfers. The Kansas Water Authority encourages the hearing officer to honor the process of compiling data and analytical review for evidence-based decisions.”

Motion carried with no dissenting votes. Information found in meeting materials.

STATE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS WATERSHEDS UPDATE:

Jeremiah Hobbs & Olivia Bergmaier presented on the work of SAKW.

KWA EX-OFFICIO AGENCY UPDATES:

David Bollenback gave an update for the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Susan Metzger gave an update for Kansas State University.

Tom Stiles gave an update for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Earl Lewis gave an update for the Division of Water Resources.

Mike Beam gave an update for the Kansas Department of Agriculture & Department of Conservation.

Jay Kalbas gave an update for the Kansas Geological Survey.

Sara Baer/Ted Harris gave an update for the Kansas Biological Survey.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Connie Owen reported for the Kansas Water Office. The Kansas Water Office has been working on updating Municipal Conservation Plan guidelines. The KWO is soon opening the South Fork Grant Program and the 2302 Grant Fund programs.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Allan Soetaert and seconded by Peter Loecke to adjourn. Motion carried with no dissenting votes. The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.


Dawn Buehler, Chair


Connie Owen, Secretary