



**CIMARRON
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: June 5th, 2020
TIME: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM (CDT)
LOCATION: **GoToMeeting Conference Call** ([Meeting Materials](#))
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/774157349>
You can also dial in using your phone:
United States: +1 (224) 501-3412
Access Code: 774-157-349

AGENDA DETAILS

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call-** RAC Chair
- II. **Review of Agenda-** RAC Chair/Members
- III. **Review of March 2020 Meeting Notes-** RAC Chair/Members
- IV. **Updates**
 - a. **Kansas Water Authority-** RAC Chair/KWO Planner
 - b. **State Budget Updates-** KWO Planner
 - i. *Early July RAC Meeting Recommended*
- V. **Regional Activities**
 - a. **Membership Status-** KWO Planner
 - b. **RAC Goals & Actions Plans Update Recommendations-** RAC Chair/Members
 - i. *Deadline: August 2020*
- VI. **Other Business-** RAC Chair
 - a. **Agency Reports**
 - b. **Public comments**
 - c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members**
 - d. **RAC Messages to the KWA**
 - e. **Future Meetings**
 - i. **GMD3 Board Meeting:** June 10th, 2020 (Regularly every second Wed of the month at 9am)
 - ii. **Bottom Line Conference:** August 12-13; Kearny County Fairgrounds
 - iii. **Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas:** November 9-10, 2020; Wichita
 - iv. **KWO Winter Water Tech Expo:** February 2021

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC



Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 PM (CST), Wednesday March 4th, 2020

Conestoga Energy Offices

1701 N. Kansas Ave.

Liberal, KS 67846

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Calvin Burke (Chair)	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Trista Brown (Vice-Chair)	Satanta, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	Yes
Gary Boldt	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public 3	2023	Yes
Michael Bryant	Copeland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	Yes
Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	2021	No
Alan Olson	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Jason Norquest	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 4	2023	Yes
Bret Rooney	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	2021	No
Jim Sipes	Manter, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
VACANT	VACANT	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	N/A
VACANT	VACANT	Agricultural Industry	2023	N/A
VACANT	VACANT	At Large Public 2	2023	N/A

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Bobbi Lutjohann	KWO
Armando Zarco	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by the Chair. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members.
- Review of June 2019 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the June 2019 meeting (no quorum) were discussed. There were no additions or corrections requested.
- Kansas Water Authority (KWA) & Legislative Update:**
 - January KWA Meeting-** Armando Zarco debriefed on highlights of recent KWA meeting.
 - Legislative Visits-** Bobbi Lutjohann debriefed on visits and comments provided from legislators.

Membership: Calvin Burke (Chair), Liberal, KS; Trista Brown (Vice-Chair), Satanta, KS; Gary Boldt, Ulysses, KS; Michael Bryant, Copeland, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Luke Grubbs, Hugoton, KS; Alan Olson, Ulysses, KS; Jason Norquest, Garden City, KS; Bret Rooney, Satanta, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS

KWO Planners: Armando Zarco, 620-765-7485, armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov; Keadron Pearson, 620-765-7489, Keadron.Pearson@kwo.ks.gov

- c. **State Budget Updates-** Armando Zarco elaborated on the next fiscal year's budget recommendations and that a Budget Webinar will be occurring in April to provide detailed information to all RAC members on each budget line item. Armando also noted that a RAC meeting must take place in June 2020 to give any RAC member an opportunity to provide comments to the KWA on the budget recommendations before the next fiscal year.

5. Regional Activities

- a. **Membership Status-** Armando mentioned that there are currently three vacancies on this RAC and asked current RAC members to reach out to potential candidates if they know of any.
- b. **2020 RAC Meetings-** It was the consensus of the RAC members present to hold three more RAC meetings in 2020 on the months of June, August, and October. They also concurred that the current venue is satisfactory as a location to hold the meetings in the future.
- c. **Water Bank Discussion-** The RAC Chair requested to research other ways to allow municipalities the flexibilities to manage their water wells more appropriately for the needs of the city. By allowing a program such as water bank/or accounting system with water it may also allow nearby irrigators to purchase local water that was unused by the city. Mike Meyer, KDA-DWR, said he can look into alternative options and consult them at a later time.
- d. **Oklahoma Coordination Discussion-** No discussion had at this meeting
- e. **Master Irrigator Program Discussion-** Jason Norquest provided an update that Colorado is beginning to implement this program.
- f. **Optional Break-** Break was not taken.
- g. **RAC Goals & Actions Plans Update Recommendations:**
 - i. **Deadline: August 2020-** It was determined by the RAC Members that it would be best if they all had the opportunity to review the current Goals and Actions Plans on their own time prior to the next RAC meeting. They agreed to provide comments to Armando via email or at the tentative June 2020 RAC Meeting. The RAC was also open to holding a conference call RAC meetings at a later time to discuss these updates.

6. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports**
 - i. **KDA-** Mike Meyer mentioned that the Chief Engineer, David Barfield, retired recently. He also mentioned that a brief KGS water level update will be provided at the GMD3 Annual meeting coming up, he reminded the RAC members that water use reports deadline had passed, and that Nick Hatcher would like to renew his WCA in the region.
 - ii. **GMD3-** Jason Norquest elaborated on the GMD3 Annual Meeting and some of the agenda items to be discussed.

- iii. KWO- Armando Zarco provided an update on the KWO Water Technology Farm program and that the new season is ramping up. Armando also mentioned to be on the lookout for announcement on a Circle C Tech Farm Cover Crop Field Day and other tech farm events on KWO's social media and press releases.
- b. **Public comments-** No comments from the public.
- c. **Questions and Future Agenda Items from RAC Members-** None mentioned at this time.
- d. **Messages to the KWA-** No messages to submit to KWA at this time.
- e. **Future Meetings**
 - i. GMD3 Annual Meeting: March 11 at 9am; Ulysses
 - ii. GMD3 Board Meeting: March 11 following Annual Meeting
 - 1. Regularly every second Wed of the month at 9am
 - iii. Upper Arkansas & Cimarron Regions Public Input Meeting: March 11; Ulysses
 - iv. Salt Cedar/Tamarisk Management and Control Workshop: March 19; Hamilton Co
 - v. 3I Farm Show: March 19-21; Dodge City
 - vi. Ogallala Aquifer Summit: March 31; Amarillo, TX
 - vii. Kansas Water Authority: April 14, 2020; Hutchinson
 - viii. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas: November 9-10, 2020; Wichita

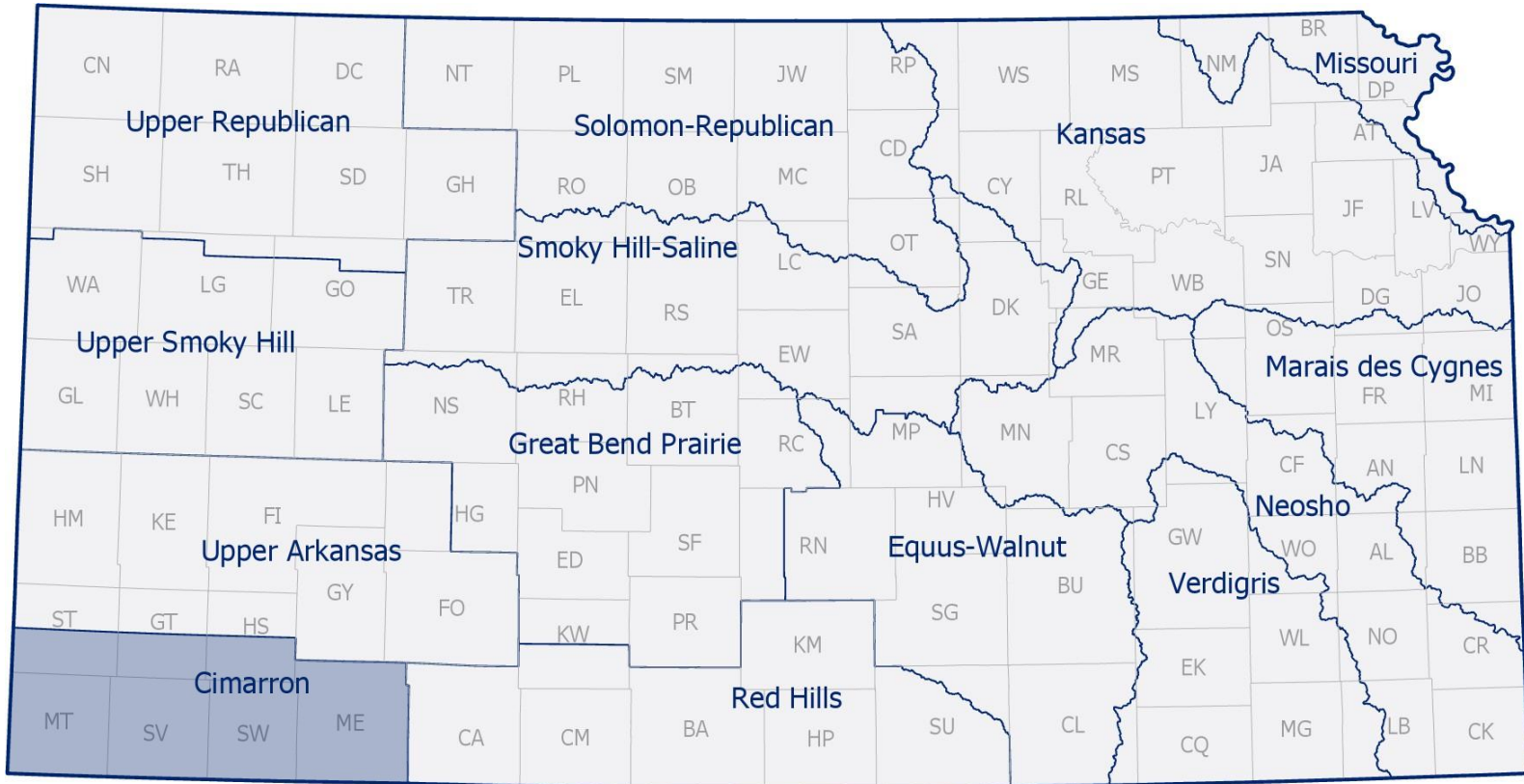
The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM (CST)

Membership: Calvin Burke (Chair), Liberal, KS; Trista Brown (Vice-Chair), Satanta, KS; Gary Boldt, Ulysses, KS; Michael Bryant, Copeland, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Luke Grubbs, Hugoton, KS; Alan Olson, Ulysses, KS; Jason Norquest, Garden City, KS; Bret Rooney, Satanta, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS

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Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee



Membership			
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Calvin Burke (Chair)	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023
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Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	2021
Alan Olson	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021
Jason Norquest	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 3	2023
Bret Rooney	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	2021
Jim Sipes	Manter, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021
Jose Rosales	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2023
Harrison Krey	Rolla, KS	Agricultural Industry	2023
VACANT	VACANT	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023

(cc) – Core Category



Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goals #1 & #2 Action Plan

Priority Goal #1: Reduce the rate of decline of the Ogallala Aquifer in the region through voluntary, incentive-based conservation as assessed every five years.

Priority Goal #2: Extend the usable lifetime of the Ogallala Aquifer in the region through technology adoption (irrigation, industrial, municipal, etc.), new crop varieties and conservation for all uses and for many generations.

Goals 1 and 2 seek to reduce water use in the region therefore the following actions apply to both Goals. Goals 3 and 4 are strategies to address Goals 1 and 2.

Action Steps

- ❖ Define and quantify the regional aquifer decline, establishing a baseline for comparison
- ❖ Work with partners, including KDA and NRCS, to develop baseline of water saving technologies in use and voluntary incentive based conservation occurring and a method to track participation. Consider using the annual water reporting system, producer surveys and other means to identify water saving efforts if needed.
- ❖ Secure funding, including statutory SGF transfer to SWPF, to support water conservation programs and evaluation of technologies, crop varieties and water management to save water.
- ❖ Provide water users with information on available tools and programs, including but not limited to; LEMAS, WCAs, Multi-Year Flex Accounts, Water Banks, Irrigation Scheduling, RCPP-Soil Probe program through GMDs, K-State Extension tools, K-State Research/farms and additional tools and programs as made available.
- ❖ Change producer perception from a “use it or lose it” mentality.
- ❖ Use demonstration projects to educate producers to economically reduce water used. (Water technology farms, LEMAS, WCAs, K-State Research and Extension farm projects and other water management and water efficiency projects can provide valuable examples and information to producers to encourage their participation in water saving efforts.)
- ❖ GMD3 and DWR work with producers to establish LEMAs and WCAs.
- ❖ Build a network of agencies, organizations, researchers, industry and producers to disseminate credible, accurate information on water use, conservation and technology, programs and tools to reduce water use.
 - ◇ Utilize K-State and others to develop technologies and crop varieties to enhance water savings methodologies and deliver information.
 - ◇ Work with producer and farm groups to reach other producers.
 - ◇ Include municipal and industrial users in outreach.
- ❖ Evaluate the effectiveness of technologies and crop varieties to develop voluntary incentives and tools to economically reduce water usage.
 - ◇ Support water technology farms (WTF) in the region for evaluation of technologies and management methods to reduce the current level of water use with a goal of at least one WTF in a water stressed area and one in a non-stressed area.
 - ◇ Develop mobile drip irrigation (MDI) statistics so funds could become available for technology upgrades through state and federal programs.
 - ◇ Work with federal partners to make additional water saving technologies eligible for federal programs.
 - ◇ Disseminate scientific and economic information on technology efficiencies and crop varieties as well as other relevant information from pilot studies, research and water technology farms.
- ❖ Use positive press releases to spread the word as WCAs are developed.
- ❖ Public water suppliers and industrial users should consider alternative uses of non-potable water and existing water supplies before developing any new water supplies.
- ❖ Public water suppliers should consider water rate structures to promote water conservation.



Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #3 & #4 Action Plan

Priority Goal #3: If individuals elect to conserve then they would be afforded flexibility (e.g. - allowing quantities to be moved, water bank movement, water conservation areas, etc.) Individuals may choose to remain with current water use but not be afforded the flexibilities.

- ❖ Increase adoption of water conservation through education by those who are currently using the technology.
- ❖ Identify existing conservation success stories and share with area producers, industry or municipalities as applicable.
- ❖ Initiate demonstration projects with willing producers in the region (technologies, crop varieties and management techniques) to reduce water use.

Priority Goal #4: As measured through increase in adoption by 50% as assessed each five years, promote the adoption of irrigation efficient technology and invest in university research to evaluate the effectiveness of such technology and crop varieties to develop voluntary incentives and tools to economically reduce water usage. Recommended strategy to achieve Goal - Increase adoption through education by those who are currently using the technology.

- ❖ Educate water users on new technologies through local papers, extension, meetings of producer groups, irrigation organizations, conservation districts, GMD3 and other means.
- ❖ Develop and disseminate results from the use of water saving tools by those who have adopted technology and management tools to economically reduce water usage.
- ❖ Use local demonstrations of technology/demo farms in region to share techniques.
- ❖ Provide Water Conservation Area (WCA) information, including dissemination with water use reports.
- ❖ Develop widespread awareness of EQIP, CRP, RCPP, CIG and other program availability and increase participation.
- ❖ Encourage improvement of municipal conservation plans, municipal rate structures and other means to encourage water use reductions.