

# Upper Arkansas & Cimarron Joint Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Upper Arkansas & Cimarron Joint Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am, Friday, January 25, 2019  
City Administrative Center, Garden City, KS

### Upper Arkansas Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Fred Jones (Chair)	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Michael MacNair	Jetmore, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Ted Boersma	Cimarron, KS	Dairy	2021	No
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Mike O'Brate	Ingalls, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	Yes
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2019	Yes
Bill Simshauser	Lakin, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	Yes
VACANT		Surface Water Irrigation	2021	

### Cimarron Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Nick Hatcher (Chair)	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Bret Rooney (Vice-Chair)	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	2021	No
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Michael Bryant	Copeland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	Yes
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	2019	No
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	Yes
Gary Boldt	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public 3	2019	Yes
Jim Sipes	Manter, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Alan Olson	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Jason Norquest	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 4	2019	Yes
VACANT		Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	

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Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; [armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov)

## Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Alexandra Geisler	KWO
Armando Zarco	KWO
Hal Scheuerman	GMD3
Roger Maddy JR	DFA
Ryan Allen	Garden City
Brownie Wilson	KGS
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Kevin Salter	KDA-DWR
Chris Law	GMD3
Shannon Kenyon	GMD4 & Upper Republican RAC
Trevor Ahring	GMD3
Mark Rude	GMD3
Steve Amosson	NPGCD
Greg Graff	KWA & GMD1
Abram Lollar	Ducks Unlimited

## Welcome and Introductions

Alexandra Geisler began the meeting at 10:15am.

## Chairs Presentation

Chairman Fred Jones took a moment to recognize Steven Hines, a member of the Upper Arkansas RAC who passed away last week. He served for many years on the RAC, and his commitment and contributions to the committee and the Upper Arkansas Region will be greatly missed. Condolences go out to all present who were close with him.

Both RAC Chairs, Fred Jones and Nick Hatcher, gave a brief presentation on committee interests and activities in their respective regions.

## Agency Reports

### Groundwater Management District No. 3 – Mark Rude:

Mark provided a brief history on the formation of GMDs; established to let local water rights holders determine their own destiny and to uphold basic water use doctrine. The district has recently been working on a revised Management Program, which goes to the Chief Engineer for approval and then gets adopted by the GMD. The most recent version is posted online, and is currently under review by the Chief Engineer.

Within the Upper Arkansas Region one of the major issues that must be addressed and brought forward to the Kansas Legislature is the Ark Valley conduit. The continued decline in the quality of the water coming into Kansas is a major concern, and the infilling of the river valley is a flood risk that could cause issues for ditches and diversions. The Western

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Water Conservation Funds are about used up, but there has been a lot of activity. A legislative report is being produced on the activities of those funds. Once that report is complete he will provide a copy for the RACs.

Within the Cimarron Region the GMD has spent a lot of money trying to address an irrigation development of 7,000 acre/ft. along the Cimarron River in Colorado, near both the Kansas and Oklahoma border. The district continues to work on this and has held public meetings for individuals from all three states, but the development is still moving forward. The approach will be to come back with strategic planning, and set goals on things that are definable and attainable with the available funds.

The GMD is evaluating issues and seeking to provide additional information to members, looking at each application and at what the aquifer is and can do.

## Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources – Mike Meyer:

Mike explained that the new Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Beam, will be working as an interim until completing the total approval process. He likes where the agency is going, and looks forward to working with the new administration within the agency. While he has met Mike Beam it was before his new role as Secretary.

Each year the office works with KGS to help measure static water levels in Haskell, Grant, Finney, Gray and Kearny County. Annual water use reports have been sent out and the deadline for those is March 1<sup>st</sup>. The push is for everyone to use the online system, and there is now a paper fee for using the traditional paper version. Approximately 20% have been submitted to date through the system, which has beaten expectations. He encourages everyone to try the online system, and if assistance is needed to go to the office or GMD for help. His office will be at Hugoton on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Library to provide assistance to those who need it.

Monte Morgan asked Mike if there is an area down close to the Oklahoma border that is still open to new appropriations, because 3-4 years ago he was told by another producer that there was. Mike's answer was that all of GMD3 is closed, but outside of that there are areas still open to appropriation if there is water available.

## Kansas Water Office – Armando Zarco:

Armando reported that a new KWO director has yet to be appointed and that Earl Lewis is still acting as Interim Director until Governor Kelly appoints one. He mentioned that the KWA Annual Report and KDA Budget Reports are now available online for the public to access. KWAs upcoming meeting is next week on Thursday, with legislative visits on Wednesday involving RAC Chairs and KWA members. Lastly he gave an update on Water Technology Farms. There are currently 10 farms in the program, and with this year's budget KWO is looking to add 3-6 more this year.

## **Kansas Geological Survey: Aquifer Update – Brownie Wilson**

Brownie explained that it is going to be hard to talk about this year's water levels, because due to bad weather annual well measurements are not yet complete. He gave an overview of the annual well measurement effort and the Kansas Index Well Program. With an explanation of the data-driven Water Balance Approach rewritten to address Net Inflow and Pumping, he covered the estimated percent reduction needed to reach stable water levels first in each RAC and then for

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each GMD. While the approach isn't perfect and isn't meant to replace numerical flow models, it allows quick assessments of aquifer responses to changes in pumping. The numbers are a general representation of the region as a whole, as there can be large variations across each region. For 2005 to 2017 the percent reduction calculated for the Upper Arkansas is approximately 19%, for the Cimarron approximately 31%, and for all of GMD3 approximately 31%. Brownie did show water-level results from this year's measurements, although it was super preliminary and incomplete.

## **North Plains Groundwater Conservation District: Master Irrigators Program – Dr. Steve Amosson**

Dr. Steve Amosson provided an in depth presentation on the development, funding, structure, content, and implementation of the Master Irrigators Program. He explained the idea and rationale behind the program and the reasons why it has been so successful. The 2019 class on year 4 for the program has already sold out, and he believes the program will continue to be successful in future years.

## *Lunch Break*

## **Groundwater Management District No. 4: LEMA – Shannon Kenyon**

Shannon Kenyon, a GMD4 staff member, provided a brief report and answered questions regarding the GMD4 LEMA. She stated that there are differences in the issues and culturally between the areas & GMDs, but that for GMD4 the LEMA has been a good thing and the overall response has been positive. She indicated that there are some interveners for the GMD4 LEMA but those are ongoing court cases that may take months or years before a resolution may be determined. She explained the process that took place in the development of the LEMA, and the changes that she has seen since it was put into effect.

## **Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) – Roger Maddy**

Roger Maddy is the plant manager at the Garden City DFA Plant. He briefly discussed the company's global reach including United States and Global target customers, and then gave an overview of the Garden City Plant. He explained the production process from the time the milk reaches to plant to the final product. In addition he covered the energy profile of the plant including water consumption, and finished by showing a video tour of the plant.

## **Ducks Unlimited**

Abram Lollar gave a short presentation on the projects that Ducks Unlimited has going on in NW Kansas. In particular, he talked about Playas and how they are in great need for duck migration through the Midwest. Lastly, he mentioned that Ducks Unlimited is interested in leasing out, or even purchasing, land for playas and would be willing to meet to discuss further.

## **Public Comments**

None

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### Future Meetings

Kansas Water Authority – January 31st – Topeka KS

Groundwater Management District No. 3 Annual Meeting – March 13th – Cimarron KS

Next RAC Meeting - April

### RAC Breakout

Upper Arkansas: The board members present requested a poll sent out for a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April

Cimarron: Short discussion on potential agenda items for the next RAC meeting. The board members presented selected Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> as the next meeting date.

**Adjourn** 3:00pm

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