

MEMO



DATE: March 1, 2021
TO: Equus-Walnut RAC and Agency Advisors
FROM: Gary Koons, Kansas Water Office
RE: March 17, 2021 RAC Meeting

900 SW Jackson St., Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.ks.gov

The meeting of the Equus Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held remotely, **March 17th**, at **9:00 a.m.**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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The main items of discussion at the RAC meeting will be regional and statewide updates from the Kansas Water Office.

Enclosed please find:

- Meeting notice
- Agenda
- Updated Goals and Action Plans

Please let me know if you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting please contact, me at gary.koons@kwo.ks.gov; by phone at (785) 296-0863 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATE(R).



**EQUUS-WALNUT
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: March 17, 2021
TIME: 9:00 am
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AGENDA DETAILS

- I. Welcome and Roll Call - Denise**
- II. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda - Denise**
- III. Kansas Water Office Updates - Gary**
 - a. Statewide issues and updates**
 - i. Staff Changes
 - ii. Legislature
 - iii. Kansas Water Plan
 - b. Regional issues and updates**
 - i. RAC Membership
 - ii. Open discussion from members
- IV. Other Business - Denise**
 - a. Public comments**
 - b. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:**
 - c. Messages to the KWA**
 - d. Future Meetings**
 - i. Equus-Walnut RAC,**
 - TBD (Issue / project-focused presentation)

Equus-Walnut Planning Region

Goal 1.

Promote sustainable balance of groundwater withdrawals with annual recharge in the Equus Beds Aquifer. Ensure safe yield and recharge rate calculations in the Equus Beds Aquifer are accurate through a district wide, integrated groundwater and surface water model.

Action Plans

- Maintain the Groundwater Management District #2 model developed by the Kansas Geological Survey 2020 (GMD 2 model).
- Utilize GMD 2 model results to support refinement of aquifer recharge rates.
- Encourage application of the revised recharge rates to support safe yield calculations within GMD 2 model boundaries.
- Support utilizing GMD 2 model results to identify areas of over-appropriation within the Equus-Walnut planning region.
- Promote an integrated approach to the management of all water resources, by non-domestic users within the Equus-Walnut planning region, especially in over-appropriated areas.
- Continue to encourage communication and collaboration between all responsible agencies and organizations tasked to accomplish these actions.

Goal 2.

Encourage the development and use of comprehensive water supply plans by major water users in the region. Plans should account for long-term supply and demand, vulnerabilities within a water supply system, and potential for improved water efficiency.

Action Plans

- Continue to support The Kansas Water Office (KWO) Assessment and Evaluation's technical assistance grant for water conservation planning while promoting additional planning assistance programs.
- Coordinate with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) -Bureau of Water and Kansas Department of Agriculture - Division of Water Resources (DWR) on a database of all public water suppliers within the Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) that includes contact information and chief responsible staff person and chief governance person for each supplier.
- The KWO will develop a survey document to ascertain the current state, practice, and plans of each public water supplier as to their long-term water supply plan, including their consideration of non-potable water and existing water supplies.
- If deemed appropriate, the results of this survey document will be made available to each public water supplier within the Equus-Walnut Planning Region.
- The RAC will work with the KWO to prepare a report to the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) that conveys the results of the survey and

identifies any further actions that may be necessary in pursuit of the goal.

- Promote a regulatory framework for the use of graywater.
- The Equus-Walnut RAC, through the KWO and others, will promote water resource conservation strategies within the region by speaking with major water users, sharing success stories and organizing informational webinars, conference presentations, and other educational opportunities.

DRAFT

Goal 3.

Implement watershed protection measures to improve the reliability and health of surface water resources in the region.

Action Plans

- Utilize targeting strategies of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) and KWO to identify appropriate locations for (best management practice) BMP programs or other watershed projects.
- Identify ways to leverage funds for BMP implementation through public and private entities.
- Support watershed education and BMP demonstration activities.

Goal 4.

Allocate necessary resources to accurately locate, characterize, prioritize and remediate contamination sites within the Equus-Beds Aquifer.

Action Plans

- Maintain an inventory of contamination sites within the Equus Beds Aquifer.
- Identify and fill data gaps associated with inventoried contamination sites. This could include lack of definition regarding vertical or horizontal extent of contamination, concentration of contaminants or the source of contamination of an identified site.
- Install additional monitoring wells and piezometers as necessary to collect data where needs are identified.
- Complete pilot studies as required to facilitate groundwater remediation feasibility.
- Develop a process to test and promote new treatment technologies that address contaminated groundwater sites within the Region and State.

Goal 5.

Increase efforts to establish sustainable, water-conserving agricultural production practices.

Action Plans

- Preserve water resources and coordinate programs to develop less water-intensive crops.
- Coordinate public/private research for the development of viable drought tolerant crops.
- Identify and support markets for less water-intensive crops.
- Support federal and state programs that evaluate new irrigation technologies.
- Promote federal and state programs that offer incentives for operators to implement irrigation efficiency improvements.
- Support agriculture workshops and field days that demonstrate water-conserving practices.