

Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

10:30 am, Wednesday, January 11, 2023

1st Floor Downtown Evergy Building 818 S Kansas Ave. , Topeka,
Kansas 66618

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Marlene Bosworth, Chair	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
Darci Meese, V-Chair	Lenexa, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Adam Bauer	Milford, KS	WRAPS	2023	Yes
Bill Heatherman	Manhattan, KS	Public Utility	2025	Yes
Brad Bradley	Overland Park, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2025	No
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2025	No
Sarah Hill-Nelson	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce	2023	Yes
Leslie Holthaus	Beattie, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Daniel Howell	Frankfort, KS	Agriculture	2025	Yes
Sylvia Davis	Topeka, KS	Water Assurance District	2025	No
Melissa Michels	Maple Hill, KS	Industry/Commerce	2025	Yes
Ian Fannin-Hughes	Overland Park, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2025	No
Vacant	Vacant	At Large Public	2023	

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Amelia Nill	KWO	Dave Jones	KDA-DOC
Angela Anderson	KWO	Erich Glave	KDHE
Matt Scherer	Public	Tom Stiles	KDHE
Lucas Kowalewski	KDWP	Mike Beezhold	KDHE

I) Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 10:32 am by RAC Chair, Marlene Bosworth (Conservation/Environment). Marlene called on each attendee to provide a brief introduction before beginning the meeting.

II) Review of October 12th meeting notes: The meeting notes from the October meeting were discussed. There was a correction of the “called to order” time. A motion was then made by Leslie Holthaus (Conservation/Environment) and seconded by Dan Howell (Agriculture) to accept these notes with the aforementioned correction.

III) RAC Business:

a. RAC Responsibility Presentation: Amelia Nill (KWO) gave a presentation reviewing the responsibilities and role of the RAC and its members. She highlighted items from the RAC

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Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

member notebook such as IPM, the typical annual schedule, and the Kansas Open Meetings Act. She stated that the RAC and its members serve as the eyes and ears for the issues and interests happening at a local level. The RAC is then responsible for communicating this to the KWO and KWA. Amelia wanted to remind the RAC of these responsibilities as the RAC begins a new year. Many RAC members chimed in with opportunities for outreach such as the Beers of the KAW event, the WRAPS groups meetings and others. It was then requested that Amelia put together a list of regional events to send out to the RAC. It was also suggested that in order to spread more information about the Kansas RAC, it would be beneficial to reach out to FSA groups in order to have a message about the RAC in their newsletter.

- b. **KBWM Discussion:** Sarah Hill Nelson (Industry/Commerce) led the RAC in the discussion about the Kansas Basin Watershed Management plan. She gave a background on this management plan, stating that this is something the Kansas RAC came up with in 2016 to address gaps and inconsistencies between water agencies in terms of information sharing and funding opportunities. She mentioned that in 2016 the RAC found that it was an issue that agencies were lacking some coordination on this front and that we are facing similar issues today that the KBWM could help to resolve. Sarah overviewed the key principles of this management strategy, highlighting that the solutions would be watershed based rather than based on political boundaries. It was stated that within the previous year's legislative session, similar solutions had been proposed and the KBWM does not propose a full reorganization of water-related agencies, but does bring them all to one table. There was discussion between RAC members about what the KBWM suggests. Bill Heatherman (Public Utility) said that it would be beneficial to take stock of the current successes we are seeing with programs such as WRAPS that is already working to elicit funding from multiple sources to apply to targeted areas. He also stated that if there are already systems in place to navigate the funding and project processes, the RAC does not need to reinvent the process. Marlene Bosworth (Conservation/Environment) replied by saying that the intention of the KBWM is to just simplify the process for those seeking out the funding and potential projects. Adam Bauer (WRAPS) brought up that it is most effective to have liaisons who are experts in the project areas that can help those producers or others. The example was given of the Conservation District offices that have staff that are well versed in the regional funding and project opportunities for producers. This discussion was concluded by Marlene, saying that the KBWM proposal could be something the Kansas RAC continues to discuss into the future and it is not necessary for any action to be taken today.
- c. **Legislative Updates:** Amelia stated that the 2023 Legislative session recently got started. She said that there is a House Water Committee again this year, bringing more attention to water. She said that it is possible for the public to watch Committee hearings live on the Legislative YouTube and that she would share that link with the RAC.
- d. **KWA Updates:** Amelia recapped the previous Kansas Water Authority meeting that took place in Colby, KS in December. She mentioned that one of the main points of discussion was the language surrounding groundwater use from the High Plains Aquifer. She said there was a discussion of how to define the groundwater use moving forward. The Kansas Water Authority settled on the effort to halt the depletion of the High Plains Aquifer. The other main point of discussion at the KWA meeting was the messages from the Missouri and Upper Republican

RACs about the proposed water transfer ‘proof of concept. The Kansas RAC requested to stay in the loop regarding future correspondence on this topic. Amelia also mentioned that the KWA recently approved the 2023 Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature, which is available to view on the KWO website.

- e. **Goal #1 Subcommittee Update:** On behalf of Darci Meese (Public Water Supply), Amelia informed the RAC that this subcommittee has continued the task of information gathering. They recently heard from Richard Rockel about reservoir operations and allocations. During Richard’s presentation to the subcommittee he brought up the USACE Reservoir Control Manuals that will need update in the coming years. He said that this would be an opportunity for the RAC to provide input. Amelia stated that she would share the Control Manuals with the group.
- f. **Goal #3 Subcommittee Update:** Adam Bauer (WRAPS) shared that the subcommittee is currently working on reviewing and editing the subcommittee’s goal. He stated that intention of doing this is to make the goal and action steps more attainable for the subcommittee and the RAC.
- g. **Additional KWO Updates:** Amelia did not have any further updates from the Kansas Water Office.
- h. **Discussion of regional events:** Since RAC members shared upcoming regional events following the RAC Responsibility Presentation, there were no further events to add here.

Agency or Public Comments: Erich Glave (KDHE) shared information with the RAC about the recent oil spill near Washington, KS. He discussed the current clean-up efforts and shared 2 links that the RAC can use to find out more information about the ongoing efforts.

IV)

V) **Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Kansas Water Authority meeting (January 25th – Topeka)
- b. Next Kansas RAC meeting (March/April – Doodle Poll)

VI) Adjourn: Dan Howell (Agriculture) made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Sarah Hill Nelson (Industry/Commerce) seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 12:57 pm.



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