

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 9 am
In Person/Virtual Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Joel Mahnken (Chair)	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2025	Yes
Michelle Wirth (VC)	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2025	No
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2023	Yes
Martin Simon	Atchison, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	No
Mike Stec	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No
Chris Griffin	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2025	No
Carl Johnson	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Lisa Montgomery	Reserve, KS	Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in KS & NE	2023	No
Brett Neibling	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
Doug Allen	Sabetha, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	No
Vacant		Fish and Wildlife	2025	
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2025	

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Connie Owen	KWO	Mike Beezhold	KDHE
Barb Oltjen	Wolf River WS	Victoria Potts	KWO
Angela Anderson	KWO	Amelia Nill	KWO
Vanessa Salazar	KDWP	Riley Vande Ven	KDHE
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO		

- I) **Welcome/Introduction:** Joel started the meeting at 9:05 am with his introduction and then Tj started with those in the room and those on the phone as well.
- II) **Approval of the Agenda:** Joel asked if everyone had reviewed the agenda and we need to approve it, John moved to approve the agenda and Carl seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- III) **Discussion of June 7th KWA meeting:** Tj brought up the KWA agenda and asked if Connie or Angela would provide more information about this meeting. Connie mentioned budget guidelines the KWA had worked on and the reason for today's meeting, RAC input on the budget. She also noted we are working with Colorado on poor water quality in the Arkansas River and the Water Quality Summit that was held in Colorado was a good first step. There will be a second meeting of this group in Kansas later in the year. The success of Water Conservation Areas (WCA) program has

Membership: Joel Mahnken (Chair)-Leavenworth, Michelle Wirth (Vice-Chair)-Kansas City, Chris Griffin - Troy, Carl Johnson -Leavenworth, John Bishop -Atchison, Martin Simon – Atchison, Jeffery Grossenbacher – Bern - Brett Neibling – Highland, Lisa Montgomery – Reserve, Doug Allen - Sabetha, Mike Stec – Atchison, **KWO Planner:** Kirk Tjelmeland, 785-368-8149; Kirk.Tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov

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given producers another way to manage their water, conserve now and use later. The Northwest Mineralization study that KDHE and Fort Hays have been working on with submission of private well samples indicated some areas of concern. She also mentioned the location for the August meeting has been set in McPherson.

IV) RAC Business:

- a. **Review of March 6th meeting notes:** Joel asked if everyone had read the notes and if there were any comments or corrections, there were none. Joel asked for a motion to approve the notes, Carl moved that the notes be accepted as written and John seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the notes were approved unanimously.
- b. **Missouri River Subcommittee:** Joel mentioned there had been some additional water in the system so hopefully utilities won't be struggling through the rest of the summer and into the fall. Tj added the release from Gavins Point had been bumped to 29,000 cfs and there will be a call tomorrow to visit about the July 1st check date.
- c. **Ag Subcommittee:** We had no one there and Carl asked about the drought, Connie had Tj bring up the national map located [here](#). Connie mentioned that KWO works with the Governor's office to put the drought declarations together however it is a moving target. Carl noted that some of the southwest had improved recently.
- d. **Education Subcommittee:** John said he had nothing for education but was glad Angela was here to provide an update to the group.

V) FY2025 Budget Discussion and RAC input:

Connie Owen, Director KWO, led this discussion with the FY2025 State Water Plan priorities located [here](#) along with the questions to be posed to the RAC. She explained the need to gather the RACs input this set of questions that will help guide their budget decisions at the August 23rd KWA meeting that will be held in McPherson. The RACs responses to these questions can be found [here](#). There was a good deal of discussion on the questions as noted by the responses. A couple of items that weren't included in the responses were PFAS and how is it be monitored or managed. Joel provided some information that water systems up and down the river had been sampling for years and none had hit the very low detection limits. Mike mentioned some surface mining that will take place in southeast Nebraska for some rare earth minerals. This could have impacts on anyone downstream, more information on this 10-year agreement can be found [here](#). Carl brought up the Arbuckle Study and Connie stated that the study is ongoing but is moving a little slower than expected. The responses were reviewed and Joel asked for a motion, John moved to approve the document allowing Tj limited editorial right, Carl seconded it and it passed unanimously.

VI) Education Update:

Angela Anderson, Planning & Outreach Lead, led this discussion with a PowerPoint located [here](#). She pointed out some Funding and Resource needs including a full-time Education person. Angela provided some examples of events this past year and the number of children and adults that had been reached by the programs, in the thousands! She also gave some examples of events that KWO would like to be part of in the future. Angela stated there is a Request for Proposals (RFP) out to identify what we know about water and then develop a program

to reach teachers and develop materials for them to use. Carl asked if 4-H's or FFA are involved in these programs since they weren't on the list. Angela stated they are part of some of the water festivals and other events.

- VII) Other Issues/Events or Agency Updates:** Mike, KDHE, brought up the summit that is currently being planned for later this year in Kansas, lots of coordination involved. He also mentioned the WRAPS SLT meetings that would be coming up this fall and he will send out a schedule for these. Vanessa mentioned the 5 mobile cleaning stations that have been moved around the state. One of the units is scheduled to be at Atchison State Fishing Lake from September to October. She encouraged everyone to stop by and take a look. Joel inquired about the status of the Technical Assistance and Infrastructure Grant programs authorized by Senate Subst. for HB 2302. Connie Owens stated the KWO was working on these, modeling them after the program established by the State of Colorado. Joel encouraged KWO to keep the program as simple as possible and, although it is not a great deal of money compared to the needs of water utilities, it will be helpful in moving in the right direction. Tj mentioned the July 20th meeting at Benedictine College that the USACE is be hosting, good opportunity to interact with the Corps.
- VIII) Public Comments:** Barb said she appreciated that watersheds were added to the sediment concerns in the RACs FY2025 budget comments.
- IX) Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were none.
- X) Upcoming Meetings:**
- a. Lower Missouri River Public Scoping Meeting, Benedictine College, Ferrell Classroom 108 July 20th 5:30 pm
 - b. KWA meeting, August 23, McPherson
 - c. Next Missouri RAC meeting Doodle Poll, late October early November in person/virtual in Leavenworth with a water plant tour following.
- XI) Adjournment of Meeting:** Joel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and all RAC members present so moved. The meeting ended at 11:10 am.