

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 25, 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
Doug Allen	Sabetha, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2025	No
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2027	Yes
Martin Simon	Atchison, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	No
Mike Stec	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2027	No
Chris Griffin	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2025	Yes
Carl Johnson	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment	2027	Yes
Brett Neibling	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2027	No
Dan Bowen	Atchison, KS	At Large Public (2)	2027	Yes
Vacant		Tribal Representative	2027	
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2027	

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Colleen Roberts	USACE	Mike Beezhold	KDHE
Chip Redmond	KSU Mesonet	Michael Hagemann	KDOT
Andy Daily	WY CO. DD		
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO		

- I) **Welcome/Introduction:** Joel started the meeting at 9:05 am with his introduction and then had those in the room and then those on the phone introduce themselves as well.
- II) **Approval of the Agenda:** Joel asked if everyone had reviewed the agenda and requested a motion to approve it, John moved to approve the agenda and Carl seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- III) **Discussion of August 23rd KWA meeting:** Tj brought up the August KWA agenda which had three water contract pieces for approval and RAC membership appointments with Dan Bowen being our newest member. Also, on the agenda was the KWA budget recommendations along with a lengthy discussion of the Hays/Russell water transfer. Tj thanked Joel for his service as RAC Chair and announced that Michelle will serve as the Chair and Doug will serve as Vice-chair both are two-year terms. **October 18th KWA meeting:** there were three water purchase contracts for review/approval, a couple new RAC member approvals, discussion of RAC Chairs reporting to the

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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KWA, discussion of the 2024 Annual Report and adjustments to make it better, Hays/Russell Water Transfer and a report from the State Association of Kansas Watersheds. Dawn (KWA Chair) wanted to make sure people were aware of the upcoming meeting dates: December 13th (Concordia) and January 24th (Topeka).

IV) RAC Business:

- a. **Review of July 12th 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 would be a winter release of 13,000 cfs which is slightly above the minimum so hopefully utilities won't struggle as much this winter. Tj added there is a Public Meeting on November 9th at the Jerry Linton Center at Smithville Reservoir starting at 11 am with the USACE reporting out current conditions and management expectations for 2024.
- c. **Ag Subcommittee:** We had no one there to report out and there was a little drought discussion that Chip will be able to provide information on.
- d. **Education Subcommittee:** John said he had nothing for education.

- V) **Missouri River Studies:** Colleen Roberts, Project Manager, led this discussion with a PowerPoint illustrating the current projects on the Lower Missouri River located [here](#). She explained there were lots of things happening on the River from the multiple studies to rip-rap placement for bank stabilization to structure repairs. Carl asked about building back levees to existing height or increasing. Colleen said there are lots of issues related to raising levees and that some of these are being looked at in the system. She mentioned the Flood Risk and Resiliency Study that had a public outreach meeting earlier this summer in Atchison. John mentioned that they just need to work with MDOT and raise Hwy 59 east of Atchison. The USACE has developed a map the length of the river that people can comment on, located [here](#). The USACE is looking at holding more public meetings in early 2024 to gather more public support for their studies. John asked about if there is anything that can be done about the ice jam? Colleen said that would be good to bring up to John Remus at the November 9th meeting. Joel asked about the bed degradation and that will or has impacted infrastructure. She commented that as part of the study bathymetry work is being completed and should help identify changes. Colleen also mentioned the idea of getting newer river data since the 20-year old data isn't reflective of what the current river looks/acts like. She provides quarterly System Plan updates that are open to the public. The next one is scheduled for January 17, 2024 at 12:00 pm information is on slide 15 of the PowerPoint.

- VI) **Looking into Winter 2023-24:** Chip Redmond, Network Manager, led this discussion with a PowerPoint located [here](#). He demonstrated how to get to the Ks Mesonet and showed a map of the rain from last night and switched to showing rainfall departures showing and how dry it is in southeast Kansas. He showed how the moisture across the state had flipflopped with the western

portion of the state having above normal precipitation and the eastern being much dryer than normal. Chip showed a map of soil moisture and how producers were planting wheat right now not under the best conditions. He showed several slides with jet stream variations and ocean surface temperatures and how those affect our weather. If the El Nino pattern holds we should be warmer and wetter than normal with chances of a polar vortex, cold blasts. Spring looks warmer and wetter for most of the State which is important for fire conditions. Carl asked if the USACE uses some of this information and Colleen thought they have predictive models that use this type of information.

- VII) KWA Budget Recommendations:** Tj handed out a copy of the KWA budget recommendations showing the line items that could have additional money added. These recommendations will be passed on to the legislators with several more steps before the budget is finalized. Time was running short so we moved on to the other agenda items.
- VIII) Grant Program:** Tj mentioned there are two grants provided through the passage of HB2303, a Water Project Fund Grants and Technical Assistance Grants with more information located [here](#). These have an application deadline of December 29, 2023 and a couple have been submitted. The other possible grant is the Kansa Water Plan Partnership Initiative with more information located [here](#) which also has a December 29th deadline and is related to RAC Goals.
- IX) Review of RAC Goal #1:** This was slated for another meeting.
- X) Other Issues/Events or Agency Updates:** Mike Beezhold with KDHE talked about the surface water program and additional funding from the State Water Plan to make this happen.
- XI) Public Comments:** There were none.
- XII) Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were none.
- XIII) Upcoming Meetings:**
- a. Missouri River Public Meeting, Smithville MO, November 9th, 11 am start time
 - b. Governor's Water Conference, Manhattan, November 15-16th
 - c. KWA Meeting, December 13th, TBD
 - d. Legislative Visits, January, Topeka
 - e. Next Missouri RAC meeting (?)
- XIV) Adjournment of Meeting:** Joel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and all RAC members present so moved. The meeting ended at 11:20 am followed by a tour of the Leavenworth South water plant.