

Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

4:30 p.m.
August 8, 2022
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Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Wes Fleming (Chair)	Burlington, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	YES
Lisa Suderman (Vice-Chair)	Hillsboro, KS	WRAPS	2023	YES
Kent Bacon	Council Grove, KS	Ranching/Grazing	2023	NO
Joe Buchanan	Council Grove, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	YES
Jay Byers	Pittsburg, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	YES
James Triplett	Pittsburg, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	NO
Brian Obermeyer	Cottonwood Falls, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	NO
Susan Hague	Cedar Point, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2025	NO
Dale Strickler	Iola, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	NO
Tisha Conard Richardson	Wilsey, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	YES
VACANT		At Large Public 3	2023	
VACANT		Industry/Commerce 2	2025	
Dean Grant		Water Assurance District	2023	YES

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Angela Anderson	KWO
Brandon Houck	KAWS – John Redmond WRAPS Coordinator
Doug Cole	KDHE - SE District
Chris Steffen	KDWP

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at by Chairman, Wes Fleming at 4:32pm.
- II. **Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Wes Fleming. There were six RAC members present, in addition to four others online in attendance.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Lisa Suderman moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Tisha Conard Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review of May 2022 RAC Meeting Notes: The meeting notes from the May 2022 meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. The meeting notes were accepted as submitted.

V. Discussion of State Water Plan Fund Webinar: The Kansas Water Office Planning and Outreach Coordinator for the Neosho Region, Angela Anderson, reviewed the material presented during the State Water Plan Fund Webinar. She indicated that the RAC was welcome to use the provided link to share individually their recommendations for budget line item support. The Neosho RAC discussed that since they were all together, they would prefer to supply a recommendation from the RAC as a whole and that their priorities were the same as the year prior.

It was mentioned that with the shortage of cost-share funds to the conservation districts for water resources and non-point source pollution, that a lot of the local environmental protection program (LEPP) sanitary systems projects are not getting support and funding.

The Neosho RAC supplied the following budget priorities:

1. Sediment/Nutrient Reduction

*Sediment Management & Reduction Technologies (KWO)

* Streambank Stabilization (KDA)

* Non-Point Source Pollution (KDA)

*BMP Implementation (KWO)

* WRAPS Program (KDHE)

* Riparian and Wetland (KDA)

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program (KDWP) – To be included for consideration as a State Water Plan Fund budget recipient rather than fee assessment through KDWP

Flood Mitigation (KWO)

* **FIRO**

* Basin storage evaluation

Education

* Water Vision Education (KWO)

* Demonstration Farms (KWO)

2. The Neosho RAC supports a 20% increase in the priority items listed.

3. The Neosho RAC supports the addition of funding for the Kansas Department of Health & Environment's LEPP program.

4. The Neosho RAC supports enhanced funding package in addition to KDHE's LEPP and the Nutrient Trading Pilot Program in the Neosho Basin and funding the administration of the program in the amount of \$150,000.

VI. Questions and Future Issues from RAC members:

Jay Byers mentioned he would like to see what priorities are for the other Regional Advisory Committees. Joe Buchanan advised that there is a strong need for RAC members to recruit other RAC members to fill the vacancies. The RACs are most effective when they wholly represent the region.

VII. Agency Input: Chris Steffen had no input, but wanted to thank the RAC for their support with the ANS funding. He will be guest speaking at the KAWS Symposium.

Doug Cole thanked the RAC for their attention and support.

Angela Anderson reviewed the upcoming meetings, specifically the Governor's Water Conference in Manhattan.

VIII. Public Input: None

IX. Adjournment: The meeting was deemed adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Future Meetings:

- **KWA – Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 10am-5pm, College Center Conference Room, KSU – Salina Aerospace & Technology Campus**
- **KWA – Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – 9am-5pm, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Manhattan**
- **Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 16-17, Manhattan**