

## Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00 am August 4, 2020

Remote

**Members in Attendance:**

Name	City	Category	Present
Mark Watts (Chair)	Medicine Lodge, KS	Industry/Commerce	Yes
Larry Mangan (Vice-Chair)	Wellington, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Yes
Suzanne Drouhard	Danville, KS	Agriculture 2	No
Clark Bibb	Coldwater, KS	At Large Public West	Yes
Jim Harden	Clark County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	No
Jeff Porter	Medicine Lodge, KS	Local Government	Yes
Tom Carr	Medicine Lodge, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Yes
Phil White	Wellington, KS	At large Public East	No
Jay Zimmerman	South Haven, KS	Conservation /Environment (cc)	No
Vacant		Fish and Wildlife	-
Vacant		Industry/Commerce 2	

**Others Attending:** Allison Herring (KDHE), Steve Frost (KDA), Cara Hendricks (KWO), Gary Koons (KWO)

**Welcome/Introductions:** Everyone was welcomed by Gary Koons. Self-introductions were made.

**RAC Business:**

Review of Meeting Notes: The meeting notes had no additions or corrections.

**Kanas State Water Plan Budget Input:**

Cara Hendricks provided a summary of the budget process and an overview of state programs related to the State Water Plan fund for SFY 2022.

Chairperson Watts lead the discussion regarding the update of the region’s goals and action plans. The Red Hills RAC supported budgeting to include conservation practices through DOC, stream gaging for improved understanding of the region’s baseflow, continued support of the produced water pilot study, funds to move the lake project forward, and identifying a state program to assist with Red Cedar invasion.

**Goal & Action Plan Update:**

The Red Hills RAC discussed progress on goals and updated language in their action steps to account for progress and new issues. Chairperson Watts highlighted progress made by independent research on the lake project.

**Goal 1.**

*Reduce water usage throughout the region. Conservation should be voluntary and encouraged to use incentive-based policies and programs.*

*Action Plans:*

- *Identify data needed to determine if and where water (streamflow or groundwater levels) downtrends are occurring for focusing water conservation efforts.*
- *Identify reuse potential in the region.*
- *Identify barriers to reuse, such as limiting factors and water quality parameters.*

- *Develop appropriate policy, programs, data or education to address barriers to reuse.*
- *Add streamflow measurements to access changes in streamflow and baseflow contributions on Elm Creek and other priority locations, preferably continuous monitoring gages.*
- *Identify and promote state program to address Red Cedar invasion.*
- *Utilize education/information dissemination as developed for the Vision and region. Should include information on water resources, stresses, conservation tools and water use.*
- *Identify barriers to conservation in this region.*
- *Work with local, state and federal programs to offer water conservation programs, including cost-share opportunities.*
- *Address water conservation by water use category.*

### **Goal 2.**

*Increase sources of supply through the use of a multipurpose small lake to meet increased demand in specific growth or need areas by 2035.*

#### **Action Plans:**

- *Determine level of support for a reservoir providing future water supply, flood control, and recreation.*
- *Gather public input on possible reservoir for recreation and future water supply.*
- *Define project and scope of work for detailed economic impact study to move ahead, if local support is sufficient.*
- *Initiate Economic Impact Study.*
- *Review Economic Impact Study and formulate future steps.*

### **Goal 3.**

*Work with oil and gas industry to have 10,000 barrels of fresh water per day recycled from oil production for regional use in the Red Hills.*

#### **Action Plans:**

- *Develop background/baseline data on the quantity of produced water, water usage and reuse in the region for use in education and development of appropriate actions.*
- *Work with industry to recycle/reuse flow back and production waters.*
- *Promote the produced water treatment project and other treatment technologies.*
- *Share results of Kansas pilot treatment project and other treatment projects.*
- *Identify sites for treated (freshwater) water storage for oil and gas industry access for fracking.*
- *Work with industry to use the lowest quality waters possible.*
- *Work with industry to reduce produced water underground injection quantities.*

The updated goals and actions plans were unanimously approved by the committee. Chairperson Watts thanked Steve Frost and Cara Hendricks for their presentations and support.

### **Other Business:**

Questions and Issues from members were addressed throughout the meeting, no additional specific questions were brought up.