

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:30 pm February 10, 2020
Medicine Lodge Kansas

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), Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome/Introductions: Everyone was welcomed by Chair Mark Watts. Self-introductions were made. New member Tom Carr was welcomed.

Kansas Water Authority:

Diane Knowles provided a summary of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meetings since in the last RAC meeting. Discussions included the water marketing rate for CY2020 approved at \$0.418/1000 gals, the appointments of new KWA members including Chairperson Connie Owens and the subsequent RAC committee appointments including regional committee chairs. It was noted that authorization to negotiate items and sign contracts and agreements was made by KWA for storage, marketing and studies. KWA also updates on Equus Bed Chloride Plume Project, an Arbuckle Study, and Performance Based Budget Task Force. The January meeting included the annual visits with interested legislators and the KWA meeting. (29 participants set up for 62 meetings). KWA heard updates and reports on capitol development, HABS, Legislative items, performance based budget, Arbuckle study group activities, Equus Beds chloride plume update, and other programs and activities across the state. It was also noted Chief Engineer David Barfield is retiring end of month as is Rob Reiske State Conservation Commission Executive Director.

Discussion occurred on various activities including water marketing, water assurance, access district, water technology farm (WTF) programs and the Arbuckle Study Group. The KWA annual report, which describes many activities and accomplishments was provided to the RAC.

Budget Process 2020: Diane reported on the KWA discussion in reference to the Performance-Based Budget Task Force. Budget task force (performance based) preliminary data on water plan contributions and distributions at county level were provided. Discussion of the information moved on to how it related to the regional action plans with initiate refinement of regional goals and actions plans. The data provided was recognized by RAC members as a good start at understanding the income and expenditures of the Kansas Water Plan Fund. Chairman Mark Watts encouraged the committee to review the budget materials and goals for the next discussion.

The budget process and recommendations through the RAC were discussed. It was noted that a Budget webinar is planned before April 14 to address budget more fully. Notice of time will be sent out to RAC member. For those unable to attend it will be recorded and posted for viewing. It is anticipated that the spring RAC meeting will provide for a review of the budget, including revenue, expenditures, and definition of line items. The June RAC meeting would be the time for RAC budget recommendations. A summer meeting will solicit budget priorities from RACs.

RAC Business

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

Vision and Regional Activities:

Produced Water Pilot: Diane reported this project is still active although the schedule has been revised and another extension from the Bureau of Reclamation for the funding obtained. The painting and reassembly of the treatment unit and truck bed is still underway. Goal is to have it in place in Kansas by March 15, run the test 60 days and have a report by KU by the end of September.

Diane reported that related to the regional produced water goals, is the convening of an Arbuckle study group at the direction of the governor. The overall objective will be to gather information on the Arbuckle formation and its ability to sustain current uses (including UIC disposal of produced water in this region). The Arbuckle has numerous uses depending on location, including Class 1 (wastewater disposal) and Class 2 (produced water disposal). The group led by KWO is now in place to define the initial scope of the study. Diane explained the makeup of the study group and need for better characterization of the Arbuckle.

Goals and Action Plans: Bobbi Luttjohann reported that KWO would be updating the Kansas Water Plan this year and revision of goals and actions would be incorporated into this revision. It was noted that one opportunity for local input is after this meeting at the public open house. Bobbi noted that the Regional Goals should be reviewed, possibly revised keeping in mind the ability of the RAC to work on them with assistance from KWO staff. The KWA will review suggestions in August and October.

Vision Discussion including Goals and Action Plans: The RAC briefly discussed each goal but did not feel ready to make firm revisions yet. Related to the Conservation goal (Goal # 1) it was noted it would be possible to assist the RAC in holding user group educational meetings. It was noted that the Lake Goal (Goal #2) should be revised to change the Engineering study to an Economic Impact Study of a New Multipurpose Small Lake based on the local coalitions work so far. Consideration is being given by the coalition to proceeding with this through WSU.

The RAC tasked itself to review the budget information and think how the regional goals fit into it.

Other Business

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

Agency Reports: KDHE - Allison Herring noted the DWR has been holding a series of hearings on the Wichita Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project as Wichita seeks to modify phase 2 of the project to divert excess river flows to groundwater storage.

Public Comments: none