

# Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

8:30 am July 14, 2023

City Hall Medicine

Lodge, Kansas

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Larry Mangan (Chair)	Wellington, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Jeffrey Porter (Vice Chair)	Medicine Lodge, KS	Local Government	2025	Yes
Mark Watts	Medicine Lodge, KS	Industry/Commerce	2025	Yes
Clark Bibb	Coldwater, KS	At Large Public West	2023	No
Tom Carr	Medicine Lodge, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Phil White	Wellington, KS	At large Public East	2023	Yes
Brandon Grigsby	Ashland, KS	Conservation/ Environment 2	2025	No
Vacant	-	Fish and Wildlife	2023	-
Vacant	-	Industry/ Commerce 2	2023	-
Vacant	-	Agriculture 2	2025	-
Vacant	-	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	-

### Others in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Lauren Campbell	KWO	Matt Unruh	KWO
Angela Anderson	KWO	Wade Kleven	KDHE
Amelia Nill	KWO	Michael Parr	KDWP

**Welcome and Roll Call:** Larry Mangan (Public Water Supply) called be meeting to order at 8:45am and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Lauren Campbell (KWO) called on each attendee for a brief introduction.

**Regional Advisory Committee Approval of Agenda:** A motion was then made by Mark Watts (Industry/Commerce) and seconded by Tom Carr (Agriculture) to approve the agenda for today's meeting. The agenda was approved as written.

**Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Tom Carr (Agriculture) and seconded by Jeff Porter (Local Government) to accept the meeting notes as written. RAC members approved the meeting minutes with no further comments.

### RAC Business

- Budget discussion & recommendations:** Matt Unruh (KWO) guided RAC members through the discussion of the FY25 budget. After providing feedback on a series of questions, a motion was made to pass on the following input to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee as recommendations for the FY25 State Water Plan Fund from the Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee by Tom Carr (Agriculture). The motion was seconded by Jeff Porter (Local Government). The RAC voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

*“The Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to pass the following feedback to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee for consideration for the FY 2025 State Water Plan Fund.*

1. *The RAC would like to highlight the following progress of note for the regional and statewide water resource issues:*
  - a. *One of the goals of the region was to reduce use of water from the oil and gas industry, but the industry has reduced as a whole which has, in turn, reduced use of water in the region*
  - b. *Continued study of the Arbuckle formation, which is an important source of information for municipalities and the oil and gas industry*
  - c. *Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI) activity on Red Cedar removal for ranchers in the region*
2. *The RAC would like to prioritize the following activities that would be most impactful for the region under the Kansas Water Plan 5 Guiding Principles and the actionable items:*
  - a. *It is very important for municipalities reduce the vulnerability to extreme events*
  - b. *Mitigation of flood hazards and updated flood maps for information for the region*
3. *The RAC would like to address the following issues and priorities as “low hanging” opportunities:*
  - a. *Increased funding for the produced water pilot*
  - b. *Increased funding for opportunities similar to the concept of the ASR project in Wichita*
  - c. *Increased education and awareness of Kansas water resources*
  - d. *City rate payment program to penalize large water volume use and encourage conservation of water*
  - e. *Prescribed burn associations education on woody encroachment*
  - f. *Targeting education to various water type users (industrial, agricultural, and municipal...etc.)*
4. *The RAC would like to address the following urgent emerging issues, priorities, and unique opportunities:*
  - a. *The Arbuckle formation*
  - b. *Red Cedar removal and other invasive woody species*
  - c. *PFAS – staffing issues to conform to regulations. This is a nationwide issue*
  - d. *Small towns in the region not able to afford putting in treatment plants to address water pollution issues. Need possible regionalization of water treatment*
  - e. *Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on Wellington Lake*

**b. KWO/KWA Updates:** In order to help provide context for the budget discussion, Matt Unruh (KWO) highlighted the budget development memo that was created by the KWA. This memo includes guidelines for the RACs’ use in developing their budget recommendations. Matt stated that the recent legislative session granted additional funding for water, allowing the KWA and the RACs more flexibility in their budget recommendations.

**RAC Member Updates:** There were no RAC member updates at this meeting.

### Agency Comments:

- a. Wade Kleven (KDHE): Reported on the drinking water protection program. He stated that KDHE is trying to spread the word to any communities that might be interested. Wade said that the WRAPS program is attempting to implement water quality improvements through adoption of programs, education & outreach, other items. Wade mentioned that the KDHE regional office in Dodge City fully staffed currently.
- b. Michael Parr (KDWP): Michael stated that KDWP is utilizing SWPF to purchase dry units to fight ANS (aquatic nuisance species). He said that KDWP will be able to move between different areas of the state to use those units. They are also sampling water to determine spread of ANS. Additionally, Michael state that KDWP is switching ANS to AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species). Finally, he said that KDWP is attempting to spread awareness of AIS throughout all stakeholder groups.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments shared at this meeting.

**Messages to the KWA:** No messages from the RAC at this time.

**Coming Up:**

- a. **Regional Event Sharing:** No events were shared at this time.
- b. **Future Meetings:**
  - i. Red Hills RAC Meeting: October/November (Doodle Poll)
  - ii. KWA Meeting: August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 in McPherson, KS

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Jeff Porter (Local Government) and seconded by Mark Watts (Industry/Commerce) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39am with no further business.



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**Membership:** Larry Mangan, Chair, Wellington, KS; Jeffery Porter, Vice Chair, Medicine Lodge, KS; Mark Watts, Medicine Lodge, KS; Clark Bibb, Coldwater, KS; Tom Carr, Medicine Lodge, KS; Phil White, Wellington, KS; Brandon Grigsby, Ashland, KS  
**KWO Planner:** Lauren Campbell [lauren.campbell@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:lauren.campbell@kwo.ks.gov) Amelia Nill [amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov)