

# Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

2:00pm October 19th  
City Hall, Medicine Lodge, KS

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Jeffrey Porter (Chair)	Wellington KS	Local Government	2025	Yes
Mark Watts (Vice Chair)	Medicine Lodge, KS	Industry/Commerce	2025	Yes
Larry Mangan	Wellington, KS	Public Water Supply	2025	No
Clark Bibb	Coldwater, KS	At Large Public West	2027	No
Alan Albers	Cunningham, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2027	Yes
Phil White	Wellington, KS	At large Public East	2027	Yes
Brandon Grigsby	Ashland, KS	Conservation/ Environment 2	2025	No
Michael Coleman	Pratt, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2027	Yes
Ted Alexander	Sun City, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	Yes
Tim Marshall	Medicine Lodge, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	Yes
Vacant	-	Industry/Commerce 2	2027	-

### Others in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Amelia Nill	KWO	Wade Kleven	KDHE
Lauren Campbell	KWO	Russell Blew	Public
Dusty Tacha	Great Plains Grassland Initiative		

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call:** Jeffrey Porter (Local Government) called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Amelia Nill (KWO) called on each attendee for a brief introduction.
- II. **Regional Advisory Committee Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as written.
- III. **Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of July 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes:** A motion was made by Alan Albers (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.
- IV. **RAC Business**
  - a. **RAC member introductions:** New and returning RAC members were given the opportunity to provide a brief introduction that included their professional background, where they live and what RAC category they represent.
  - b. **Great Plains Grassland Initiative:** Dusty Tacha presented on the Great Plain Grassland Initiative. He

described the group's mission to address the woody encroachment problem in the state as well as the areas that the group currently operates. Dusty mentioned that the GPGI has worked with several landowners within the Gypsum Hills region to carry out prescribed burns.

- c. **Woody Encroachment & Prescribed Burn Presentation/Discussion:** Russell Blew gave the RAC an overview of the Gypsum Hills prescribed burn association, stating that it is a group of ranchers/landowners that pool resources together in order to carry out prescribed burns to manage the landscape. He stated that currently this group is trying to recruit more active members to participate in prescribed burns.
- a. **Budget review & updates:** Amelia Nill (KWO) updated the RAC members on the recently approved budget recommendations from the KWA. She highlighted particular line items that RAC members had questions on as well as reviewed the process that the budget will go through to be approved.
- d. **KWO/KWA Updates:** Amelia Nill (KWO) informed the RAC of the Legislative visits that will correspond with the January KWA meeting that will take place in Topeka on January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that at the next RAC meeting, the group would review the roles and responsibilities of RAC members and the RAC as a whole.

V. **RAC Member Updates:** Michael Coleman (Fish & Wildlife) informed the RAC of Ducks Unlimited efforts to install beaver dam analogs in portions of the state. Additionally, RAC members expressed interest in learning more about water quality and pollutants in the Red Hills Region.

VI. **Agency Comments:**

- a. Wade Kleven (KDHE) further highlighted the KDHE funding line items from the recommended budget.

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

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

IX. **Coming Up:**

- a. **Regional Event Sharing:** No events were shared at this time.
- b. **Future Meetings:**
  - i. Red Hills RAC Meeting: January/February 2024 (Doodle Poll)
  - ii. Governor's Water Conference: November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, Manhattan
  - iii. KWA Meeting: December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Tim Marshall (Conservation/Environment) and seconded by Alan Albers (Agriculture) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm 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)