

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am June 7, 2022

Remote

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 | No |
| 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 | No |
| Brandon Grigsby | Ashland, KS | Conservation/ Environment (cc) | 2025 | No |
| Vacant | - | Fish and Wildlife | - | - |
| Vacant | - | Industry/Commerce 2 | - | - |

Others in Attendance:

| Name | Affiliation |
|------------------|--|
| Katie McLaughlin | Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) |
| Sara Maguire | Kansas Water Office (KWO) |

Welcome and Roll Call: Larry Mangan called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda: RAC members approved the agenda as written.

Kansas Water Office Updates

- a. **Updating Contact Information:** Sara Maguire of KWO asked that members who have not already sent in updated contact information please do so.
- b. **Statewide Updates**
 - i. **Kansas Water Plan:** Sara explained a draft of the Water Plan was posted for public comments in the fall and KWO is currently working through these comments to create a finalized document.
 - ii. **Kansas Water Authority Update:** Sara summarized the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting held on April 20, 2022. The next KWA meeting will be on June 22, 2022 in Pittsburg.
- c. **Regional Updates**
 - i. **RAC Membership:** Sara reminded the committee that there are multiple vacancies that need to be filled.
 - ii. **Open discussion from members:** Sara opened the floor for discussion from members. Larry Mangan asked about drought maps and wondered if RAC members could receive updated maps from KWO.

Agency Updates: None.

Regional Activities

- a. **Review Goals I and II:** The committee opened discussion regarding their first two sets of goals and action plans.
 - i. **Goal I:** Reduce water usage throughout the region. Conservation should be voluntary and encouraged to use incentive-based policies and programs.
 1. The group discussed the need for a stream gauge on Elm creek as there is a lack of pertinent data points.
 2. Promoting reuse is difficult until the region is experiencing drought conditions.
 3. Discussion continued with talk of irrigation in the area and how prevalent it is.

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4. It was brought up that KDOT has been dealing with red cedars, as well as other types of trees. This project needs external funding to expand. Particularly, there has not been much progress west of Medicine Lodge. The University of Kansas is working on this as well by researching prescribed burning with the use of drones, although they are waiting on grant funding.
5. Ideas regarding utility fees were thrown out by the group, including a “use more, pay more” approach to charging for water use.
6. The committee would like to see data regarding water use trends over the past 10 years.
- ii. **Goal II:** Increase sources of supply through the use of a multipurpose small lake to meet increased demand in specific growth or need areas by 2035.
 1. Mark explained the work he had put into the multipurpose lake idea to the group. He has spoken with the family that owns the land on which the lake would be best constructed and they have decided they would not care to proceed with the project. Two other prospective locations were named, although the committee agreed it is likely that neither of these would suffice.

Other Business

- a. **Public comments:** None.
- b. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** None.
- c. **Future Meetings**
 - i. **Red Hills RAC:** The next RAC meeting will be scheduled around early August.
 - ii. **KWA:** The next KWA meeting is scheduled for June 22nd in Pittsburg.

Adjourn: Larry adjourned the meeting at 11:20am.