

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

February 27, 2020, 1:00 PM
The Venue, Hays Kansas

Member Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Allen Roth (Chair)	Hays, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Holly Dickman (Vice-Chair)	Hays, KS	Large Public Water Supply	2023	Yes
Daniel Baffa	Salina, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	No
Bevin Law	Longford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
John Leiker	Ellis, KS	Small Public Water Supply	2023	No
Tom Lutgen	Salina, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Chris Meyer	Sylvan Grove, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Tim Sanders	Chapman, KS	Agriculture 2	2021	No
Timothy Scheck	Russell, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2021	Yes
Baron Shively	McPherson, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2023	Yes
Brad Shogren	Lindsborg, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes
Martha Tasker	Salina, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Jon Quinday	Russell, KS	At large Public 2	2023	

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation		
Jeff Crispin	City of Hays	Ron Graber	KSU	Bobbi Lutjohann	KWO
Ron Meyerhoff	KACD	Stacie Minson	KSU	Diane Knowles	KWO
Steven Walters	KDA/DWR	Laura Totten	USACE		
Monty Breneman	NRCS	Dan Hays	USACE		

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Allen Roth welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. New member Holly Dickman, was welcomed, as self-introductions were made.

RAC Business

Meeting notes Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) from June 2019 meeting notes reviewed. No comments were made. Motion by Martha Tasker to accept June 2019 meeting notes was seconded by Brad Shogren and carried.

Kansas Water Authority

Allen Roth provided comments on the KWA meetings in December and January that he attended since becoming Chairman. He expressed approval of the pairing up of RAC and KWA members for these meeting to inform legislators on water issues and needs.

Diane Knowles provided a summary of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meetings discussions and activities noting the appointments of new KWA members including Chairperson Connie Owens and the subsequent RAC committee appointments including regional committee chairs was made. It was noted that authorization to negotiate items and sign contracts and agreements was made by KWA for storage, marketing and studies. 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. Also noted was Chief Engineer David Barfield retiring end of month as is Rob Reschke State Conservation Commission Director

2019 annual report to governor and legislature was provided to RAC members.

Budget: Last meeting heard summary of the FY2020 and FY2021 Budget Recommendations. Diane reported on the KWA discussion in reference to the Performance-Based Budget Task Force. Budget task force (performance based) provided some preliminary data on water plan contributions and distributions at county level. Diane explained the sources of funding for the State Water Plan (SWP) Fund (fees/taxes), and shortfalls from State General Funds (SGF) and Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) of about \$78 million since 2009. For 2020 there was \$4.5 million from SGF and EDIF that were added to the SWP. It was noted the funding recommended by the Blue-Ribbon Funding Task Force was restoration of the \$8 million from SFG and EDIF and 1/10 of 1% state sales tax to fund the \$55 million annual implementation needs. The idea is to make sure SWP is tied to Action Plans. Note that producers pay through taxes, and pesticide and fertilizer fees. The Governor has stated the fund transfer from SGF and EDIF will be the same as last year, \$4.5 million.

The budget process and recommendations would be managed with the spring RAC meeting providing for a review of the budget, including revenue, expenditures, and definition of line items. A webinar will be provided prior to the April 14 KWA meeting to review the specific programs with agencies. This will be recorded and posted on the website. The June/early July RAC meeting would be the time for RAC budget recommendations. Goal to look at regional goals and action plans in regard to the budget.

Vision and Regional Issues and Activities

Update on Activities and Events

Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study overview was presented by Laura Totten (USACE). As the Smoky Hill and Saline rivers are part of the larger Kansas River system the area is part of this study. A public open house was held in Ellsworth on December 5. The final product will be a report that can be the basis for authorization of future projects and programs in the Kansas River basin.

It was also emphasized that the RAC, organizations and individuals may comment, including suggestions that will aid the area in meeting regional goals. Discussion included possible topics for RAC comments including moving water from the Missouri river west, reservoir manual updates and items that need congressional direction in order for the Corps to proceed.

Chairman Roth suggested RAC members be prepared with their comments to the next meeting.

Suggestions to Corps included meeting with agricultural groups, WRAPs groups and Conservation Districts to get input.

Lower Smoky Hill Access District update was provided by Martha Tasker who noted the District is entering its third year and has requested additional water storage by the Irrigation District. The request to purchase an additional 510

acre-feet was submitted in December, making the total for irrigation storage 3,287 acre-feet and the Access District total 11,327 acre-feet

Kanopolis update from Corps by Dan Hays covered the various construction activities at the lake/dam including repairs and replacement of structural items and debris removal. Discussion occurred on lake level control and release management.

Discussion of Vision including Goals and Action Plans

For the Smoky Hill-Saline region there are four Goals and Action plans to review and consider if revisions are needed, if any are no longer relevant or if a new goal is needed. This is part of the review of the entire vision with a goal of incorporation into the State Water Plan eventually. It is important to align the budget to the action plans. RAC members were asked to review regional goals and action plans and send ideas on needed updating to Bobbi Lutjohann.

Other Business

Agency Reports not previously covered

Division of Water Resources-Steven Walters reported that Feb.28th is Chief Engineer Barfield's last day. The search for his replacement has gone out.

KSU- Stacie Minson shared a KSU survey on agricultural and conservation practice programs that is occurring and noted WRAPs activities for the Big Creek and Smoky Hill above Kanopolis areas.

Public Comments – none

Next meeting will be in May with a doodle poll helping set the actual date.

Meeting Adjourned about 3:40 PM