

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00am, Monday, April 24th, 2023

401 South 5th Salina, Kansas 67401

Member Attendance:

| Name | City | Category | Term | Present |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------|---------|
| Holly Dickman (Chair) | Hays, KS | Large Public Water Supply | 2023 | Yes |
| Baron Shively (Vice-Chair) | McPherson, KS | Conservation/Environment 2 | 2023 | Yes |
| Daniel Baffa | Salina, KS | Conservation/Environment | 2025 | Yes |
| Tom Lutgen | Salina, KS | Industry/Commerce (cc) | 2023 | No |
| Chris Meyer | Sylvan Grove, KS | Agriculture (cc) | 2023 | No |
| Tom Breit | Utica, KS | Agriculture 2 | 2025 | Yes |
| Brad Shogren | Lindsborg, KS | Irrigation | 2025 | Yes |
| Martha Tasker | Salina, KS | Public Water Supply (cc) | 2023 | Yes |
| Rich Krause | Russell, KS | Small Public Water Supply | 2023 | Yes |
| Bevin Law | Longford, KS | Conservation | 2025 | Yes |
| VACANT | VACANT | At Large Public (cc) | 2025 | N/A |
| VACANT | VACANT | At Large Public 2 | 2023 | N/A |
| VACANT | VACANT | Industry/Commerce 2 | 2025 | N/A |

Others in attendance:

| Name | Affiliation | Name | Affiliation |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Amelia Nill | KWO | Victoria Potts | KWO |
| Kelly Stewart | KDA-DWR | Ron Graber | K-State Research & Extension |
| Jennifer Nichols | KDHE | Jay Leusman | City of Abilene |
| Laura Gray | NRCS | Lon Schrader | City of Abilene |
| Joe Billinger | City of Hays | Craig Dinkel | K-State Research & Extension |

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by RAC Chair, Holly Dickman (Large Public Water Supply) at 10:07am. She then allowed each meeting attendee to provide a brief introduction.
- Review of January 2023 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Martha Tasker (Public Water Supply) made a motion to approve the notes. Rich Krause (Small Public Water Supply) seconded the motion. The meeting notes were approved with no additions or changes.
- RAC Business:**
 - Watersheds and Carbon Sequestration:** Ron Graber (K-State Research & Extension) informed the RAC that he is one of the watershed Specialists from Research & Extension. He gave a background on the watershed specialist program and the watershed area and stated that he works with the Little Ark WRAPS, who have been working with producers in the region to implement

water quality BMPs since 2005. His presented on the efforts above Wichita to address the water quality issues seen from the intense farming in the watershed. Two of the main issues they address is atrazine in the water supply and sediment in the City's drinking water supply. Through the program that Ron presented on, there is a partnership between the agricultural players and the City of Wichita in order to have a targeted approach to improve water quality.

- b. **BMP Resource Document Discussion:** Amelia Nill (KWO) brought up the Producer's BMP Guide that was initially developed for the Kansas Region. Amelia described the work she has done on the document in order to adapt it to the Smoky Hill Saline Region. She asked for feedback from the RAC members on her current progress and anything that needed to be added. Some RAC members provided suggestions on changes to the document. Amelia stated that she will continue to work on the updates for this document and will plan to present it again at a later RAC meeting with the hopes of eventually publishing it to the Smoky Hill-Saline RAC page on the KWO website.
- c. **RAC Goal Implementation:** Amelia led the RAC members through the RAC Goal Implementation spreadsheet beginning with their goal #1. The RAC members looked at each action step to determine whether progress had already been made on it, what information is still needed in order to make progress on it, and who are the necessary groups that need to be involved with the action step. This information was then inputted into the spreadsheet and the RAC members then identified a timeline to associate with each action step and when it would ideally or should have progress made on it. After going through goal #1, the RAC members decided that in the interest of time for this meeting, they would continue going through the remaining goals at the next RAC meeting.
- d. **Legislative Updates:** Victoria Potts (KWO) gave an overview of the 2 recently-signed bills that came out of this year's legislative session, HB 2302 and HB 2279. Victoria described that HB 2302 allocates more money (\$35 million) to the SWPF. Some of this money is shared into new grant funds, run by the KWO. Additionally, she stated that \$52 million was allocated to pay for the Milford and Perry Reservoirs debt. She went onto describe HB2279, which increases GMD reporting requirements.
- e. **KWO/KWA Updates:** Amelia mentioned that the KWA recently met on April 19th in Kansas City, Kansas. She stated that the KWA had requested that the RAC's take a look at their goals and determine what are the current priorities, so that should be on the RAC's radar. Additionally, Amelia said that the RAC membership drive will be opening up this summer. Any current RAC members with expiring terms will be notified and given instruction on how to reapply if they wish to do so. The last KWO update Amelia mentioned, was that the next round of RAC meetings will be the budget input meetings, so RAC members should take time to review goals and priorities before that time. Those meetings will likely take place the end of July or start of August.
- f. **Discussion of Regional Events:** Holly Dickman mentioned that the WaterSMART tour would be taking place in Hays tomorrow, April 25th.

4. **Agency or Public Comments:** Kelly Stewart (KDA-DWR) shared that the Region is unfortunately very low in flows this year. He stated that Kanopolis Lake is 2ft below Conservation Pool levels and Wilson

Lake is 1 ft below Conservation Pool levels. He said that this may result in MDS conditions at Ellsworth. And other MDS conditions may be seen in other parts on the Region as well. Jennifer Nichols (KDHE) shared with the RAC that there is an increase in state funds for education and outreach for the private well program. She stated that the LEPP program is in their budget this year. She shared the resources they are using for this program and described that private water well testing is being done to meet water quality standards.

5. **Upcoming Meetings:** The next Smoky Hill-Saline RAC meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll. This will likely take place in July or August 2023.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 12:22pm.