

# MEMO



DATE: May 19, 2020  
TO: Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Members  
FROM: Josh Olson  
RE: June 2, 2020 GoTo Meeting and Conference Call

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The Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be having a GoTo Meeting and conference call on **Tuesday, June 2 at 9:00 am**. Call-in details are below.

**Join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/180293613>

**Join by phone:**

Dial: +1 (224) 501-3412  
Access Code: 180-293-613

The meeting will primarily be a review and discussion of Solomon-Republican RAC Goals and Action Plans. There will also be a brief review of a recent RAC informational budget webinar and regional budget summary provided by the KWO.

Enclosed are the materials for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the February 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- Draft RAC Goals and Action Plans
- Regional Budget Summary

If you cannot participate, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (715) 607-0724 or by e-mail at [josh.olson@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:josh.olson@kwo.ks.gov).



## MEETING AGENDA

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020

**TIME:** 9 am

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### AGENDA DETAILS

**I. Welcome/Introductions**

**LOCATION:**

**II. Review of February 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes**

**III. RAC Business**

- a. Review of RAC Informational Budget Webinar (slides [here](#)) and KWO regional budget summary
- b. Review and revision of Goals and Action Plans

**IV. Agency or Public Comments**

**V. Upcoming Meetings**

- a. **Next KWA meeting (June – Conference Call)**
- b. **Next Solomon-Republican RAC meeting (July – Doodle Poll)**

**VI. Adjourn**

\*Public Comments are limited to 3-5 minutes and limited to issues related to regional goals, action plans or other water resource issues or concerns.

# Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

2 pm, Monday, February 24, 2020

Phillipsburg City Office, 945 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Phillipsburg, KS 67661

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Timothy Driggs (Chair)	Phillipsburg, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Keli Habiger (Vice-Chair)	Phillipsburg, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2023	No
Donald Hellwig	Solomon, KS	Agriculture	2021	No
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2021	No
John Cockerham	Osborne, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Raymond Debey	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No
Rhonda Coffman	Agenda, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Robbin Dibble	Alton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Stanley Kats	Prairie View, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Terry Nelson	Phillips County, KS	Irrigation West	2021	Yes
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2023	No

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Lynn Davignon	KDWPT	Mark Billinger	KDA-DWR
Tim Weltmer	USDA	Chris Steffen	KDWPT
Josh Olson	KWO	Cara Hendricks	KWO
Laura Totten	USACE	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Tim Driggs, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm asking everyone to move up to the big conference table, self-introductions were given around the room. Josh Olson will be assuming the planner role for the RAC gave a little background information. Only 3 members were present so there was no quorum.
- II. **Review of Legislative Visits January 28<sup>th</sup>:** Tim mentioned that he thought these went well and most of the legislators were very receptive to the visits and discussion of water issues. Tj added that the idea of fully funding the State Water Plan was heard often that day and a couple other days at the Capitol.
- III. **RAC Business:**
  - a) **Review of October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting notes:** Tim asked if everyone had seen these and if there were any additions or corrections, there were none. They stand approved as written.
  - b) **Review of the December 19<sup>th</sup> KWA meeting in Salina:** Tim mentioned the Equus Beds Chloride plume-produced water contamination of groundwater, performance-based budget and the Arbuckle study being some of the standout items.

- c) **Review of the January 29<sup>th</sup> KWA meeting in Topeka:** Tim mentioned that the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) presentations, Arbuckle and Equus Study/Update were memorable. Governor Kelly stopped by at spoke a few encouraging words on water at the meeting.

**IV. Update from the USACE on the Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study:** Laura, from the USACE, gave an update on the study which can be found [here](#). She mentioned the three partners had developed a Shared Vision statement to address several issues; Flood Risk Management, Sediment loading in reservoirs, Reduction of flood storage and water supply availability, Water quality issues and Drought. She stated that drought especially in the west is just as big of a problem as flooding in the east. Laura shown a couple slides with past outreach meetings that have been held and a list of potential meetings. Offering that they are willing to meeting with groups or individuals about the study. She mentioned the Kansas RAC had submitted a comment letter and the Solomon-Republican RAC is welcome to do the same if they have issues related to the study. A webpage has been constructed on the KWO website and can be found [here](#) that lists important information about the study and is the place to submit comments. Laura mentioned Water Injection Dredging (WID) as a possible method to help with sediment removal in Tuttle Creek Reservoir. Designed to fluff the sediment which is then passed through the tubes and sent downstream. She also mentioned this is not an implementation study and that those projects would come later. This study will ultimately speed up the process for implementation projects. Chris asked how the Bureau and Corps interact, Laura stated that the USACE takes over operations when flooding is occurring. Laura then reviewed the schedule for the project mentioning that some of the date are approaching quickly. If anyone has questions feel free to contact; Laura, Josh or Tj.

**V. Review of Budget Information/Water Plan:** Cara, Assistant Director, her presentation is available [here](#). This information was presented at the January 29<sup>th</sup> KWA meeting and is meant to inform the RACs on the budget process. Cara talked about where the funding comes from for the State Water Plan (SWP) Fund (fees/taxes), shortfalls from State General Funds (SGF) and Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) about \$78 million since 2009. For 2020 there was \$4.5 million from SGF and EDIF that were added to the SWP. She stepped back to talk a little about the Vision and funding recommendations by the Blue-Ribbon Funding Task Force, 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. She showed a slide of water use, mostly municipal east and irrigation west. She stated the idea behind this is to look where SWP revenue is being generated and where that revenue is being spent. There was also a breakdown of the funding into 5 areas to better see where the funding is going for each county. This was compiled to put funding/region as well. The idea is to make sure SWP is tied to Action Plans. There was some discussion on Aid to Conservation Districts and how that it is a blended fund and this should be broken out to give a more accurate picture. Cara also mentioned there will be a webinar where the agencies will be providing more information on how these particular funds are being used. No date has been set yet. The idea behind all this budget information is to get the RACs better informed so they can provide more informed budget input in June.

**VI. Review of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS):** Chris, from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) led this discussion and his presentation is available [here](#). He gave a little background on ANS and that they could be considered “Biological Pollution.” He serves as the ANS coordinator following the ANS plan approved by the Governor in 2005. Cara asked if that had been updated since and Chris answered no, because we could miss out on federal funding while the plan is being considered for

approval. He talked about the spread of ANS through ballast water, boat trailers and even “pet” releases. He mentioned that world wide ANS is costing \$137,000,000,000 or %5 of the global economy through clogged lines, higher utility bills and even diminished property values. ANS can be dangerous and even deadly stating the Asian Carp that jump when disturbed and inflict injuries since they can reach 70 lbs. Chris talked about the spread of phragmites and the dangers to duck hunters or individuals becoming disoriented in a dense growth. He has a budget of \$250,000 budget to address all ANS across Kansas stating that prevention is the cheapest solution. Surrounding states are spending millions of dollars on ANS and Kansas wants to be a good neighbor by doing its part. Zebra mussels are the number one priority. Originating in the Black or Caspian Sea and transported in ballast water to the great lakes in 1986. The larvae are microscopic and a single adult can produce a million offspring a year, very difficult to control. Laura asked if ducks spread them, Chris answered no. Terry asked about how many lakes in Kansas were infested, Chris said 32 with one smaller lake last year. However, the 32 include the larger water bodies in Kansas which accounts for 85% of the surface acres. He showed a slide of Kansas with the infested waters, mentioning that there are pockets in the northwest and southeast that the reservoirs haven’t been infested. The 2006 photo of El Dorado Reservoir was eye opening will all the mussels 3-5” deep on every hard surface. Water intakes are especially attractive to the mussels and there have been instances of reduced firefighting capabilities. Chris talked a little about the Platte River diversion to the Republican River with the possibility of contamination by white perch and Asian Carp. He mentioned the Bowersock Dam has provided protection to the rest of the Kansas River above the dam, only 6 Asian Carp made it over the dam in 1993. The Kansas River near its confluence with the Missouri River has reached an Asian Carp density similar to the Illinois River. These fish are plankton feeders and have impacts on others fish that depend on the same food source. Chris stated that another mussel species of concern is the Quagga mussel. These will out compete our native mussels do even better than zebra mussels in our aging silt bottom reservoirs. He mentioned there are several other species that will be impacting the state and we have to stay vigilant. There are some potential funding sources on the horizon that will require some state matching funds.

- VII. Update on the Milford Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Tj showed a presentation that is available [here](#), that was given at the February Jewell County Annual Conservation District meeting. The RCPP is off to a good start with over 20,000 acres enrolled last year in practices to reduce phosphorous loading into Milford Reservoir by 31,000 lbs. One of the slides showed the practices to be implemented in 2020 illustrating a lack of practices in Clay County. Targeted mailing will be delivered to that area along with other outreach. The 30+ partners are assisting producers financially to help develop better soil health and help their bottom-line buy funding some of the practices up to 90%. Funding may be used up before the 5-year program is over so producers are encouraged to apply now.
- VIII. Vision Public outreach Meeting:** Tj explained the meeting will be an open house format so people can come and go as they please. Tim was curious about how many people to expect and it was mentioned the other meetings had not drawn very many people. The meeting will be held in the same location as the RAC meeting, Phillipsburg City Office. No one came for the public meeting.

**IX. Agency or Public Comments:** Terry mentioned the goose problems at Harlan County Reservoir and the disgusting foam/slim and shared photos with the group. He also did not want the farmers blamed for the nutrient loading, sighting the Tyson plant not being located in Concordia because of possible HABs in Milford Reservoir.

**X. Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Kansas Water Authority, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Hutchinson, KS
- b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (April)
- c. Tim adjourned the meeting with no further business at 4:50 pm.





## **Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #1 Action Plan**

**Priority Goal #1: Within the next two years, develop a clearinghouse of technical tools, agreements and agency personnel for use alternatives for Solomon-Republican region waters. An example could be the marketing contract for Keith Sebelius Reservoir/Almena Irrigation District that reached agreement to convert irrigation to recreation use.**

### **Action Steps**

- ❖ Support KDWPT in their effort to renegotiate the Keith Sebelius Reservoir Minimum Pool Agreement with the Almena Irrigation District.
- ❖ Use the Keith Sebelius contract as a model for negotiations on other BOR Reservoirs (Kirwin, Webster)
- ❖ Use KBID's knowledge on capturing BOR grants to help improve Webster and Kirwin irrigation efficiency.
- ❖ Exhaust all possible funding sources necessary to improve water efficiency.
- ❖ Work with KDWPT on an economic study to determine the value of keeping as much water in the Western Reservoirs as possible.
- ❖ Initiate a meeting with USF&WS on Kirwin Reservoir facilities and KDWPT's involvement.
- ❖ Investigate the benefits of raising the Conservation Pool at both Kirwin and Webster.



## **Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #2 Action Plan**

**Priority Goal #2: Reduce inbound sediment loads, through conservation measures, with a focus on White Rock Creek to Lovewell Reservoir, by 25% every 10 years.**

### **Action Plan**

- ❖ Use KDHE to evaluate sources of sediment entering Lovewell Reservoir.
- ❖ Use Kansas and Nebraska data to evaluate suspended solids and nutrients.
- ❖ Use data to evaluate the effects of the Courtland Canal on Reservoir loading.





## **Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #3 Action Plan**

**Priority Goal #3: Complete a bathymetric assessment every 10 years on all reservoirs in the Solomon-Republican Region. This goal will be a tool to periodically monitor sediment accumulation and rates. If sediment loads exceed 10%, actions should be initiated to determine the source watersheds and remedies within a twelve month period from assessment report.**

### **Action Plan**

- ❖ Work with KBS to complete bathymetric survey of Waconda Reservoir.



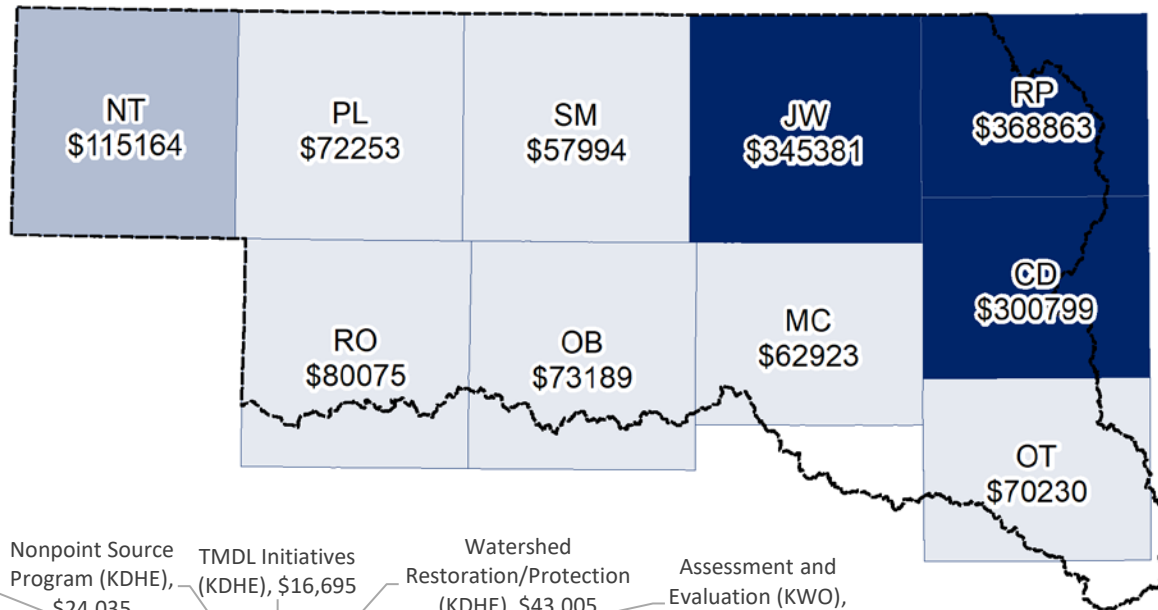
## **Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #4 Action Plan**

**Priority Goal #4: Continue initiative that will maintain, and annually fund a Kansas Administrative Team to facilitate Republican River Compact (RRC) compliance by 2015. An annual report of progress and activities should be prepared and presented to the Republican-Solomon Regional Advisory Committee.**

### **Action Plan**

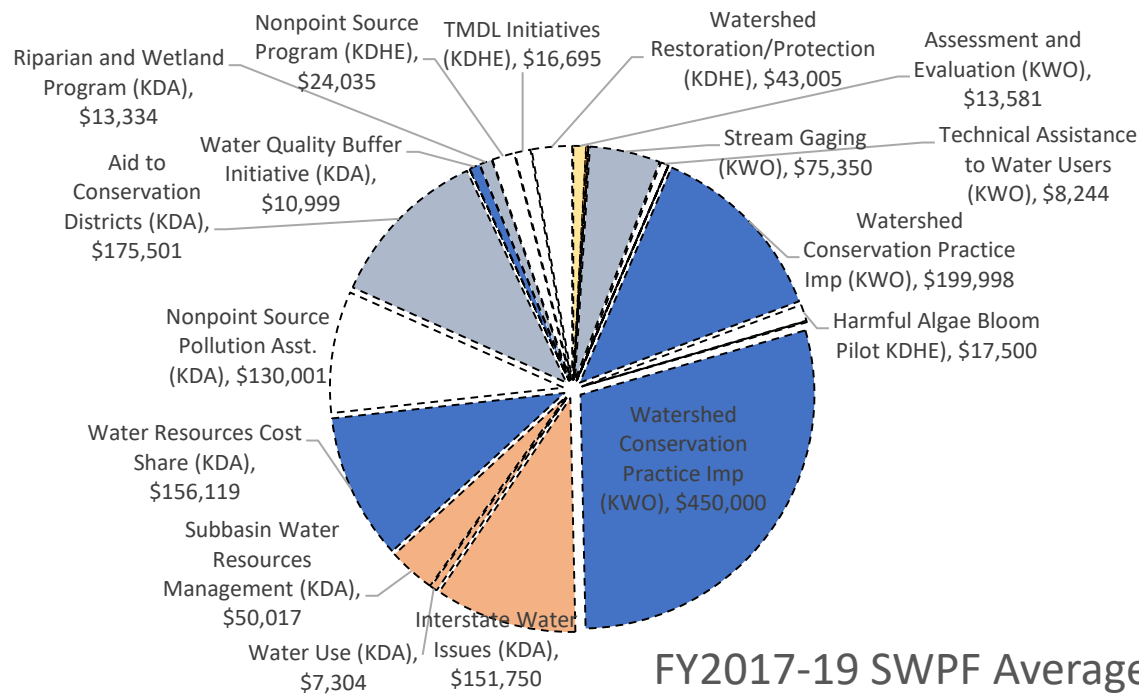
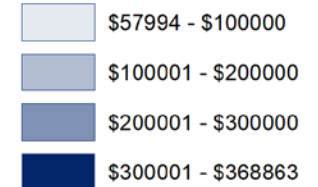
- ❖ Quarterly presentation by KWO staff on RRC outcomes.

# Solomon-Republican RAC State Water Plan Expenditures FY 2017 - 2019



## County SWPF Distribution

### Total



FY2017-19 SWPF Average

Sources:  
Kansas Dept. of Agriculture  
Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment  
Kansas Water Office  
Kansas Dept. of Revenue

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Reservoir Water Supply & Sedimentation - State Water Plan Fund Budget

Issue: Increasing of water supply liabilities. Reservoirs are filling with sediment, leading to increased water quality issues and reduction in water supply for Kansans.

Prevention

Monitoring  
& Study

Response

Program	Description	RAC Avg. Expenditure FY17-19	KWA FY 2021 Requested	FY 2021 Appropriated	FY 19/20 metric	FY 2022 Goal	Cost Share Funding	Full Funding Need	RAC Goals Supported
Interstate Water Issues (KDA)	Administration and enforcement of interstate compacts.	\$ 151,750	\$ 490,007	\$ 490,007					Supports RAC Priority Goal 4,
Water Resources Cost Share (KDA)	To increase implementation of best management conservation practices that reduce sediment, phosphorus and other specified pollutants in high priority HUC 12 watersheds. Also increasing the implementation of practices that aid in the conservation of surface and ground water through the adoption of irrigation technology such as soil moisture probes.	\$ 156,119	\$ 2,448,289	\$ 2,698,289			Yes		Supports RAC Priority Goal 2,
Aid to Conservation Districts (KDA)	To maintain and enhance conservation district operations by addressing annual inflationary costs. This enhancement provides opportunities for matching by county governments as per K.S.A. 2-1907b.	\$ 175,501	\$ 2,192,637	\$ 2,342,637			Yes		Supports RAC Priority Goal 2,
Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst. (KDA)	To implement additional soil health education activities in 105 county conservation districts as well as increasing landowner/operator scholarships to soil health educational seminars such as the annual No-Till on the Plains conference. Additional technical assistance in high priority areas through the use of contribution agreement conservation technician positions in partnership with NRCS.	\$ 130,001	\$ 1,857,836	\$ 1,857,836			Yes		Supports RAC Priority Goal 2,
Subbasin Water Resources Management (KDA)	Works to improve enhanced basin-level water management through the gathering and analysis of water right and hydrologic data, and the development of decision support products to help state and local stakeholders make sound water management decisions	\$ 50,017	\$ 608,949	\$ 608,949					Supports RAC Priority Goal 4,
Watershed Restoration/Protection (KDHE)	WRAPS contributes to the Kansas NPS Management Plan through the implementation of a voluntary targeted watershed-based program funded by CWA 319 and State Water Plan Funds. This program is unique because it works to seek citizen and stakeholder input and participation on watershed management and protection issues.	\$ 43,005	\$ 730,884	\$ 730,844			Yes		Supports RAC Priority Goal 2,
Assessment and Evaluation (KWO)	Used to contract for a variety of data collection and studies. The overall objective of the program is to provide the water planning and vision process with the background information necessary to make decisions and improve implementation.	\$ 13,581	\$ 700,000	\$ 829,900					Supports RAC Priority Goal 1,
Stream Gaging (KWO)	Support the continuous monitoring of streamflows on key streams and rivers in Kansas. The information serves multiple purposes, public and private entities, and the general public.	\$ 75,350	\$ 423,130	\$ 423,130					Supports RAC Priority Goal 2,
Watershed Conservation Practice Imp (KWO)	Implementation of BMPs for sediment reduction from agricultural lands and supporting streambank stabilization activities. Goal of reduced sedimentation rate for Water Marketing Program public water supply reservoirs	\$ 450,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000			Yes		Supports RAC Priority Goal 2,

End Goal or Policy Intent: Increased water security. Extend the usable lifetimes of public water supply and flood control reservoirs, to protect future water supply for Kansans.