

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
 10 am, Thursday, July 29, 2021
 Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room, 240 W. US Highway 24 Downs, Kansas

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	Yes
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2021	Yes
John Cockerham	Osborne, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Raymond Debey	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Rhonda Coffman	Agenda, KS	At Large Public	2023	Yes
Robbin Dibble	Alton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Stanley Kats	Prairie View, KS	At Large Public	2023	Yes
Terry Nelson	Phillips County, KS	Irrigation West	2021	Yes
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2023	Yes
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2023	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Connie Owen	KWO	Lynn Davignon	KDWP
Cara Hendricks	KWO	Laura Totten	USACE
Matt Unruh	KWO	Kelly Stewart	KDA-DWR
Josh Olson	KWO	Steve Frost	KDA-DOC
Debra Jones	KWO	Travis Sieve	KDHE
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO	Jennifer Nichols	KDHE
Amelia Nill	KWO	Bradley Cox	Almena Irrigation District
Chris Steffen	KDWP	Craig Ingram	Almena Irrigation District
Mike Nyhoff	KDWP	Steven Cox	Almena Irrigation District

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman, Tim Driggs (Public Water Supply), called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Attendees both online and in person introduced themselves.
- II. **Review of May 27th Meeting Notes:** Tim asked if everyone had seen the May 27th notes and if there were any additions or corrections, there were none. Don Hellwig (Agriculture) made a motion to approve and Robbin Dibble (At Large Public) seconded. The notes were approved with no additions or corrections.

III. RAC Business:

- a. **FY22 SWPF Budget Update:** Cara Hendricks, Assistant Director KWO, led the discussion with a PowerPoint highlighting the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) appropriations for 2022. Cara reviewed how the SWPF is utilized and funded as well as the \$8 million transfer. Cara also described the programs that are funded through the SWPF and which agency they are operated by. One line item Cara noted was the addition of a Soil Health Program operated by KDA. Cara ended her presentation by bringing up the RAC's previous year's FY22 budget recommendation memo as a reminder of the programs supported in the past.
- b. **FY23 RAC Budget Recommendations:** Amelia Nill (KWO) displayed the FY22 RAC Budget Recommendations memo from the previous year to provide as a starting point for discussion. Ray Debey (Agriculture) stated that the significant amounts of sedimentation coming from roadways and ditches needs to be addressed. It was suggested that this could be addressed through the streambank stabilization programs. Craig Ingram (Almena Irrigation District) brought up the district's need for the implementation of a streamgage above the diversion dam and encouraged the RAC to include this within their budget recommendations. Robbin provided a suggestion to include support of funding for aid to conservation districts. After some discussion about language of recommendations, the RAC decided to continue support for funding of the Vision Education Strategy, Milford Lake Watershed RCPP, HAB Pilot, Nonpoint Source Pollution programs, and Water Resource Cost Share. Additionally, the RAC added recommendations of increased funding for Streambank Stabilization with specific attention to erosion and sedimentation of roadways and ditches, support of research for funding a streamgage above the Almena Irrigation District diversion dam and continued funding for aid to conservation districts. A motion was made by Terry Nelson (Irrigation West) and seconded by Robbin to approve the FY23 RAC Budget Recommendations. The motion was voted on a passed unanimously.
- c. **Almena Irrigation District Project Updates:** Craig Ingram (Almena Irrigation District) gave a presentation on the operation and activities of the Almena Irrigation District. He provided an overview of the history of the district as well as an update on recent projects. Craig emphasized the importance of streamgaging within the Almena Irrigation District.
- d. **Water Rights Overview:** Kelly Stewart (KDA-DWR) presented an overview of the history and operation of water rights within the state of Kansas. Kelly also covered the role of KDA-DWR in regard to water rights. Terry expressed concern for the over-pumping fine process, which led to a discussion about the fine process and Kelly providing some additional information in response.
- e. **Additional KWO Updates:**
 - i. Kirk Tjelmeland (KWO) provided the RAC with an update on the RAC membership process. He said that RAC membership applications will be taken to the RAC Operations Committee for review. Once reviewed, all RAC applicants will be notified of their status.

- ii. Matt Unruh (KWO) gave an update to the RAC on the current status of the Kansas Water Plan update. He mentioned that KWO staff are working to have a draft ready to present to the KWA at their upcoming meeting in August. Pending KWA approval, the Kansas Water Plan will then be open for public comment.

IV. Agency or Public Comments:

- a. Jennifer Nichols (KDHE) provided the RAC with information on the mineralization study for northwest Kansas. She mentioned that there will be a Kansas Environmental Conference on HABS online.

V. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority, August 17th, (Garden City, Kansas & GoTo Meeting)
- b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (November)

VI. Adjourn: Don made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mike Brzon (At Large Public) seconded. Tim adjourned the meeting with no further business at 12:23 pm.