

**Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**  
 10 am, Tuesday, December 14, 2021  
 Go To Meeting

**Members in Attendance:**

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Donald Hellwig, Chair	Solomon, KS	Agriculture	2025	Yes
Raymond Debey, V-Chair	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Timothy Driggs	Phillipsburg, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	No
Keli Habiger	Phillipsburg, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2023	Yes
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2025	No
Rhonda Coffman	Agenda, KS	At Large Public	2023	Yes
Robbin Dibble	Alton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
Stanley Kats	Prairie View, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Sharon Sahlfeld	Beloit, KS	At Large Public	2025	Yes
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2023	No
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2023	Yes

**Others in attendance:**

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Amelia Nill	KWO	Kristin Kloft	KDA DOC
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO	Travis Sieve	KDHE
Lauren Campbell	KWO	Dawn Buehler	KWA

**I. Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman, Don Hellwig (Agriculture), called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Don introduced himself to the RAC as the new Chairman and Ray Debey (Agriculture) introduced himself as the new Vice Chairman. Don then gave Sharon Sahlfeld (At Large Public) time to introduce herself to the RAC as a new member.

**II. Review of July 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes:** Don (Agriculture) asked if everyone had seen the July 29<sup>th</sup> notes and if there were any additions or corrections, there were none. Ray Debey (Agriculture) made a motion to approve and Rhonda Coffman (At Large Public) seconded. The notes were approved with no additions or corrections.

**III. RAC Business:**

**a. Streambank Stabilization:**

- i. Kristin Kloft (KDA-DOC) gave a presentation to the RAC on the practices of streambank stabilization. She described the agencies and partners that are involved in the stream team, how project locations are selected, and the process of actually stabilizing the streambanks. At the end of Kristin's (KDA-DOC) presentation, Don (Agriculture) asked how the payment process works. Kristin (KDA-DOC) stated that the team tries to keep smaller projects at \$10,000 or less and that they cover up to 80% of project costs.
- b. Recent Success in Kansas Water:**
  - i. Dawn Buehler, Chair of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA), presented to the RAC the recent successes seen in Kansas Water. She discussed several different projects from Water Injection Dredging, Streambank Stabilization, Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative to many others that have seen successes in funding, project implementation, ecosystem protections and other valuable ways. Dawn (KWA) also touched on the important role that partnerships have played in achieving these successes. She encouraged the RAC members to continue advocating and educating within their area in order to continue to see successes in Kansas Water.
- c. Black Vermillion Water Quality Success Story:**
  - i. Travis Sieve (KDHE) gave a presentation to the RAC on the success seen in improving the water quality of the Black Vermillion. He described the partners involved in this project as well as the strategies of their management plan. Travis stated that by implementing soil health/regenerative agricultural practices and focusing on nutrient management within the watershed, they were able to achieve their goal of improved water quality. With the improvement of water quality, they have seen enhancements in the health of the aquatic life and the surrounding ecosystem. Lauren Campbell (KWO) asked if they have direct contact with the farmers and what was the biggest hindrance to implementing new practices for this project. Travis (KDHE) said that the Conservation District managers and the WRAPS coordinators are the main points of contact and that the hardest part was asking people to make a change. He said this was mitigated by starting small and encouraging farmer to farmer interactions. Dawn Buehler (KWA) stated that she liked the highlighting of the partnerships in this project and that they are usually the backbone to success.
- d. Kansas Water Plan Update:**
  - i. Amelia Nill (KWO) stated that the Kansas Water Office is currently in the process of incorporating the feedback received from the public comment period. The KWO had initially planned to present the new draft, with the public comment feedback included, at the December 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Water Authority meeting, but the KWO had received many more comments than originally anticipated. The KWO is taking adequate time to address each comment appropriately. The KWO is working now to finalize a new draft to present at the January KWA meeting.
- e. Additional KWO Updates:**
  - i. Amelia (KWO) provided the RAC with updates regarding recent events of the Kansas Water Office. She mentioned that the Governor's Water conference had recently occurred

in mid-November and that the recordings for the conference are available on the KWO's website. Next year's Water Conference is scheduled to be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Manhattan Kansas. Amelia (KWO) also mentioned the recently held RAC training webinar. She stated that the power point and the recording from that webinar are also available on the KWO website. Another event Amelia (KWO) discussed is the Water Tech Expo that is scheduled to take place on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Garden City. Finally, Amelia (KWO) told the RAC to be on the lookout for more information regarding the upcoming Kansas Water Authority meeting and the adjoining Legislative visits. Both of these events are to take place on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in Topeka. She encouraged all to attend the KWA meeting and participate in the Legislative visits. Don gave a recount of his experience participating in the Legislative visits.

**IV. Agency or Public Comments:** No agency or public comments were given at this time.

**V. Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Kansas Water Authority, January 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, (Topeka, Kansas & GoTo Meeting)
- b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (February)

**VI. Adjourn:** Don (Agriculture) adjourned the meeting with no further business at 11:19 pm.