

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm

Thursday, January 13, 2022

GoTo Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
John Ditmore (Chair)	Coffeyville, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Bob Culbertson (Vice Chair)	New Strawn, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Doug Blex	Independence, KS	WRAPS	2023	Yes
Ken McNickle	Mound Valley, KS	Public Water Supply	2021	No
Harold Engle	Madison, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Brian Graff	Neodesha, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	No
Gary Kelley	Sedan, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
John Black	Howard, KS	Agriculture	2023	Yes
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	Yes
Pamela Walker	Altoona, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
VACANT		Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Lauren Campbell	KWO
Pam Walker	Wilson County Conservation District
Scott McCrone	Tulsa District USACE
Eugene Goff	Tulsa District USACE
Chris Hammerschmidt	USACE
Brock DeLong	USACE

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, John Ditmore (Industry/Commerce) at 1:01. Mr. Ditmore expressed his appreciation for those able to attend the meetings virtually. He wished everyone a happy new year. He took roll call.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Harold Engle moved to approve the agenda. Ron Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- III. **Review of the July 2021 RAC Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the July 2021 meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. The meeting notes were accepted as submitted.
- IV. **Governor's Conference Review/Discussion:** Angela explained that the Governor's Conference was held virtually, but still tried to mimic the in-person event as closely as possible. The Conference presentations are posted on the KWO website for any who wish to listen. Angela then provided an overview of day 1 and day 2 of the conference, and encouraged everyone to visit the website to view recordings of all presentations supplied. Angela then opened the floor for thoughts on this event. John thanked Angela for overview.
- V. **January KWA Meeting and Legislative Visit Day Overview:** John stated he would be unable to attend the January Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting, but Bob agreed to attend to represent the Verdigris RAC. Angela explained that KWA members and RAC members are paired up to meet with Representatives and Senators to discuss the state water plan. The following day is the KWA meeting. Seating capacity and COVID limitations could make in person attendance uncertain. Doug Blex added that it is worth the time to call and visit legislators, as well it is a good time to get one-time payments done. Doug encouraged a phone call to state legislators about the surplus funds and encouraged the thought of utilizing some of those funds to go towards payment of unfunded liabilities of contracts on water storage in federal reservoirs.
- Angela stated the KWA meeting and logistics are still in the planning stages. Doug offered his contact information for questions. Any other questions can be directed to Angela and Lauren.
- VI. **Update on Kansas Water Plan (KWP) process:** Angela explained that the KWP is not finalized but is still ongoing. Public comment was held last fall, and KWO has gone through the comments received and is gathering agency feedback. The KWP will go before the KWA for final approval.
- VII. **RAC Membership update:** Last year's membership drive brought in Pamela Walker (At-Large Public (cc)), but the RAC is still short one member for a core category, which needs to be filled. If anyone has recommendations for this Water Supply position, please send them to Angela, Lauren, or John.
- VIII. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** Angela explained that this agenda item is for future presentations or agenda items for RAC meetings. John said he would like to talk about Doug's comment and applying for grants. He would like an update on progress, providing a speaker on grants to explain the process to apply for grants and leverage for grants in Verdigris region.
- IX. **Agency Input:** Eugene Goff supplied an update including a lake tour that will take place February 15th-16th with Connie Owen and Matt Unruh. He also mentioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) puts money in for funding packages that include streambank stabilization to reduce sedimentation upstream of the reservoirs although they are not funded for those. Chris expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of the meeting. Brock DeLong introduced himself as the assistant wetland manager for the USACE. Doug expressed appreciation to Connie and KWO for the tours. John encouraged everyone to meet Director, Connie Owen.
- X. **Public Input:** No public input.
- XI. **Adjournment**

Gary Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Culbertson seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Future Meetings

- a. Future Meetings: KWA – Thursday, January 27, 2022, TBD

DRAFT