

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committees Meeting July 11, 2023 1:00pm Old Iron Days, Fredonia, KS

| Name | City | Category | Term | Present |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| John Ditmore (Chair) | Coffeyville, KS | Industry/Commerce (cc) | 2023 | Y |
| Bob Culbertson (Vice Chair) | New Strawn, KS | Conservation/Environment | 2023 | N |
| Doug Blex | Independence, KS | WRAPS | 2023 | N |
| Ken McNickle | Mound Valley, KS | Public Water Supply | 2025 | N |
| Harold Engle | Madison, KS | Agriculture (cc) | 2023 | N |
| Brian Graff | Neodesha, KS | At Large Public 2 | 2025 | Y |
| Gary Kelley | Sedan, KS | Conservation/Environment (cc) | 2025 | Y |
| John Black | Howard, KS | Agriculture | 2023 | Y |
| Ron Smith | Fredonia, KS | Industry/Commerce | 2025 | Y |
| Pamela Walker | Altoona, KS | At Large Public (cc) | 2025 | Y |
| John Garriss | Independence, KS | Public Water Supply (cc) | 2023 | Y |

Others in attendance:

| Name | Agency |
|-----------------|--------|
| Alan Zylstra | USACE |
| Chris Steffen | KDWP |
| Seth Lundgren | KDWP |
| Doug Cole | KDHE |
| Victoria Potts | KWO |
| Angela Anderson | KWO |
| Lauren Campbell | KWO |
| Joe Large | USACE |

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, John Ditmore (Industry/Commerce) at 10:05am. John took roll call.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Ron Smith (Industry/Commerce) moved to approve the agenda. John Garriss (Industry/Commerce) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Review of May 2023 RAC Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were made, one including the misspelling of severe and the other correcting John Garriss' positions from Industry/Commerce to Public Water Supply. John Black (Agriculture) moved to accept the meeting notes as corrected. Gary Kelley (Conservation/Environment) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Updates**
 - a. **KWA – June 2023** Victoria Potts (KWO) provided an update from the June 2023 KWA meeting. The main highlights from this meeting included the approval of the FY 2024 water marketing rate

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increase, approval to enter into contract negotiations with the City of Emporia for water supply from Council Grove, an update of the Kansas Water Plan budget guidelines, approval to enter into a PAS agreement to study the feasibility of a regional wastewater facility near Hillsdale, KDHE presentation on the Northwest Kansas Mineralization Study, KGS update, and an update from KDHE and DWR on the KS/CO Arkansas River Water Quality Summit.

- b. **KRPI** Lauren Campbell (KWO) provided an update on the FY2024 Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative program. Three new watersheds (Perry, Pomona, and Hillsdale) were added to the program as there was \$1.5 million in funding to allocate. Fall River has been apart of the program since the inception.

- V. **FY2025 Budget Input Discussion** Victoria Potts (KWO) provided the RAC with the background and context in regard to the current budget situation from the State of Kansas' perspective. She informed the RAC that their input today is essential in determining water priorities and resources looking into the upcoming fiscal year. The RAC members discussed the questions provided from the KWO and gave their feedback. A motion was made by John Garris (Public Water Supply) and seconded by Pamela Walker (At Large Public) to submit the RAC budget feedback to the KWA Budget Committee. The RAC's budget input was approved to send onto the KWA Budget Committee.

"The Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to pass the following feedback to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee for consideration for the FY 2025 State Water Plan Fund."

- i. *The RAC would like to highlight the following progress of note for the regional and statewide water resource issues:*
 - a. *Alternative methods to move sediment from reservoirs downstream. Dredging is a very expensive and time-consuming process.*
 - b. *It is also important to reduce our vulnerability to extreme events, especially drought. Along with that, there is a need to work towards adapting to changing weather patterns and the practices that would help with this. Make use to the variability of weather patterns, taking advantage of high inflow times to mitigate low inflow times.*
 - c. *We need to make use of the space and infrastructure that we currently have for water supply. Reduction of sediment to the reservoir and within the reservoir. There is enough, but we need to make sure we are storing and using it wisely. Support for alternative dredging pilot projects to remove/move sediment from reservoirs i.e. Water Injection Dredging.*
 - d. *We want to acknowledge the positive awareness of water quality and quantity issues within the state legislature that has brought the additional funding for the SWPF.*
- ii. *The RAC would like to highlight the following activities that could potentially be most impactful under the Guiding Principles.*
 - a. *Use state resource to leverage local, federal, and private funding.*
 - b. *Program and goals to eliminate capacity loss to sedimentation. Creating a master plan for addressing this issue.*
- iii. *The RAC would like to prioritize the following activities that would be most impactful for the region under the Kansas Water Plan 5 Guiding Principles and the actionable items:*
 - a. *Secure protect and restore Kansas reservoirs*
 - b. *Reduce vulnerability to extreme events.*
 - c. *Use state resource to leverage local, federal, and private funding.*

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- d. *Program and goals to eliminate capacity loss to sedimentation. Creating a master plan for addressing this issue.*
 - iv. *The RAC would like to address the opportunities for “low hanging” issues or priorities:*
 - a. *Constructing new watershed dams.*
 - v. *The RAC would like to address the following urgent emerging issues, priorities, and unique opportunities:*
 - a. *Minimal stream flow on the Fall River, barely going over the dam. Algae bloom downstream which is degrading water quality in segment on Fall River before converges with Verdigris.*
 - vi. *The RAC would like to address the following future considerations for SWPF expenditures currently missing:*
 - a. *There are huge costs to delaying planning and implementation. We need to plan for the future today and 20, 30, 40 years down the road.*
 - b. *Include local conservation districts in budget input process.*
 - c. *Need to reevaluate the priority of recreational uses of water, especially with current conditions. Current day look and evaluation of use priority. Looking at recreation as any other economic activity and make sure that it has appropriate weight in decision making.*

VI. RAC Goal Implementation Timeline Chris Steffen (KDWP) discussed recent developments with the Aquatic Nuisance Species (now Aquatic Invasive Species) program and the new educational Clean Drain Dry (CD2) trailers developed from State Water Plan Funds.

Priority Goal #3: Continually work to prevent the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), including Zebra and Quagga mussels, into Kansas Lakes that are not currently infested, by working with the agencies focused on ANS.

| Action Step | Priority Level | Phase | Responsibility | Additional Comments |
|-------------|----------------|---------|----------------------|---------------------|
| I | Not discussed | 2 | KDWP | |
| II | Not discussed | ongoing | RAC, KDWP, and USACE | |
| III | Not discussed | Ongoing | RAC | |

VII. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members Pam Walker (At-Large Public) asked about the progress of the PAS agreement for the Coffeyville Resources low-head dam. Lauren Campbell (KWO) answered that the KWO is waiting on a draft agreement from USACE.

John Ditmore (Chair) mentioned that he would like to have someone come in to present on alternate methods for sediment removal and would like to see the KDWP CD2 trailers in person at an upcoming meeting.

- VIII. Educational Events in the Region** Pam Walker (At Large Public) encouraged the RAC to explore the Kansas Soil Health Alliance webpage to stay up to date on field days and events in the region.
- IX. KWA Messages**
No messages.
- X. Agency Input**
Doug Cole provided an update from KDHE on some of the projects they have been working on, such as spill clean ups and underground storage tank leaks. He mentioned that KDHE Watershed Management section is expanding their database on pollution in streams to catch pollution early.
- XI. Public Input**
No public input.
- XII. Adjournment:** Ron Smith (Industry/Commerce) moved to adjourn the meeting and John Garris (Public Water Supply) seconded the motion. John Ditmore (Chair) adjourned the meeting at 11:52am.
- XIII. Future Meetings:**
- i. KWA Meeting – August 23 – McPherson, KS
 - ii. Fall RAC meeting – time and location TBD (around October)