

MEMO



DATE: August 24, 2016
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Margaret Fast
RE: KWA RAC Operations Committee Update

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The KWA RAC Operations Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday August 26, 2016 to consider at least one membership application to a Regional Advisory Committee. The RAC Operations Committee will report the results of that discussion at the full KWA meeting on September 1.

Messages to the Kansas Water Authority from the Regional Advisory Committees

Two RACs had forwarded messages to the KWA, both dealt with aspects of funding. These messages will be shared with the KWA Budget Committee and the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force as appropriate.

Equus-Walnut RAC: The RAC met on July 20 and developed the following message in response to a discussion on budget and funding issues.

Message:

The Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to bring to the attention of the Blue Ribbon Funding Taskforce (BRFT) as well as the Kansas Water Authority serious concerns from the RAC's viewpoint regarding the process being utilized for identification of funding sources for Vision implementation by the BRFT. The RAC's main concern is regarding the sources of funding utilized to generate proposed new revenue, where those new revenues are generated and where those funds might be utilized for Vision implementation. Revenue generation and allocation of those funds need to be based on local and equitable strategies in alignment with philosophical Vision needs. Distribution of these proposed new funds also needs to take into consideration where revenue is generated as well as expended from a geographic and user group perspective where local projects are receiving local funding.

Staff Input:

The message from the Equus-Walnut RAC has been provided to the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force as has information on current revenue and expenditure distribution. Similar information on the State Water Plan funded programs is also being discussed with the KWA Budget Committee. This message will be provided to the KWA Budget Committee also.

Kansas RAC:

The Kansas RAC met on August 8 and developed the following message during a discussion of reservoir management issues.

Message:

The Kansas RAC requests the KWA make development of a Kansas River alluvial aquifer groundwater model a priority budget item. KWO and other state agencies should begin any data collection groundwork that can begin immediately, and work should be staged as soon as possible over time. The completion of this model is critical to the implementation of all five goals developed for the Kansas Region.

Staff Input:

There is an action item in the Vision under the theme of water management: The Kansas RAC recognizes the call in the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas for a stream aquifer model of the Kansas River alluvial aquifer as detailed on Page 26 of The Vision: "Develop a stream-aquifer model of the Kansas River alluvial aquifer from Junction City to the junction with the Missouri River to examine the effect of scenarios of future development and management on ground water and river water levels." This message should specifically be shared with the KWA budget committee for consideration during their deliberations on funding priorities.