



# Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:30 pm October 14, 2015  
Medicine Lodge Kansas

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Suzanne Drouhard (Chair)	Danville, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	Yes
Clark Bibb	Coldwater, KS	At Large Public West	2019	Yes
Ken Brunson	Pratt, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2019	Yes
Jim Harden	Clark County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	Yes
Amber Horbelt	Anthony, KS	Local Government	2017	Yes
Hi Lewis	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Larry Mangan	Wellington, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Gregory Shelor	Minneola, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Mark Watts	Medicine Lodge, KS	Industry/Commerce	2017	Yes
Phil White	Wellington, KS	At large Public East	2019	Yes
Jay Zimmerman	South Haven, KS	At Large Public	2017	No

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Jerry McNamar	Barber Co
Kevin Nolan	Lake Arrowhead
Cameron Conant	KDA-DWR
David Barfield	KDA-DWR
Allison Herring	KDHE
Rich Basore	KDHE
Earl Lewis	KWO
Diane Knowles	KWO

**Welcome and Introductions:** Suzanne Drouhard welcomed everyone to the first RAC meeting Self introductions were made by everyone.

**Committee Expectations** were reviewed briefly by Earl Lewis highlighting committee member roles and the process for development of the *Kansas Water Plan*.

**Review of Regional Goals** as approved by the KWA (in mailing materials) highlighted the four goals. Discussion of the development and clarification of and which goal or goals to address first lead to the implementation discussion.

**Regional Implementation** discussion of the four goals implementation lead to a focus on *Goal 1 - Reduce the rate of water use by 10% throughout the region collectively by 2025. Conservation should be voluntary and encouraged to use incentive based policies and programs.*

The first focus is on Goal 1 since it includes the goals 3 &4 related to oil and gas industry, cedar tree water use, municipal use and irrigation.

**Membership:** Suzanne Drouhard, Chair, Danville, KS; Clark Bibb, Coldwater, KS; Ken Brunson, Pratt, KS; Jim Harden; Amber Horbelt, Anthony, KS; Hi Lewis, Wichita, KS; Larry Mangan, Wellington, KS; Gregory Shelor, Minneola, KS; Mark Watts; Phil White, Wellington, KS; Jay Zimmerman, South Haven, KS  
**KWO Planner:** Diane Knowles, 785-296-3185; [diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov)

A summary of consensus of the RAC discussion addressing Goal one follows:

Natural/unaccounted for use by cedar trees – impacts to the region (acres, number of trees and water consumption) data and references are needed to describe the rangeland issue. Available programs to address cedar tree encroachment should be identified. NRCS has cost share for brush clearing. Ken Bronson volunteered to pull together information.

City (municipal) water use - Gathering municipal system sources and levels (status) as well as rate structures was discussed. How regional systems met drought needs recently was discussed as useful information to have (well rehabilitation and water system upgrades). It was noted that an increasing rate structure has been shown to reduce water use, although many public water supply systems have not adopted this structure in order to make more money on water. A gallon per capita per day (GPCD) is an oft-cited statistic to show how much water a communities citizens use. The residents of Hays use 104 GPCD, compared to an average of 150 GPCD statewide. Hays uses rebates and free water saving devised for the home and turf rebates along with outdoor watering restrictions to keep usage relatively low. Alluvial aquifer data was also discussed as being helpful information for water users. Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water resources (DWR -Stafford office noted they could provide that information).

Irrigation - As this is the greatest use in the region it is important to address it. Ideas under this were education and informational meetings to inform operators and landowners on water saving technologies, lower water use crops and Water Conservation Areas (WCA).

Industry - Primary focus on Oil and Gas industry with goals to reduce freshwater use and recycling produced water (Red Hills Regional Goals 3 & 4).

### **Vision Implementation – Water Conservation Areas and Proposed Rules and Regulations Changes:**

David Barfield reviewed the Water Conservation tools and DWR rules and regulations under development (included in mailing materials). Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) could be tools in this region to reduce water use voluntarily. The first step is to establish there is a water issue (not enough). A lack of stream gages and established groundwater monitoring sites was discussed as an obstacle to establishing a need for a WCA. It was suggested that stream gages on Elm Creek at Highway 281 and on Amber Creek would be beneficial.

David also explained the basic rules and regulations that have been identified to aid in water use reduction and reducing overuse. These include limiting the move of a re-drilled well to 300 feet in areas with a constant decline, requiring water use reporting without exception, and sealing of meters when there is a history of overuse.

### **Questions and Future Issues:**

The RAC would like layman term information on oil and gas industry water use and water conservation efforts. Specifically interested in how to work with the industry to address their water needs in the future especially if demand rises again.

There was a note made that information for a new reservoir for the region could be presented at a future meeting of this RAC.

Cedar tree education for farmers and ranchers was brought up again with mention that NRCS has land use cover for Cedar trees that can aid to estimate the number of trees or acres affected to calculate water used. It was noted that more state and federal resources are needed to address cedar trees. Ken Brunson volunteered to put together information.