



April 4, 2016, Colby, Kansas

February 18, 2016, Colby, Kansas



Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm, Monday, April 4, 2016

Northwest Kansas GMD #4, 1290 W. 4th, Colby, KS

DRAFT

Members in Attendance:

| Name | City | Category | Term | Present |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Jon Starns(Chair) | Oakley, KS | Agriculture (cc) | Resigning | Yes |
| Brian Baalman | Menlo, KS | Industry/Commerce (cc) | 2017 | Yes |
| Shannon Kenyon | Colby, KS | Groundwater Management | 2019 | Yes |
| Gary Fisher | Atwood, KS | Local Government | 2017 | Yes |
| Mike Frakes | Morland, KS | At Large Public 2 | 2017 | No |
| Jered Johnson | Colby, KS | Conservation/Environment (cc) | 2017 | No |
| Ken McCarty | Rexford, KS | Agriculture Industry | 2019 | Yes |
| Sid Metcalf | Oberlin, KS | At Large Public (cc) | 2019 | No |
| Mike Schultz | Brewster, KS | Public Water Supply (cc) | 2019 | Yes |
| Justin Sloan | Colby, KS | Agriculture 2 | 2017 | No |
| Tyson McGreer | Colby, KS | Public Water Supply 2 | 2017 | Yes |

Others in attendance:

| Name | Agency |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Kelly Stewart | KDA/DWR |
| Lou Hines | Public |
| Ray Luhman | GMD No. 4 |
| Greg Graff | KWA |
| Richard Rockel | KWO |
| Tracy Streeter | KWO |
| Katie Goff | KWO |
| Jim Whitt | Public |
| Ian de Waal | Tri State Irr |
| Jonathan Aguilar | KSU SWREC |
| David Tan | Colby Free Press |
| Larry Barrett | Public |
| Matt Palmquist | NRCS |

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Jon Starns. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review and Approval of January Meeting Minutes:** Notes from the January meeting were approved as presented.

Membership: Jon Starns (Chair), Oakley, KS; Brian Baalman, Menlo, KS; Shannon Cain, Colby, KS; Gary Fisher, Atwood, KS; Mike Frakes, Morland, KS; Jered Johnson, Colby, KS; Ken McCarty, Rexford, KS; Sid Metcalf, Oberlin, KS; Mike Schultz, Brewster, KS; Justin Sloan, Colby, KS; Tyson McGreer, Colby, KS
KWO Planner: Richard Rockel, 785-296-3185; richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov

- 3. Begin development of Regional Action Plan:** The Committee discussed their goals and how they would like to proceed.

Goal 1: The Committee stated they wanted to support GMD No. 4 in the implementation of their Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA). Ray Luhman and Shannon Kenyon (GMD No. 4) were asked what assistance they needed from the Committee, no suggestions were given. The Committee decided to stay out of the way of GMD No. 4's continued LEMA discussions. A brief discussion was had regarding water rights outside of the GMD No. 4 boundaries and if GMD expansion was an option.

Goal 2: The Committee stated that the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) needed education in regards to their programs not being tailored well to the Upper Republican region, and suggested that the requirements of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) be rewritten to allow more use with irrigation technology and water conservation techniques. The Committee proposed that the farm bill be reworded to target actual Northwest Kansas uses. Matt Palmquist (NRCS) says the NRCS was operating with a five year plan and may revise. Water Technology Farms were discussed, as was the potential siting of Water Tech. Farms within the GMD No. 4.

The Committee discussed holding an informational event in August, which may include a screening of "Thirsty Land", a documentary on drought and water scarcity. Multiple Committee members stated they would like to hold such an event with the movie screening.

Goal 3: David Barfield (KDA-DWR) provided an update on the Republican River Compact and stated that he would be meeting with Colorado and Nebraska on Compact issues. An update was provided on NW Kansas pending water right applications.

Goal 5: An update was given on the proposed expansion of limited irrigation crop insurance policies to Decatur, Gove, Logan, and Rawlins counties, planned for 2017. The Committee was informed that two producers in the Sheridan 6 LEMA area took limited irrigation policies.

- 4. Update on Rules & Regulations:** Kelly Stewart (DWR-KDA) provided an update on water conservation areas and their progress and completion. Kelly Stewart and David Barfield (DWR-KDA) provided an update on the rule and regulation hearing closing the remainder of GMD No. 4 to new appropriations of water, the closure is moving forward.
- 5. Update on Water Technology Farms:** Tracy Streeter (KWO) gave an update on technology farms that are progressing. The Committee discussed where the best siting for a water technology farm in GMD No. 4 would be, Shannon Kenyon (GMD No. 4) stated one centrally located would be their preference.
- 6. Public Input:**
- 7. Future Meetings:**
- Kansas Water Authority: May 18th-19th, Oakley, KS
 - Upper Republican RAC: To be determined (Doodle Poll will be sent out).



Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am, Monday, February 18, 2016

Northwest Kansas GMD #4, 1290 W. 4th, Colby, KS

DRAFT

Members in Attendance:

| Name | City | Category | Term | Present |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| Jon Starns (Chair) | Oakley, KS | Agriculture (cc) | 2019 | Yes |
| Brian Baalman | Menlo, KS | Industry/Commerce (cc) | 2017 | No |
| Shannon Cain | Colby, KS | Groundwater Management | 2019 | Yes |
| Gary Fisher | Atwood, KS | Local Government | 2017 | Yes |
| Mike Frakes | Morland, KS | At Large Public 2 | 2017 | No |
| Jered Johnson | Colby, KS | Conservation/Environment (cc) | 2017 | No |
| Ken McCarty | Rexford, KS | Agriculture Industry | 2019 | Yes |
| Sid Metcalf | Oberlin, KS | At Large Public (cc) | 2019 | No |
| Mike Schultz | Brewster, KS | Public Water Supply (cc) | 2019 | Yes |
| Justin Sloan | Colby, KS | Agriculture 2 | 2017 | Yes |
| Tyson McGreer | Colby, KS | Public Water Supply 2 | 2017 | Yes |

Others in attendance:

| Name | Agency |
|------------------|-----------|
| Kelly Stewart | KDA/DWR |
| Rob Reschke | KDA/DOC |
| Ray Luhman | GMD No. 4 |
| Greg Graff | KWA |
| Jonathan Aguilar | KSU |
| Lucas Haag | KSU |
| Jeanne Falk | KSU |
| Tracy Streeter | KWO |
| Katie Goff | KWO |

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson, Jon Starns. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review and Approval of October Meeting Minutes:** Notes from October meeting was approved as presented.
- Review Priority Goal – Report from December & January KWA meeting:** The priority goal was discussed and the group acknowledged that all the goals feed into each other, and while working on one, another might be tackled as well.
- Groundwater Management District #4 Report:** Shannon Cain (GMD No. 4) gave an update on actions that are happening within the GMD No. 4. The District is proposing a district wide LEMA (local enhanced management area) which has been presented to DWR-KDA to initiate discussions. The GMD No. 4 Board is still hashing out the details,

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KWO Planner: Tracy Streeter, 785-296-3185; tracy.streeter@kwo.ks.gov

but the presented plan is a way to get started and can get more restricted down the road. The Board has not decided how this will affect municipalities or feedlots, as of now, they have only proposed restrictions on irrigation water rights.

5. **Update on Water Conservation Areas and Rules & Regulations:** Kelly Stewart (DWR-KDA) provided an update on water conservation areas and their progress and completion. The Franklin Family WCA Plan has been reviewed and approved by KDA in mid-January. Another WCA, the Westside Dairy WCA Plan is currently being reviewed but should be approved soon. Tyson McGreer mentioned it would be nice for the WCAs to share their process to achieving a WCA and any outcomes, as a way for others to use as a model for example. Kelly also gave an update on KDA's proposed rules and regulations.
6. **Presentation on Mobile Drip Irrigation System Evaluation:** Jonathan Aguilar (KSU Research and Extension) gave a presentation on the comparison of the mobile drip irrigation to a low elevation spray application. The objective of the project is to compare evaporation water losses under MDI and LESA (in-canopy spray nozzles) and to compare yield, water productivity, irrigation water use efficiency, and end of season soil water under MDI and LESA at two well capacities. Jonathan discussed the materials, methods, 2015 results, observations, and challenges from this project. Jonathan and his team hope to be able to continue the study for three more years.
7. **Water Technology Farms – What are they??:** Tracy Streeter (KWO) gave an update on two technology farms that are currently in the planning stages. The first farm is committed to doing half of the field with LESA and the other half with MDI. The second farm has committed to using moisture probes, MDI, and any other technology that might help the farm to conserve water. These farms will continue to be studied and be presented as examples for other farmers to possibly involve technology into their farms.
8. **Republican River Update:** Tracy Streeter (KWO) gave a brief update on the Republican River and how it relates to surrounding states. He mentioned there is a meeting the week of March 22nd in Denver, Colorado to further discuss the Republican River Compact. Tracy acknowledged that work still needs to be done in each state when dealing with conservation and public outreach.
9. **Committee discussion & begin development of Regional Action Plan:** The committee discussed possible action plan items to be added to the implementation plan. These possible action items will be thoroughly discussed at the next committee meeting where a final action plan will be written.
10. **Public Input: Gary Fisher:** mentioned that it would be beneficial to have a copy of maps that included the Regional Advisory Committee boundaries, along with major rivers and streams. This map will be made and emailed out to members closer to the next meeting.
11. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. Upper Republican RAC: To be determined (Doodle Poll will be sent out).
 - b. Kansas Water Authority: May 18th-19th, Oakley, KS