



April 4, 2016, Scott City, Kansas

January 20, 2016, Scott City, Kansas



Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00 am, Monday, April 4, 2016

KLA Environmental Services, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, KS

DRAFT

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Shane Mann (Chair)	Quinter, KS	Irrigation	2019	Yes
Lonnie Busch	Leoti, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	Yes
Kurt Maurath	Logan County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	No
Frank Mercurio	Scott City, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Maurice Miller	Healy, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	Yes
Mike Todd	Scott City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Farrin Watt	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	Yes
Danny Welsh	Wallace County, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Scott Noll	Scott City, KS	At Large Public	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Susan Metzger	KDA
Mike Meyer	KDA/DWR
Kyle Spencer	GMD No.1
Tracy Streeter	KWO
Katie Goff	KWO
Richard Rockel	KWO
Kasey Robinson	NRCS
Jim Whitt	Public
Greg Graff	KWA/GMD1

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Shane Mann. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review and Approval of January Meeting Notes:** Notes from the January meeting were approved as presented.
- Committee Discussion & begin development of Regional Action Plan:**

Goals 1 & 2: The Committee discussed several items that related to the priority goal. The requirements of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) were discussed. The Committee would like changes to the RCP that will allow low capacity wells and soil moisture probes to qualify.

GMD No. 1 representatives stated that new Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) discussions were coming, with public meetings held after the harvest in the Fall. No public vote was being proposed with the

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KWO Planner: Richard Rockel, 785-296-3185; richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov

LEMA proposal. A tentative start of 2018 was mentioned. There was discussion about the GMD No. 1 quarterly newsletter and if more could be communicated to the public through it.

Goal 3: The Committee talked about following Scott City's path of education in schools in other cities. Reviewing municipal rate structures was also discussed, to make an incentive to conserve.

Goal 4: The Committee discussed reuse options for livestock watering, which included capturing thermostatic overflows in winter and lagoon water. There was discussion of having a feasibility study done for the reuse of lagoon water. A Smith and Loveless package plant type of option was discussed. Discussion continued on to how many feedlots are over the gross income limit for NRCS programs. There was some talk of having some dairy and feedlot Best Management Practices (BMP) developed and implemented.

The Committee mentioned that there are around 44 feed yards in GMD No. 1, and there may be a possibility of multiple feeding operations using a single reuse facility. Discussion went further to state that with a reuse facility some feeding operations may be able to stay open longer, a point that could be used to justify the upfront capital cost of a reuse facility.

Goal 5: The Committee discussed industrial users implementing BMPs.

4. **Update on Water Conservation Areas and Proposed Rules & Regulations:** Mike Meyer (KDA) provided an update on water conservation areas and their progress and completion. There was discussion of a water conservation area that was being proposed in the western part of Wallace County that the Kansas Geological Survey is assisting with.
5. **Update on Water Technology Farms:** Tracy Streeter (KWO) gave an update on two technology farms that are currently in the planning stages.
6. **Public Input:**
Having an informational event sponsored by the Committee was discussed, with the idea of an event where information about the groundwater model, LEMA development, and water technology could be shared with a greater audience. The Committee discussed having an early to mid-August timing. Jim Whitt (Public) suggested that the event hold a screening of the water scarcity documentary he helped produce, "Thirsty Land", to attract a greater audience. Several options were discussed on how to get the word out about such an event, having booths at county fairs and teaming up with the conservation districts were proposed.

A question was asked on how to get benefits to water users located outside GMD boundaries who don't qualify for certain programs.
7. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. Kansas Water Authority: May 18th-19th, Oakley, KS
 - b. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: To be determined (Doodle Poll will be sent out).



Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm, Wednesday, January 20, 2016

KLA Environmental Services, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, KS

DRAFT

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Shane Mann (Chair)	Quinter, KS	Irrigation	2019	Yes
Lonnie Busch	Leoti, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	Yes
Kurt Maurath	Logan County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	No
Frank Mercurio	Scott City, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Maurice Miller	Healy, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	Yes
Mike Todd	Scott City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Farrin Watt	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	No
Danny Welsh	Wallace County, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Scott Noll	Scott City, KS	At Large Public	2017	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Brownie Wilson	KGS
Jonathan Aguilar	KSU
Dan Wells	KDHE
Mike Meyer	KDA/DWR
Kyle Spencer	GMD No.1
Tracy Streeter	KWO
Katie Goff	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Shane Mann. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review and Approval of October Meeting Notes:** Notes from the October meeting was approved as presented.
- Review Priority Goal – Report from December KWA meeting:** Tracy Streeter (KWO) and Shane Mann (Chair) gave a brief overview of what was discussed at the Kansas Water Authority meeting in December. Both agreed that the first goal is very important but underfunded. In order to make the goal successful, the RAC needs to be able to use any tools available to achieve the goal. Tracy mentioned that the KWA believes that the goal is commendable and measurable.
- Presentation on KGS Groundwater Model – GMD #1:** Brownie Wilson (KGS) gave a presentation on the West Central Kansas GMD No. 1 Model. This model is primarily focused on the GMD No. 1 area. While presenting, Brownie discussed the model specifics, model inputs and outputs, new model features, model transient results, model budgets, and model scenarios. This presentation gave the RAC members an insight into models created by KGS and an overview of how KGS can help to identify water needs in their area.

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5. **Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1 Report:** Kyle Spencer (GMD No. 1) gave an update on actions that are happening within the GMD No. 1. He mentioned that their office is working directly with KGS and Brownie Wilson to run more scenarios through the Groundwater Model. Kyle approves of using the model as an education tool in the area because he believes that when people and the public see the model and results, they instantly become more involved and more interested.
6. **Update on Water Conservation Areas:** Mike Meyer (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. While this second plan is being reviewed, KDA was able to determine that by cutting their water usage by 18 percent, the dairy will be able to gain 7 to 15 years of life on the aquifer in their region. The water conservation plans seem to be gaining popularity because of their conserve and extend ability and the greater flexibility allotted to farmers.
7. **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. Danny Welsch mentioned that one of the great advantages of the MDI is that the soil is able to hold more moisture after the irrigation season. Jonathan and his team hope to be able to continue the study for three more years.
8. **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.
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: Lonnie Busch:** mentioned that it is incredibly important to join water technology farms with WCAs, as together they can make serious cuts in water use.
11. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. Kansas Water Authority: January 27th-28th; Topeka, KS
 - b. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: To be determined (Doodle Poll will be sent out).