



# Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**February 27, 2017**  
**Landon State Office Building, Suite 509**  
**Topeka, Kansas**

**Members Attendance:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Present</i>
Marlene Bosworth	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Brad (William) Bradley	Overland Park, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2017	Yes
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	Yes
Dawn Buehler	Eudora, KS	Recreation	2019	Yes
Blake Follis	Topeka, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2019	Yes
Sarah Hill-Nelson, Chair	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce	2019	Yes
Heath Horyna	Topeka, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	Yes
Daniel Howell	Frankfort, KS	Agriculture	2017	Yes
Darci Meese	Lenexa, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Katie Miller	Junction City, KS	Conservation/Environment	2019	Yes
William Ramsey	Leawood, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2017	Yes
Sharon Schwartz	Washington, KS	WRAPs	2019	Yes
Greg Wilson	Olathe, KS	Water Assurance District	2017	Yes

**Others in attendance:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Representing</i>
Allyn Lockner	Topeka	Himself
Katie Tietsort	Topeka	Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Bob Atchison	Manhattan	KS Forestry Service
Amanda Reed Jaime Gaggero	Topeka	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Monty Breneman	Salina	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Christina Ostrander Marvin Boyer	Kansas City, Mo	Kansas City District, US Army Corps of Engineers
Rob Reschke	Manhattan	KS Dept. of Ag, Division of Conservation
Gary Satter		Glacial Hills RD&D
Judy Boltman	Topeka	Shawnee Co Conservation District
Leslie Holthaus		Marshall Co. Conservation District
Nina Meyer		Washington Co Conservation District
Lew Schwartz		Washington Co Land Owner
Kent Askren	Topeka	Kansas Farm Bureau
Aaron Deters		Ks Dept. of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
Heidi Mehl		The Nature Conservancy
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	Kansas Water Office
Margaret Fast	Topeka	Kansas Water Office
Tracy Streeter	Topeka	Kansas Water Office
Earl Lewis	Topeka	Kansas Water Office

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Self-introductions were made.

**Membership:** Sarah Hill-Nelson, Lawrence, KS; Marlene Bosworth, Sabetha, KS; Brad Bradley, Overland Park, KS; Glenn Brunkow; Dawn Buehler, Eudora, KS; Blake Follis, Topeka, KS; Heath Horyna, Topeka, KS; Daniel Howell, Frankfort, KS; Darci Meese, Lenexa, KS; Katie Miller, Wichita, KS; William Ramsey, Leawood, KS; Sharon Schwartz, Washington, KS; Greg Wilson, Olathe, KS  
**KWO Planner:** Margaret Fast, 785-296-3185; [margaret.fast@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:margaret.fast@kwo.ks.gov)

## **Review of Committee Activities:**

Sarah Hill Nelson put the activities report in the context of the Kansas Basin Watershed Management (KBWM) System, which is about focusing new money in priority areas and projects through the existing mechanisms. An understanding of where the flow of money is now, where does it come from, how is it distributed, is important. The RAC chairs joined the KWA members in January in visiting with the individual legislators. During the day, Sarah and Katie had presented the KBWM to the House Water and Environment Committee. A letter that had been sent from conservation districts raising concern about the KBWM was raised and discussed and hopefully, misperceptions dispelled. Katie Miller also updated the RAC on her meeting with the KACD to discuss the KBWM System. The discussion ended with reiteration that it is about coordination to focus on the RAC priority issues of sediment reduction and HAB blooms. It is not intended to take money away, but to prioritize.

## **Funding sources for Conservation and Watershed Protection in the Kansas Region**

Earl Lewis, KWO started this off with a review of the sources of funding into the SWP fund. Rob Reschke, DOC; Amanda Reed, KDHE; Monty Breneman, NRCS and Bob Atchison, KFS all presented information about where money comes from for their program activities. The power points presentations for DOC, KDHE and NRCS are posted on the RAC page of the kwo.org; the KFS materials are attached to these notes.

## **Update on Legislative Session**

Earl gave an update on the funding bills that had been presented to date in the legislature. There was quite a bit of discussion. The RAC members were encouraged to talk to their legislator as they are now on break and hearing from constituents.

## **Nutrient Reduction Regional Conservation Partnership Program Proposal**

Darci Meece provided an overview of this program opportunity. A consultant who is working for the AWWA has offered services to help prepare an application. The proposal will be focused on nutrient reduction above Milford. The pre-proposal is due 4/21. Matt Unruh, KWO is the coordination lead partner at this time. If the proposal is accepted, a full application will be prepared. Funding is a 50/50 match and the more partners the better. The funding is through a variety of program with NRCS including EQIP, Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Conservation stewardship Program (CSP) and PL 566.

Marlene moved and Darci seconded the have the RAC prepare a letter of support in pursuing the RCPP. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion about the value/interest in a multi-state, bitrate application. Jaime Gaggero, KDHE, offer to provide information from the WQ monitoring date to determine if Nebraska is a major source of nutrients and to see if Nebraska has a similar plan. Interest in in the Kansas only application, but the RAC is interested in the information. If Matt and the consultant provide input that a bi-state proposal may have better success in being funded, the committee will be consulted. Matt is organizing a small workgroup to prepare the pre-proposal. Sarah Hill Nelson moved and Heath seconded that Katie Miller and Marlene Bosworth be named to be on the workgroup. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Update on Sustainable Rivers Program Proposal**

Christina Ostrander, KC District, Corps of Engineers, reported on a partnership between the COE and the Nature Conservancy called the Sustainable Rivers program to identify environmental flow. There is about \$40,000 available to the Corp to evaluate what historic flows are and authorities and constraints. The money would be spent on research to define the enviromental flow needs. Year 1 is gathering the resource information; year 2 would be the proposal. The RAC will be kept informed and will be invited to the workshop, if the proposal is funding. A one page summary of the Program is attached.



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### **Next meeting:**

Sarah reiterated that the RAC will not meet just to meet. There may be a conference call in early May to discuss RAC input to the NRCS Kansas Technical Committee (KTC). Updates if the RCPP moves forward will likely be provided via email.

The RAC will be planning, with Dawn's help, a float trip on the Kansas River. This will probably be in early August in the Manhattan to St. George reach where there are 3 streambank stabilization sites. Planning will be for a Friday.

May 17-18, 2017. KWA meets in Garden City. Sarah plans to attend.

Mark your calendars for the Governors Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, November 8-9, 2017

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