

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m., February 27, 2017
Harvey County Health Department
2nd Floor Community Room
215 South Pine Street, Newton, Kansas

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Steve Hieger (Chair)	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Roger Black	Arkansas, City, KS	Watershed Protection	2019	Yes
Kurt Bookout	El Dorado, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2017	No
Dan Haines	Leon, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2019	Yes
Bob Seiler	Valley Center, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	No
Don Koci	Hutchinson, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2017	No
Jesse McCurry	Colwich, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	No
Brian Meier	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2017	Yes
Denise Noonan Middleton	Burden, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	Yes
Joseph Pajor	Wichita, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Lewjene Schneider	Maize, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	Yes
Russell Tomevi	Winfield, KS	Integrated Planning	2019	Yes
Byron Warta	Newton, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Sandy Koontz	Butler Co. Conservation District/El Dorado WRAPS
David Bollenback	KCC
David Barfield	KDA - DWR
Chris Beightel	KDA - DWR
Lane Letourneau	KDA - DWR
Jeff Lanterman	KDA - DWR
Calvin Kissick	Kansas Water Authority
Rich Basore	KDHE
Jim Butler	Kansas Geological Survey
Tim Boese	GMD 2
Ron Graber	KSU
Lisa French	Cheney Lake Watershed
Mandy Stone	USGS
Brian Klager	USGS
Matt Unruh	KWO

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Steve Hieger welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Brian Meier made the motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, second provided by Byron Warta. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Approval of September 2016 Meeting Notes:** Russ Tomevi made the motion to approve the September 2016 meeting notes, second provided by Byron Warta. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Kansas Water Authority Update**
 - a. Chair Steve Hieger, Byron Warta, KWA member Calvin Kissick, and Matt Unruh provided an update on the January KWA meeting. On January 24, KWA and RAC members participated in meetings with legislators to provide briefings on Regional Goal Action Plans, the John Redmond Reservoir Dredging Project, other Reservoir-related activities, Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer activities, Statewide water resources education and outreach, water reuse and low quality water, the State Water Plan Fund & Budget, and the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force. Steve, Byron and Calvin all commented on the value of these legislative visits and the importance of trying to educate freshman legislators on the importance of water in Kansas.
5. **Regional Activities**
 - a. Regional Goal Action Plan Discussion
 - i. Members of the RAC discussed prioritization of Action Plan action items as a next step in the overall Action Plan development and implementation process. These prioritization efforts will be used to help determine the highest priority action items which can be implemented without funding as well as those which need funding to move implementation forward. It was determined that it would be beneficial if some form of survey was put together and sent out to RAC members for their review and input prior to the next RAC meeting. Matt and Steve would work on this prior to it being sent out to the entire RAC.
 - b. GMD2 Sustainability Assessment
 - i. Jim Butler from the Kansas Geological Survey provided a presentation regarding the Sustainability Assessment developed within GMD2. This project used an approach that was recently developed at the Kansas Geological Survey for assessing the prospects for sustainability in the High Plains aquifer (HPA) in Kansas. The objective of the approach is to calculate Q_{stable} , the average annual pumping that would produce stable areally averaged water levels over a given area. Q_{stable} is a function of net inflow, which comprises recharge from the land surface, subsurface inflow from adjacent areas, water drawn into the aquifer from surface water sources by pumping, inflow from artificial recharge projects, and any additional pumping-induced inflows into the aquifer, minus discharge to streams, evapotranspiration, and subsurface outflow to adjacent areas. It is calculated using the average annual water-level change and annual reported water use for an area as described in the following section.
6. **Other Business**
 - a. Agency reports on items not previously discussed & public comments:
 - i. Tim Boese (GMD2): Provided an update on recent discussion regarding SB 194, and act relating to groundwater management district user charges. Right now these fees are capped by law at \$1.00 per acre-foot for in-district users and \$1.50 per acre-foot for out of district users. The land

assessment is capped at \$0.05 per acre on 40 or more contiguous acres not located within a city. The District's FY2017 assessment rates are set at \$1.00 per acre-foot and \$0.05 per acre. These assessments will generate only approximately \$350,000 annually to operate the District and do not generate enough money to properly operate the District's current programs, projects, and customer service activities. SB 194 seeks to increase these capped rates from \$1 to \$1.50 per acre foot withdrawn or from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per acre foot if more than 50% of the groundwater is applied to land outside the GMD. The bill would also increase the annual assessment cap from \$0.05 to \$0.10 per acre on land located within GMDs.

- b. Questions and Future Issues from Members: RAC members mentioned it would be helpful if periodic legislative update conference calls or briefings took place over the course of the legislative session.
 - c. Messages to the Kansas Water Authority: None provided
7. **Adjourn**: Denise Noonan Middleton made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Byron Warta. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

DRAFT