

MEMO



DATE: September 15, 2016
TO: Equus-Walnut RAC and Agency Advisors
FROM: Matt Unruh, Kansas Water Office
RE: September 20, 2016 Meeting

901 S. Kansas Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612
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The next meeting for the Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is scheduled for **1:00 pm Wednesday, September 20, 2016 at the Harvey County Health Department, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 215 South Pine Street, Newton, KS.**

The main items of discussion at the meeting will focus on action plan development for the Equus-Walnut Regional Goals associated with the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas.

Enclosed please find:

- Agenda
- Press Release
- July 2016 Draft Meeting Notes
- Approved Vision Regional Goals for Equus-Walnut Region

Please let me know if you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting please contact, me at matt.unruh@kwo.ks.gov; or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATE(R).

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee
1:00 p.m., September 20, 2016
Harvey County Health Department
2nd Floor Conference Room
215 South Pine Street, Newton, KS

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of July 2016 Meeting Notes**
- 4. Regional Activities and Other Updates**
 - a. September 1 KWA Meeting
 - i. Regional Action Plans
 - ii. Message to the KWA/Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force
 - b. Regional Goal Action Plan Development Discussion
 - i. Discussion on Completed Action Plans – August KWA Meeting
 - ii. Discussion on Action Plans still in progress
 - c. Education and Public Outreach Working Group
- 5. Other Business**
 - a. Agency reports not previously discussed and public comments
 - b. Questions and Future Issues from Members
 - c. Messages to the Kansas Water Authority
 - d. Future Meetings:
 - i. Kansas Water Authority: October 19; Milford, KS
 - ii. Equus-Walnut RAC: TBD
- 6. Adjourn**

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC

900 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612



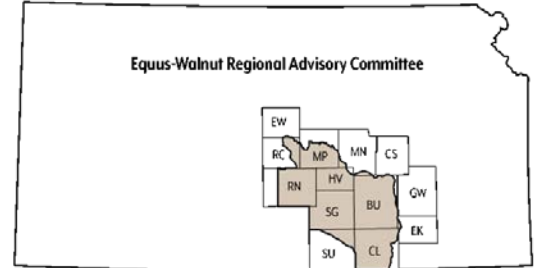
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Tracy Streeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:
September 6, 2016

For More Information:
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Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Newton *September 20, 1 p.m. at the Harvey County Health Department*

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting to discuss current water issues affecting the basin as well as the state.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, September 20 at 1 p.m., in the Harvey County Health Department, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 215 South Pine Street in Newton, Kansas. The main focus of the meeting will be continued action plan development for the Equus-Walnut regional water supply goals as well as the Vision Education Working Group presentation.

The agenda and meeting materials will be available at www.kwo.org or you may request copies by calling (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283).

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, KS 66611-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101) requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations messages.

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As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.

The agency prepares the KANSAS WATER PLAN, a plan for water resources development, management and conservation. KWO also reviews all water laws and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for needed legislation.

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m., July 20, 2016
Harvey County Health Department
2nd Floor Conference 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	No
Kurt Bookout	El Dorado, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2017	Yes
Dan Haines	Leon, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2019	Yes
Bob Seiler	Valley Center, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Don Koci	Hutchinson, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2017	Yes
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	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Sandy Koontz	Butler Co. Conservation District/El Dorado WRAPS
David Bollenback	KCC
David Barfield	KDA - DWR
Rich Basore	KDHE
Tim Boese	GMD 2
Ron Graber	KSU
Lisa French	Cheney Lake Watershed
Gina Bell	Harvey County
Mandy Stone	USGS
Matt Unruh	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Steve Hieger welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.
- Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

3. **Approval of March 2016 Meeting Notes:** The March 2016 meeting notes were approved as presented.

4. **Regional Activities and Other Updates**

- a. **May Kansas Water Authority Update:** Steve Hieger, Chair – Equus Walnut RAC and Matt Unruh, KWO, provided an update on the May 2016 KWA meeting in Oakley.
- b. **Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force Update:** Matt Unruh provided an update on the status of Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force (BRFTF) activities. Information regarding the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force can be found online at <http://www.kwo.org/BlueRibbonTaskForce.html>.

Following Matt's overview of BRFTF activities, members of the RAC engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the process currently in place to identify Vision implementation funding needs as well as a revenue source to fund those needs. A result of this discussion was the drafting of a formal message from the RAC to the BRFTF as well as the KWA. The message is as follows:

The Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to bring to the attention of the Blue Ribbon Funding Taskforce (BRFT) as well as the Kansas Water Authority serious concerns from the RAC's viewpoint regarding the process being utilized for identification of funding sources for Vision implementation by the BRFT. The RAC's main concern is regarding the sources of funding utilized to generate proposed new revenue, where those new revenues are generated and where those funds might be utilized for Vision implementation. Revenue generation and allocation of those funds need to be based on local and equitable strategies in alignment with philosophical Vision needs. Distribution of these proposed new funds also needs to take into consideration where revenue is generated as well as expended from a geographic and user group perspective where local projects are receiving local funding.

- c. **Regional Goal Action Plans:** All seven of the draft action plans for Equus-Walnut Vision regional goals were reviewed. Following review of these draft action plans the following actions were taken:
 - Goal action plans to formally present to the KWA at the September 1 Meeting:
 - Regional Goal Action Plan #1
 - Regional Goal Action Plan #5
 - Regional Goal Action Plan #6
 - Regional Goal Action Plan #7
 - Goal action plans to defer presenting to the KWA until October Meeting:
 - Regional Goal Action Plan #2
 - Regional Goal Action Plan #3
 - Regional Goal Action Plan #4

In regards to the deferred goals, it was suggested that the RAC get more information on the Kansas Basin Watershed Management System (KBWM) before officially finalizing action plans for Goals 3 and 4. Matt Unruh mentioned he would mail this information to the RAC following the meeting.

5. **Other Business**

- a. Agency reports on items not previously discussed & public comments:

WRAPS – Ron Graber (Little Arkansas WRAPS) provided an update on the Wichita Offsite BMP Implementation Program and mentioned upcoming field days.

KDHE – Rich Basore discussed blue-green algae (BGA) sampling efforts ongoing within the area as well as the upcoming Kansas Environmental Conference.

GMD2 – Tim Boese discussed the sustainability and recharge model currently being developed by the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) and mentioned that it should be completed within the near future. He also discussed the upcoming Kansas Water Congress meeting to take place in Wichita.

KDA-DWR – David Barfield discussed upcoming hearings for the Burrton and McPherson Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCA) as well as the GMD2 Boundary expansion proposal.

USGS – Mandy Stone mentioned the recently released report on Phase II aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) in relation to water quality of the surrounding area. This report can be viewed online at <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20165042>.

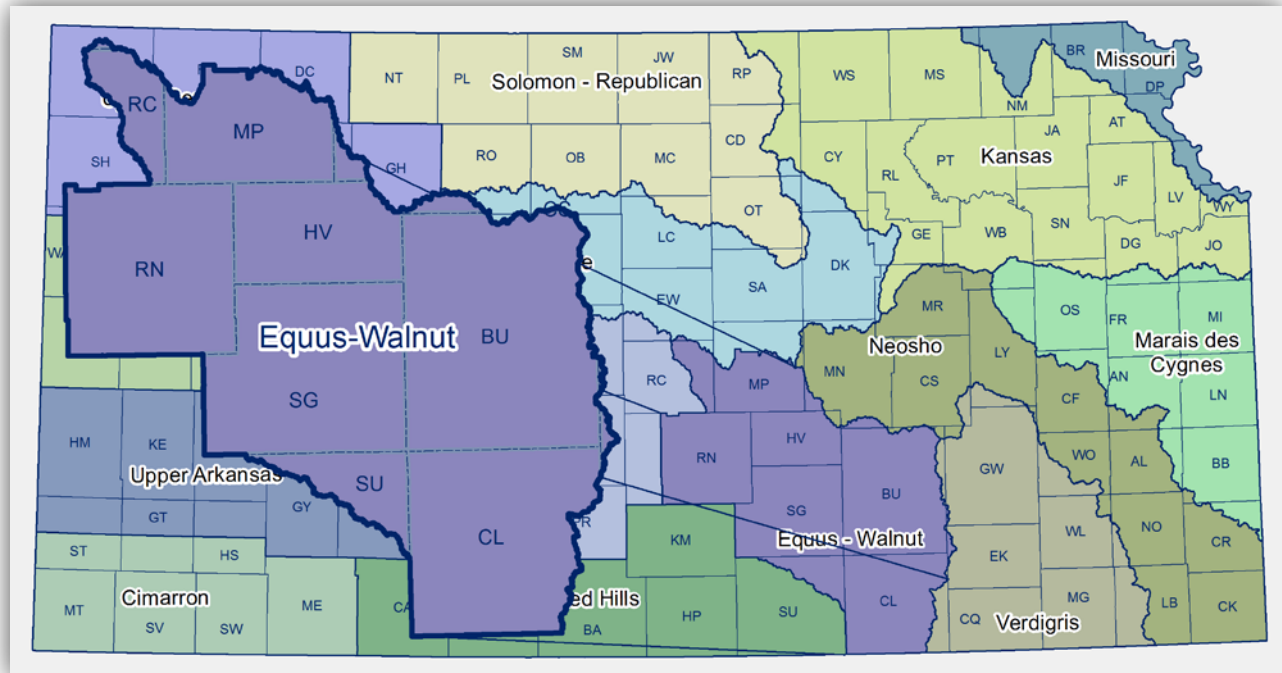
- b. Questions and Future Issues from Members: Denise Middleton mentioned the aquifer exhibit scheduled to open at Exploration Place in Wichita on August 27.
- c. Messages to the Kansas Water Authority: Mentioned previously in meeting notes.
- d. Future Meetings:
 - i. Kansas Water Authority: August 31-September 1, Emporia.
 - ii. Equus-Walnut RAC: TBD via Doodle Poll

6. **Adjourn:** Bob Seiler made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Denise Middleton. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Equus-Walnut Regional Planning Area

Guiding Principle

The Equus-Walnut Regional Goal Leadership Team recognizes that education at all levels is the highest priority for long-term success. Proper and adequate funding for educational resources is essential to ensure success in achieving the water supply goals for this region. An overarching goal is that every Kansan in the region should know the water resources in the region, the dangers potentially impacting the resource, and the value of and the actions necessary to protect it. The Goal Leadership Team supports promoting good stewardship, conservation and improved efficiency, balanced with economic growth, as tools towards achieving the goals described below.



- 1. Achieve and maintain sustainable balance of groundwater withdrawals with annual recharge in the Equus Beds Aquifer by 2020. Ensure safe yield and recharge rate calculations in the Equus Beds Aquifer are accurate through a district wide, integrated groundwater and surface water model by 2018.**
2. Each public water supplier in the region will develop a long term water supply plan and revise every five years to meet their individual forecasted needs. Water suppliers should consider alternative uses of non-potable water and existing water supplies before developing any new water supply projects.
3. Implement and maintain watershed protection activities to maintain regional reservoir storage capacity for an additional 100 years beyond the design life.
4. Maintain or reduce the rate of sedimentation and nutrient loading through the encouragement of best management practices (BMPs) on 50% of the high priority acres in the watershed above water supply reservoirs. Ensure practices are sustained and maintained for the long-term and priorities are reassessed every five years.
5. Allocate necessary resources (\$1-5 million) within five years to identify and prioritize current contamination issues impacting the Equus Beds Aquifer and develop a plan to manage and mitigate the contamination. Review existing studies and emerging technologies to develop a new conceptual plan with estimated costs. Begin implementation of the plan within 10 years of completing the study.
6. While focused on the preservation of our water resources agricultural water users will double the value of irrigation-based production over the next 50 years. Coordinate with public/private research and development programs to develop and promote less water and nutrient intensive crops. Provide incentives for operators to implement irrigation efficiency improvements immediately. Increase efforts to implement water conserving agricultural production practices utilizing no-till methods, cover cropping systems and a rangeland cedar tree management program.
7. Encourage municipal, commercial, and industrial users of water to increase the efficiency of net water use by reducing the volume of water used per unit of measure by 5% per decade. Provide incentives for users to implement water efficiency improvements.