

MEMO



DATE: July 21, 2016
TO: Great Bend Prairie RAC and Agency Advisors
FROM: Matt Unruh, Kansas Water Office
RE: July 28, 2016 Meeting

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The next meeting for the Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is scheduled for **2:00 pm Thursday, July 28, 2016 at the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources, Stafford Field Office, 300 S. Main Street, Stafford, KS.**

The main item of discussion at the meeting will be action plan development for Great Bend Prairie Regional Goals associated with the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas.

Enclosed please find:

- Agenda
- Press Release
- March 2016 Draft Meeting Notes
- Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area Vision Goals

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).

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee
2:00 p.m., July 28, 2016
Kansas Dept. of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources
Stafford Field Office

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of March 2016 Meeting Notes**
- 4. Regional Activities and Other Updates**
 - a. May KWA Update
 - b. Blue Ribbon Funding Taskforce Update
 - c. Regional Goal Action Plan Development Discussion
 - i. Discussion on Completed Action Plans – August KWA Meeting
 - ii. Discussion on Action Plans still in progress
- 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: August 31-September 1, 2016; Emporia, KS
 - ii. Great Bend Prairie RAC: TBD
- 6. Adjourn**

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC

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Tracy Streeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:
July 13, 2016

For More Information:
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Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Stafford
July 28, 2 p.m. at the KDA-DWR Field Office

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Great Bend Prairie 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 Thursday, July 28 at 2 p.m., at the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture- Div. Water Resources Field Office at 300 S. Main Street in Stafford, Kansas. The main focus of the meeting will be action plan development for Great Bend Prairie Regional Water Supply Goals associated with the *Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas*.

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.



Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m., March 10 2016 623 Broadway, Larned, KS

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Berry Bortz (Chair)	Preston, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Jay Dill	Kinsley, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2017	Yes
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2017	Yes
Robert Fisher	Ellinwood, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	No
John Haas	Larned, KS	At Large Public 2	2019	No
Jeremiah Hobbs	LaCrosse, KS	Watershed Protection	2019	Yes
Jeff Holste	Burdett, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	Yes
Lane Massey	Larned, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2017	Yes
Keith Miller	Barton Co., KS	Agriculture 3	2019	Yes
Roger Mohr	Albert, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	No
John Sweet	Lyons, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Tom Turner	St. John, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2017	Yes
Taggart Wall	Sterling, KS	Public Water Supply 4	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Orrin Feril	GMD5
Jeff Lanterman	KDA-DWR
Randy Still	Pawnee Watershed
Richard Wenstrom	Central Kansas Water Bank, Water PACK
Justin Vosburgh	Stafford Co. Farmer
Matt Unruh	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Berry Bortz welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.
- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda:** John Sweet made the motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Dan Filbert. The motion carried and the agenda was approved as presented.
- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of January 2016 Meeting Notes:** Tom Turner made the motion to approve the January 2016 meeting notes, seconded by Jay Dill. The motion carried and the meeting notes were approved as presented.

Membership: Berry Bortz, Chair, Preston, KS; Jay Dill, Kinsley, KS; Daniel Filbert, Macksville, KS; Robert Fisher, Ellinwood, KS; John Haas, Larned, KS; Jeremiah Hobbs, La Crosse, KS; Jeff Holste, Burdett, KS; Lane Massey, Larned, KS; Keith Miller, Barton County; Roger Mohr, Albert, KS; John Sweet, Lyons, KS; Tom Turner, St. John, KS; Taggart Wall, Sterling, KS
KWO Planner: Matt Unruh. 785-296-3185 matt.unruh@kwo.ks.gov

4. Regional Activities and Other Updates

- a. Regional Goal Action Plans: RAC members provided updates on research activities related to Great Bend Prairie Regional Goal Action Plan development. Berry Bortz provided an updated on recent conversations he was a part of regarding the Region's feed wheat goal.

John Sweet discussed the role KDHE could play in Action Plan development from a water quality standpoint.

Jeff Holste went through some of the data analysis he conducted to produce well hydrographs for water wells within the GMD5 area. In conjunction with Jeff's data, Orrin Ferel provided additional background information regarding the GMD's monitoring efforts within the region.

Following the discussion on groundwater levels through the Great Bend Prairie Region, Berry Bortz asked for the RAC's permission to approach the GMD5 Board regarding the Region's groundwater sustainability goal. Jay Dill made the motion for the RAC to give permission to Berry Bortz to speak on the RAC's behalf to the GMD5 Board and ask for their input and support in drafting an action plan for the Great Bend Prairie's groundwater sustainability goal. Keith Miller seconded the motion, and the motion carried with no opposition.

Orrin Ferel gave a presentation to the RAC on the Central Kansas Water Bank.

5. Other Business

- a. Agency reports on items not previously discussed:

Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources: Jeff Lanterman provided an update on recent activities associated with the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Impairment Complaint. A recent letter submitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding impairment solutions was among the recent activities discussed. This letter can be found online at http://dwr.kda.ks.gov/impairment/RSC.Quivira/20160302_Quivira_Response_Impairment_Solutions.pdf

Additional information regarding the impairment complaint can be found on the DWR's website at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/water-appropriation/impairment-complaints/quivira-national-wildlife-refuge>

GMD #5: Orrin Ferel noted that there are many activities taking place at the GMD, including work on Quivira Impairment Complaint. He asked the RAC keep this in mind when requesting information from the GMD. He also noted that there is a great deal of variability in annual groundwater levels, so keep that in mind when reviewing data.

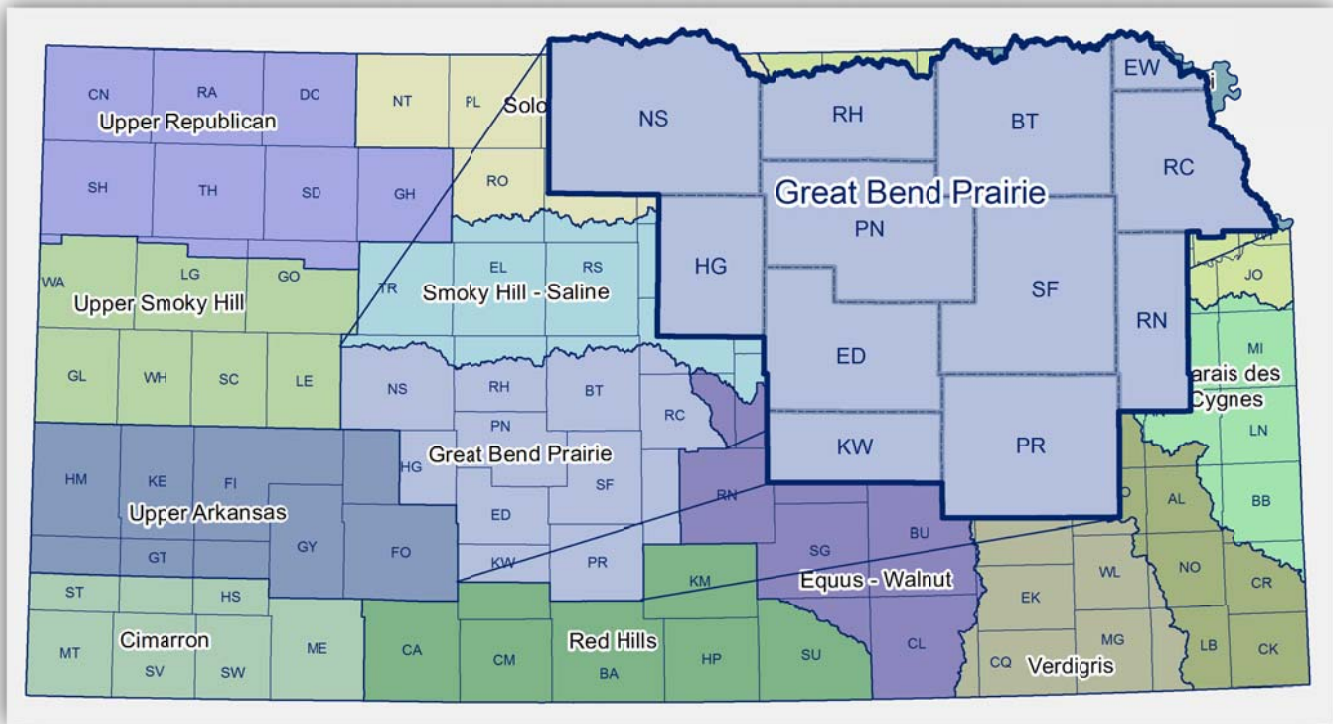
Public Comments: Richard Wenstrom provided an update of the Water Technology Farm being developed within the Great Bend Prairie Region to the southeast of Larned to evaluate irrigation technology and management. He mentioned that this is slated to be a three year project, with KSU analyzing and collecting data from the farm. He also noted that Water PACK recently held a meeting to discuss the Quivira Impairment Complaint.

- b. Questions and Future Issues from Members: Dan Filbert mentioned that it would be helpful to have information present which would allow for re-evaluation of areas of no groundwater decline within the Region and the ability to move that water to better manage the groundwater resources of the region.
 - c. Messages to the Kansas Water Authority: No formal messages provided.
 - d. Future Meetings:
 - i. KWA May 18-19; Oakley, KS (Buffalo Bill Cultural Center, 3083 US Hwy 83)
 - ii. Great Bend Prairie RAC: Target May for next meeting
6. **Meeting Adjourned:** Jeremiah Hobbs moved to adjourn the meeting, Lane Massey provided the second. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:12 pm.

Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area

Guiding Principle

Ensure regulations and programs put into place are reviewed to ensure various water use groups are not adversely affected by regulations and programs intended for an individual water use group.



- 1. Achieve water use sustainability within the Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area by 2025 with a starting point being no new net depletions that includes a reasonable raising or lowering of the water table based on average weather conditions.**
2. Maintain annual training funds of 15% from Clean Water Drinking Fee and increase technical training support to Public Water Supply (PWS) systems to enhance new technology and increase water efficiently and effectively, thus reducing water loss. Utilize available municipal/residential/commercial irrigation training programs provided by the Irrigation Association.
3. Enhance the monitoring of poor quality water in areas which have salt water disposal lines, disposal wells and areas with high salt sources to ensure that contamination of fresh water sources does not occur as well as to stop and reverse further contamination of fresh water sources. Establish a self-reporting program under penalty of law if a problem is observed to ensure the problem does not get worse. Start using mapping techniques and disposal line maintenance and replacement to ensure this goal is met. Set up a review program by 2020.
4. Initiate research and development of feed wheat as an alternative feed source within the Great Bend Prairie Planning Region. Technology transfer from this research would have benefits in areas of Kansas where water is not available for production of water-intensive crops. Dual research program: plant breeding and livestock feeding. Achieve large scale feeding trials by 2025.
5. Work towards sustainability of watersheds so that flood control capacity is maintained while maintaining streamflow to meet downstream water needs. Progress towards sustainability would be to have 50% of the drainage area within watershed districts controlled by watershed structures by 2065. Best available information/data will be evaluated every 10 years to track progress towards meeting this goal.