

MEMO



DATE: February 22, 2017
TO: Solomon-Republican RAC Members
FROM: Kirk Tjelmeland, Kansas Water Office
CC: Solomon-Republican RAC Advisors
RE: March 7, 2017 RAC Meeting

900 SW Jackson St., Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.org

The meeting of the Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held **at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room, 240 W. US Highway 24, Downs, Kansas.**

We will discuss the December 19th joint Kansas & Solomon-Republican RAC meeting. Keli Habiger will update the group on the Almena Irrigation District Contract. Also Katie Goff (KWO) will give an update on the Proposed Reservoir sites in the Region and the flow modeling that has just been completed. Jack Brown will give a presentation on Current and Proposed well policies. Pete Gile will also give us an update on the KBID project.

Enclosed are materials for the March 7th meeting:

- Agenda
- December 19th Meeting Notes
- Press Release
- Action Plan

If you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (785) 296-3185 or by e-mail at kirk.tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov.

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
March 7, 2017
Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room
240 W. US Highway 24, Downs, KS
10:00am

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Review of December Meeting Notes
 - a) Discussion of Commonality between the Kansas and Solomon-Republican RACs (Don)
 - b) Chair and Vice-Chair positions (Don & Tj)
- 3) Update on the Almena Irrigation District Contract – (Keli Habiger)
- 4) Update on the Proposed Reservoir sites and flow modeling – (Katie Goff)
- 5) Update on KBID project – (Pete Gile)
- 6) Analysis of Kansas Water Well Policies and Proposal of New Water Well Policies – (Jack Brown)
- 7) Review of Regional Action Plan – (Don & Tj)
- 8) Agency and Public Input
- 9) Future Meetings
 - a) Kansas Water Authority: May 17-18th, Garden City, KS
 - b) Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle poll (June?)
 - c) Governor’s Water Conference: November 8-9th, Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center, Manhattan, KS 66502



Kansas & Solomon-Republican Joint Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Kansas & Solomon-Republican Joint Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am, Monday, December 19, 2016

Concordia Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room, 606 Washington St., Concordia, KS

Kansas RAC Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Marlene Bosworth	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Brad (William) Bradley	Overland Park, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2017	No
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	Yes
Dawn Buehler	Eudora, KS	Recreation	2019	No
Blake Follis	Topeka, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2019	No
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	No
Katie Miller	Junction City, KS	Conservation/Environment	2019	Yes
William Ramsey	Leawood, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2017	No
Sharon Schwartz	Washington, KS	WRAPs	2019	No
Greg Wilson	Olathe, KS	Water Assurance District	2017	Yes

Solomon-Republican RAC Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Donald Hellwig (Chair)	Solomon, KS	Agriculture	2017	Yes
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2017	Yes
John Cockerham	Osborne, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2017	No
Raymond Debey	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Timothy Driggs	Phillipsburg, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	No
Stacey Forshee	Ottawa County, KS	At Large Public	2019	Yes
Keith Houghton	Tipton, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2019	No
James (JP) Metzler	Minneapolis, KS	Industry and Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Terry Nelson	Phillips County, KS	Irrigation West	2017	Yes
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2017	Yes
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2019	Yes
Scott Ross	Stockton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Robert Reschke	KDA/DOC	Amanda Reed	KDHE	Greg Sherbert	CY Cons. Dist.
Earl Lewis	KWO	Terry Alstatt	USDA-NRCS	Tom Stiles	KDHE
Jennifer Nichols	KDHE	Tracy Streeter	KWO	Deb Baker	KAWS
Marlene Stamm	NCK LEPG	Galene Biery	KRWAD #1	Sherry Koster	NCK LEPG
Bruce Wells	NRCS	Nina Meyer	WS Cons. Dist.	Susie Swanson	State Leg.
Dennis Reedy	Public	Leslie Holthaus	MS Cons. Dist.	Margaret Fast	KWO
Dana Ladner	KDA	Tom Meek	Milford WRAPS	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

Membership: *Kansas* - Sarah Hill-Nelson (Chair), Marlene Bosworth, Brad Bradley, Glenn Brunkow, Dawn Buehler, Blake Follis, Heath Horyna, Daniel Howell, Darci Meese, Katie Miller, William Ramsey, Sharon Schwartz, Greg Wilson **S&R** - Donald Hellwig (Chair), Mike Brzon, John Cockerham, Raymond Debey, Timothy Driggs, Stacey Forshee, Keith Houghton, James (JP) Metzler, Terry Nelson, David Pfizenmaier, Arnold Ross
KWO Planners: Margaret Fast, margaret.fast@kwo.ks.gov Kirk Tjelmeland, kirk.tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Don Hellwig and Sarah Hill-Nelson, Chairs, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and all present providing self-introductions.
2. **Kansas & Solomon-Republican Common Ground:** Margaret and Tj started off the power point with an explanation of common geography between the two RACs. Sarah and Don went through the main portion of the power point that illustrated common Action Items between the two RACs: Water Storage in Existing Reservoirs, Additional Storage in Multipurpose Lakes, Water Delivery Efficiency, Sediment Reduction in Reservoirs and Reservoir Nutrients. Sarah also asked Katie Miller, KS RAC to highlight the Kansas Basin Watershed Management System the committee is promoting to target funding for sediment and nutrient reduction into priority hot spots. The power point is posted on the KWO web site at <http://www.kwo.org/Regional-Advisory-Committees.html>
3. **Conservation Districts (Tom Meek and Rob Reschke)** – Tom went through a power point that illustrated best management practices in Clay County that had been installed through cost share programs including waterways, streambank stabilization, buffers and cover crops. He also showed one slide of particular interest was of a ravine on a piece of property in Clay Co. where the landowner was involved in absolutely no government programs. He went on to say that landowners as a whole are doing a pretty good job in keeping over 90% of phosphorous in the field (in his estimate) but there is always room for improvement. Amanda Reed from KDHE informed the group that the Milford drainage phosphorous reduction load has been increased significantly to 1 million pounds/year due to recent assessments. Rob presented a map that is still under construction and is not available to the public yet. The map is for watershed areas broken down to the HUC 8 with practices applied, money invested, sediment reduction and a couple of items. Both RACs thought this would be very useful in making informed decisions when targeting conservation dollars. Tom's presentation posted on the KWO web site <http://www.kwo.org/Regional-Advisory-Committees.html>
4. **Update from NRCS (Bruce Wells)** – Bruce had a general power point, the talk illustrated their moto, Helping People Help the Land. He stated they don't plan for programs; they use programs to implement plans. Bruce went on to explain that NRCS has a presence in every county in KS and they provide free technical assistance on a variety of concerns: soil, water, air, plants and animals. NRCS has a 9 step plan that is implemented to help clients achieve their goals. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is their flagship program; 60% has to benefit livestock. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is one that is generating some interest by some of the RAC's. He showed a picture of a gully on White Rock Creek that was adding 68 tons/year to the Creek. Bruce talked a little about terraces, waterways and other BMP's and their benefits. He mentioned the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative which is designed to reduce the quantity of water removed from the aquifer and improve water quality using conservation practices. Bruce flipped through the RCPP slides another tool NRCS has available to provide assistance to producers and landowners. He mentioned the Watershed Rehabilitation Program has been in place for 15 years and has provided millions of dollars for rehab projects across Kansas. The power point is posted at <http://www.kwo.org/Regional-Advisory-Committees.html>
5. **Update on Milford WRAPS (Deb Baker)** – Deb gave a short update on the Milford WRAPS plan. The plan is good and is based off of good information; however since it is over 5 years old a good deal of the information needs to be updated, ex: public water supply information. Deb said they had new aerial photos and they had done some ground - truthing recently to insure their accuracy.
6. **Update on Kansas Water Authority Meeting December 15th - Wichita** – Sarah gave a quick overview of meeting and said the most conversation was about the \$16 million that was in the budget for dredging. Earl

elaborated on the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force and the possibility of the funding for the budget going forward. Given the current financial situation of the state increasing the Kansas Water Plan budget seems slim.

7. **Agency and Public Input** –There was no other agency or public comment.

8. **Meeting was adjourned – 12:20 pm**

9. **Future Meetings:**

- a. HAB Meeting: January 18th, Topeka, KS
- b. Kansas Water Authority: January 24-25th, Ramada Inn Downtown 426 SE 6th, Topeka, KS
- c. Kansas RAC: January TBD
- d. Solomon-Republican RAC: To be determined (Doodle Poll will be sent out) – February
- e. Forum on Reservoir Health (KACEE hosted) Meeting: February 9th, Wakefield, KS

900 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612



Phone: (785)-296-3185
Fax: (785)-296-0878
www.kwo.org

Tracy Streeeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:
February 22, 2017

For More Information: Katie Patterson-Ingels
785.296.3185, katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov
www.kwo.org

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee to Meet in Downs
March 7, 2017, 10:00a.m., at the Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting to discuss several items from their Action Plan that are being implemented.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, March 7, 10:00 a.m. in the Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room, 240 W. US Highway 24 in Downs, Kansas. The agenda will include a presentation by Keli Habiger concerning the current Almaena Irrigation District contract. Katie Goff (KWO) will update the committee on the Proposed Reservoir sites and flow modeling. Jack Brown will give a presentation on current and proposed well policies. Pete Gile rounds out the agenda with an update on the KBID project.

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.

###

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.

Priority Goal: Within the next two years, develop a clearinghouse of technical tools, agreements and agency personnel for use alternatives for Solomon-Republican region waters. An example could be the marketing contract for Keith Sebelius Reservoir/Almena Irrigation District that reached agreement to convert irrigation to recreation use.

Action Plan:

- Support KDWPT in their effort to renegotiate the Keith Sebelius Reservoir Minimum Pool Agreement with the Almena Irrigation District.
- Use the Keith Sebelius contract as a model for negotiations on other BOR Reservoirs (Kirwin, Webster)
- Use KBID's knowledge on capturing BOR grants to help improve Webster and Kirwin irrigation efficiency.
- Exhaust all possible funding sources necessary to improve water efficiency.
- Work with KDWPT on an economic study to determine the value of keeping as much water in the Western Reservoirs as possible.
- Initiate a meeting with USF&WS on Kirwin Reservoir facilities and KDWPT's involvement.
- Investigate the benefits of raising the Conservation Pool at both Kirwin and Webster.

Goal 2: Reduce inbound sediment loads, through conservation measures, with a focus on White Rock Creek to Lovewell Reservoir, by 25% every 10 years.

Action Plan:

- Use KDHE to evaluate sources of sediment entering Lovewell Reservoir.
- Use Kansas and Nebraska data to evaluate suspended solids and nutrients.
- Use data to evaluate the effects of the Courtland Canal on Reservoir loading.

Goal 3: Complete a bathymetric assessment every 10 years on all reservoirs in the Solomon-Republican Region. This goal will be a tool to periodically monitor sediment accumulation and rates. If sediment loads exceed 10%, actions should be initiated to determine the source watersheds and remedies within a twelve month period from assessment report.

Action Plan:

- Work with KBS to complete bathymetric survey of Waconda Reservoir.

Goal 4: Continue initiative that will maintain, and annually fund a Kansas Administrative Team to facilitate Republican River Compact (RRC) compliance. An annual report of progress and activities should be prepared and presented to the Republican-Solomon Regional Advisory Committee.

Action Plan:

- Quarterly presentation by KWO staff or other interested parties on RRC outcomes.

*As per the Vision Plan, each RAC will annually hold a meeting revealing the current ground water, surface water and water storage conditions. Additionally, goals and actions will be reviewed highlighting the progress of the SR RAC.