

MEMO



DATE: July 6, 2016
TO: Upper Republican RAC Members
FROM: Richard Rockel, Kansas Water Office
CC: Upper Republican RAC Advisors
RE: July 18, 2016 RAC Meeting

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Topeka, KS 66612
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The meeting of the Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held **at 1:00 p.m., Monday, July 18, 2016 at the Northwest Kansas GMD #4 meeting room, 1290 W. 4th, Colby, Kansas.**

The main item of discussion is the priority goal implantation plan. This will include a review of approved Regional Goals and the finalization of the priority goal action plan. Updates will be given on Regional Goal progress and future planning.

Enclosed are materials for the meeting:

- Agenda
- Prior Meeting Notes
- Press Release
- Copy of the Approved Regional Goals

If you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (785) 296-0876 or by e-mail at richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov.

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

July 18, 2016

Northwest Kansas GMD #4

1290 W. 4th, Colby, KS

1:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of April Meeting Notes
3. Action Plan Goal Updates
 - Goal 1: GMD No. 4 LEMA update
 - Goal 2: Northwest Technical College Precision Agriculture program – Weston McCray
 - Goal 2: Water Informational Events and proposed timing
 - Goal 3: Republican River Compact update
 - Goal 4:
 - Goal 5: USDA-RMA Limited Irrigation expansion for 2017 and WCA/Limited Irrigation tool development
4. Update on Proposed Rules & Regulations and Water Conservation Areas

Kelly Stewart, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
5. Finalize Action Plan for August/October KWA meeting final approval
6. Public Input
7. Future Meetings
 - Kansas Water Authority: August 31-Sept. 1; Emporia, KS
 - Upper Republican RAC: Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm, Monday, April 4, 2016

Northwest Kansas GMD #4, 1290 W. 4th, Colby, KS

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Jon Starns(Chair)	Oakley, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Resigning	Yes
Brian Baalman	Menlo, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	Yes
Shannon Kenyon	Colby, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Gary Fisher	Atwood, KS	Local Government	2017	Yes
Mike Frakes	Morland, KS	At Large Public 2	2017	No
Jered Johnson	Colby, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2017	No
Ken McCarty	Rexford, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	Yes
Sid Metcalf	Oberlin, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2019	No
Mike Schultz	Brewster, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Justin Sloan	Colby, KS	Agriculture 2	2017	No
Tyson McGreer	Colby, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Kelly Stewart	KDA/DWR
Lou Hines	Public
Ray Luhman	GMD No. 4
Greg Graff	KWA
Richard Rockel	KWO
Tracy Streeter	KWO
Katie Goff	KWO
Jim Whitt	Public
Ian de Waal	Tri State Irr
Jonathan Aguilar	KSU SWREC
David Tan	Colby Free Press
Larry Barrett	Public
Matt Palmquist	NRCS

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Jon Starns. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review and Approval of January Meeting Minutes:** Notes from the January meeting were approved as presented.

- 3. Begin development of Regional Action Plan:** The Committee discussed their goals and how they would like to proceed.

Goal 1: The Committee stated they wanted to support GMD No. 4 in the implementation of their Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA). Ray Luhman and Shannon Kenyon (GMD No. 4) were asked what assistance they needed from the Committee, no suggestions were given. The Committee decided to stay out of the way of GMD No. 4's continued LEMA discussions. A brief discussion was had regarding water rights outside of the GMD No. 4 boundaries and if GMD expansion was an option.

Goal 2: The Committee stated that the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) needed education in regards to their programs not being tailored well to the Upper Republican region, and suggested that the requirements of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) be rewritten to allow more use with irrigation technology and water conservation techniques. The Committee proposed that the farm bill be reworded to target actual Northwest Kansas uses. Matt Palmquist (NRCS) says the NRCS was operating with a five year plan and may revise. Water Technology Farms were discussed, as was the potential siting of Water Tech. Farms within the GMD No. 4.

The Committee discussed holding an informational event in August, which may include a screening of "Thirsty Land", a documentary on drought and water scarcity. Multiple Committee members stated they would like to hold such an event with the movie screening.

Goal 3: David Barfield (KDA-DWR) provided an update on the Republican River Compact and stated that he would be meeting with Colorado and Nebraska on Compact issues. An update was provided on NW Kansas pending water right applications.

Goal 5: An update was given on the proposed expansion of limited irrigation crop insurance policies to Decatur, Gove, Logan, and Rawlins counties, planned for 2017. The Committee was informed that two producers in the Sheridan 6 LEMA area took limited irrigation policies.

- 4. Update on Rules & Regulations:** Kelly Stewart (DWR-KDA) provided an update on water conservation areas and their progress and completion. Kelly Stewart and David Barfield (DWR-KDA) provided an update on the rule and regulation hearing closing the remainder of GMD No. 4 to new appropriations of water, the closure is moving forward.
- 5. Update on Water Technology Farms:** Tracy Streeter (KWO) gave an update on technology farms that are progressing. The Committee discussed where the best siting for a water technology farm in GMD No. 4 would be, Shannon Kenyon (GMD No. 4) stated one centrally located would be their preference.
- 6. Public Input:**
- 7. Future Meetings:**
- Kansas Water Authority: May 18th-19th, Oakley, KS
 - Upper Republican RAC: To be determined (Doodle Poll will be sent out).

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Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:
July 6, 2016

For More Information:
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Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee to Meet in Colby
July 18, 1 p.m., at the Groundwater Management District No. 4 Office

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Upper Republican 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 Monday, July 18, 1 p.m. at the Groundwater Management District No. 4 Office, 1290 W. 4th Street in Colby, Kansas. There will be information shared about the 2017 Limited Irrigation crop insurance options coming from USDA-RMA and Weston McCray of the Northwest Kansas Technical College will be presenting the Precision Agriculture program. Regional action items will continue to be developed to present to the Kansas Water Authority.

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.

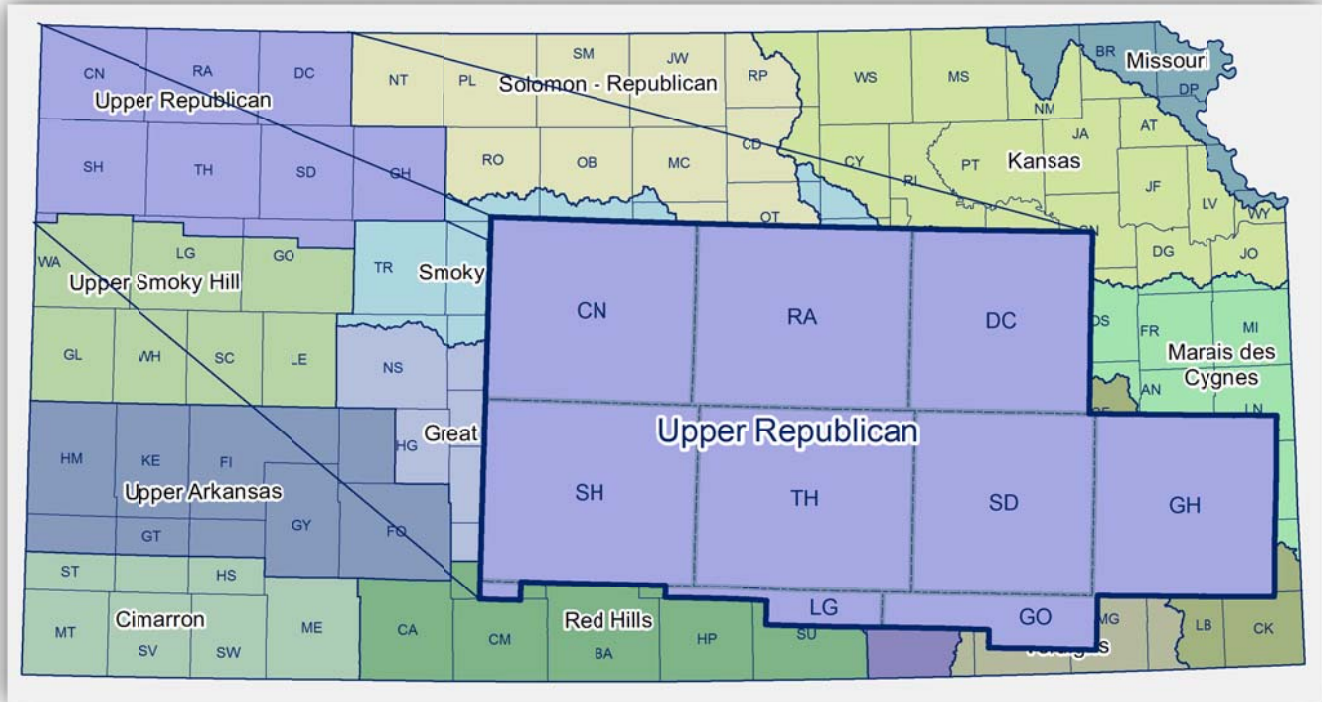
Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101) requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations messages.

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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.

Upper Republican Regional Planning Area



- 1. Develop and adopt a water conservation management plan that provides maximum flexibility while reducing overall actual use, in concert with GMD 4, to extend the aquifer life and economic well-being by January 1, 2017. Utilize a time-phased implementation approach, not less than 2 years or greater than 5 years, to phase in conservation measures to lessen economic impacts and allow user transition. Conservation Plan shall address all types of use while considering flexibility tools and overall actual reduction.**
2. Enhance current efforts on education of all water users for all age groups on sources of supply, quantity of supply, best management practices, etc. to help stakeholders conserve and extend.
3. Republican River Compact administration should be encouraged to maintain compliance in the South Fork Republican River.
4. Increase utilization and adoption of water conservation technology and practices by 10% by 2020. Actively seek annual funding to ensure successful achievement of goal.
5. Encourage the state to coordinate with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), as well as our Congressional delegation and neighboring states, to develop common sense tools for crop insurance that encourage water conservation and have such tools and policies available by 2016.

Priority Goal: Develop and adopt a water conservation management plan that provides maximum flexibility while reducing overall actual use, in concert with GMD 4, to extend the aquifer life and economic well-being by January 1, 2017. Utilize a time-phased implementation approach, not less than 2 years or greater than 5 years, to phase in conservation measures to lessen economic impacts and allow user transition. Conservation Plan shall address all types of use while considering flexibility tools and overall actual reduction.

Action Plan:

- Support GMD No. 4 in continuation of district wide LEMA plan.
- Look outside the box for other possible funding sources necessary to improve water efficiency.

Goal 2: Enhance current efforts on education of all water users for all age groups on sources of supply, quantity of supply, best management practices, etc. to help stakeholders conserve and extend.

Action Plan:

- Work with KDA and GMD No. 4 in education of water technology farms, specifically in creating a WTF in the Upper Republican region.
- Support KDA in education of WCAs.
- Work with NRCS to evaluate effectiveness of RCPP program and find efficiencies.
- Create a fall event for education of water conservation, involve water agencies and schools.

Goal 3: Republican River Compact administration should be encouraged to maintain compliance in the South Fork Republican River.

Action Plan:

- Ensure KDA continually updates the RAC on the Republican River Compact, especially if any changes occur within the area.

Goal 4: Increase utilization and adoption of water conservation technology and practices by 10% by 2020. Actively seek annual funding to ensure successful achievement of goal.

Action Plan:

- Promote conservation through possible incentives and increased data availability.

Goal 5: Encourage the state to coordinate with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), as well as our Congressional delegation and neighboring states, to develop common sense tools for crop insurance that encourage water conservation and have such tools and policies available by 2016.

Action Plan:

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*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 UR RAC.