

# MEMO



DATE: October 3, 2016  
TO: Upper Republican RAC Members  
FROM: Richard Rockel, Kansas Water Office  
CC: Upper Republican RAC Advisors  
RE: October 11, 2016 RAC Meeting

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Topeka, KS 66612  
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Fax: (785) 296-0878  
[www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org)

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The meeting of the Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held **at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at the Northwest Kansas GMD #4 meeting room, 1290 W. 4th, Colby, Kansas.**

The RAC will receive updates on the Water Vision Education campaign, the planned NW Kansas Water Technology Farms, the Winter Water Education event, and recent Republican River Compact details.

Enclosed are materials for the meeting:

- Agenda
- Prior Meeting Notes
- Press Release
- Regional Goal Action Plan Draft
- 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](mailto:richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov).

**Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**October 11, 2016**  
**Northwest Kansas GMD #4**  
**1290 W. 4<sup>th</sup>, Colby, KS**  
**1:00pm**

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of July Meeting Notes
3. Water Vision Education and Public Outreach update

Dana Ladner – Kansas Department of Agriculture

4. Action Plan Goal Updates

- Goal 1: GMD No. 4 LEMA update
- Goal 2: NW KS Technology Farms

Weston McCary – NW KS Technical College

- Goal 2: GMD 4 Annual Meeting and RMA Water Education event planning
- Goal 3: Republican River Compact update

David Barfield – Chief Engineer Division of Water Resources

- Goal 4: Funding sources needed to fulfill goal
- Goal 5: USDA-RMA WCA/Limited Irrigation tool development

5. Update on Proposed Rules & Regulations and Water Conservation Areas

Kelly Stewart, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources

6. Update on Brewster

7. Final review of Action Plan for October 19th Kansas Water Authority presentation

8. Public Input

9. Future Meetings

- Kansas Water Authority: October 19; Milford, KS
- Governor's Water Conference: November 14-15; Manhattan, KS
- Upper Republican RAC: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_



# Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Notes

## Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

1:00 pm, Monday, July 18, 2016

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

**DRAFT**

### Members in Attendance:

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

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Steven Walters	KDA/DWR
Weston McCary	NW Tech
Ray Luhman	GMD No. 4
Greg Graff	KWA
Richard Rockel	KWO
Katie Goff	KWO
David Engelhaupt	KDA/DWR
Dwayne Kersenbock	Public
Dan Wells	KDHE
Dan Meyerhoff	NRCS
Matt Palmquist	NRCS

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

**Membership:** Jon Starns (Chair), Oakley, KS; Brian Baalman, Menlo, KS; Shannon Cain, Colby, KS; Gary Fisher, Atwood, KS; Mike Frakes, Morland, KS; Jered Johnson, Colby, KS; Ken McCarty, Rexford, KS; Sid Metcalf, Oberlin, KS; Mike Schultz, Brewster, KS; Justin Sloan, Colby, KS; Tyson McGreer, Colby, KS  
**KWO Planner:** Richard Rockel, 785-296-3185; [richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov)

### 3. Regional Action Plan Goal Updates and discussion:

Goal1: Shannon Kenyon of Groundwater Management District (GMD) No. 4 gave an update on development of the GMD's Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) discussions. That the GMD No. 4 Board of Directors asked for a few scenarios and sets of numbers to consider. The GMD No. 4 was looking for a 2018 implementation date and did not require assistance from the RAC at this time.

Goal 2: Weston McCary of the Northwest Kansas Technical College gave the RAC an overview of the development of a Precision Agriculture program at the college. The RAC had some questions regarding the intent of the program and the future plans to expand the program. The RAC made and approved a motion to support the development of an Irrigation Water Technology Farm with the Northwest Kansas Technical College, which will make progress towards RAC goals #2 & 4.

Goal 2: An update was given on plans to hold a Winter Water Informational Event in the Upper Republican region, with tentative timing of January 2017. There was discussion of ways to keep the focus more general, instead of focusing solely on irrigation use. The Committee was asked to submit ideas for what they would like to see included or how they would like the event ran to Richard Rockel of the Kansas Water Office.

Goal 3: David Barfield (KDA-DWR) provided an update on the Republican River Compact and actions Colorado has taken for long term compliance. Information was given about some of the issues that have arose from augmentation and the drying up of acres in Colorado. An overview was given of the Kansas basin appropriation situation and the closure of areas outside of GMD No. 4 to new water appropriations.

Goal 5: An update was given on the proposed expansion of limited irrigation crop insurance policies to forty seven Kansas counties for 2017. This expansion will provide all Northwest Kansas counties with a limited irrigation crop insurance option for use with future Local Enhanced Management Areas or Water Conservation Areas.

4. **Update on Rules & Regulations:** Steven Walters (DWR-KDA) provided an update on water conservation areas and their progress and completion. Information was given about how Water Conservation Areas can be used for different uses, allowing multiple beneficial uses of water to be combined to provide water use flexibilities, while achieving some form of conservation.

5. **Water Quality:** Mike Schultz, Superintendent for the City of Brewster, posed the question of what the RAC's role was in regards to water quality in the area. Mr. Schultz provided the RAC some information regarding the nitrate issues impacting the residents of Brewster. Dan Wells of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), provided information regarding the ongoing work that KDHE is doing and the case's status. The RAC asked that more information be provided to them at the next meeting.

6. **Finalization of Action Plan:** The RAC approved the finalization of the Action Plan, with the addition of providing support to the planning and development of a Water Technology Farm at the Northwest Kansas Technical College being added to Goal 2.

7. **Public Input:** None

### 8. Future Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority: August 31st – September 1st, Emporia, KS
- b. Upper Republican RAC: October 11<sup>th</sup> 1PM GMD No. 4 Office



900 SW Jackson Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

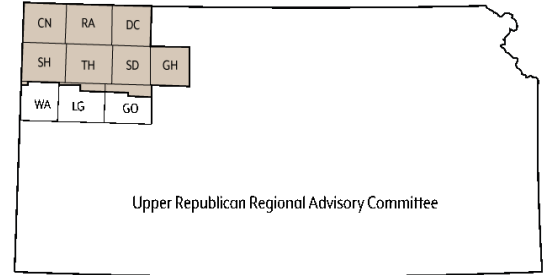
Tracy Streeeter, Director

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[www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org)

Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:  
September 27, 2016

For More Information:  
Katie Patterson-Ingels  
(785) 296.3185, [katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov)



**Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Colby**  
*October 11, 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 Tuesday, October 11, 1 p.m., at the Groundwater Management District No. 4 Office, 1290 W. 4th Street in Colby, Kansas. The agenda includes regional action plan development, along with Local Enhanced Management Area and Water Technology Farm updates. There will also be a Vision Education and Public Outreach presentation.

The agenda and meeting materials will be available at [www.kwo.org](http://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.*

**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 water technology farm with the Northwest Kansas Technical College's Precision Agriculture program.
- 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.

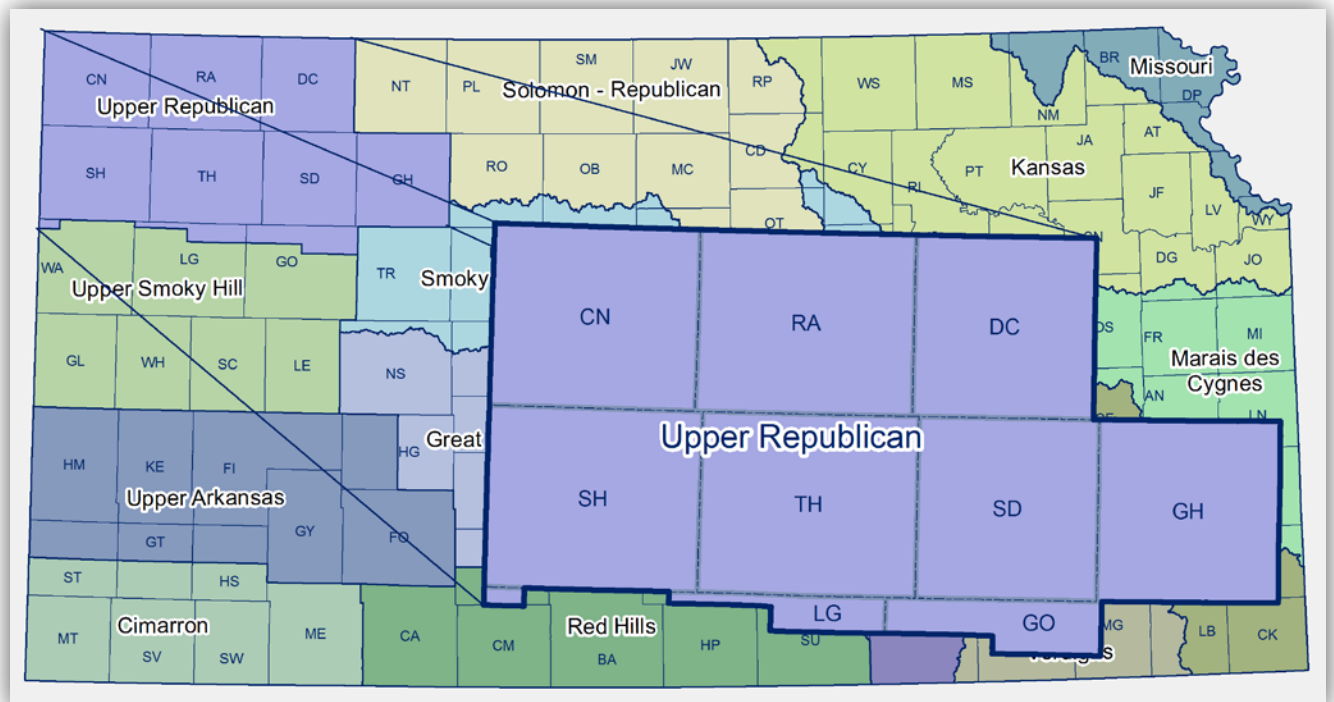
**Goal 5: Encourage the state to coordinate with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), as well as our Congressional delegation and neighboring states, to develop common sense tools for crop insurance that encourage water conservation and have such tools and policies available by 2017.**

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.

# 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.