

MEMO



DATE: December 28, 2016
TO: Upper Republican RAC Members
FROM: Richard Rockel, Kansas Water Office
CC: Upper Republican RAC Advisors
RE: January 13, 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 Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held **at 1:00 p.m., Friday, January 13, 2017 at the Northwest Kansas GMD #4 meeting room, 1290 W. 4th, Colby, Kansas.**

The RAC will receive updates and discuss the water funding proposal for 2017, the planned NW Kansas Water Technology Farms, the 2017 Water Talk Series and GMD 4 annual meeting, and legislator education day.

Enclosed are materials for the meeting:

- Agenda
- Prior Meeting Notes
- Press Release
- Regional Goal Action Plan
- 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

January 13, 2017

Northwest Kansas GMD #4

1290 W. 4th, Colby, KS

1:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of July and October Meeting Notes
3. 2017 Water Talk Series Update
 - February 1st 10 AM Central Time Goodland – Northwest Kansas Technical College Auditorium
 - RAC member participation encouraged
4. Priorities to highlight at Legislative Education Session on January 24, 2017
 - 165 legislators to receive RAC items
 - 90+ legislators expected to meet to discuss water issues and RAC goals
 - What goals, projects, or needs to highlight for region
5. Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force Update
 - Project list and funding proposal being put forward
6. Northwest Kansas Water Technology Farms update
7. Update on Proposed Rules & Regulations and Water Conservation Areas
8. Public Input
9. Future Meetings
 - Kansas Water Authority: January 24-25; Topeka, KS
 - Upper Republican Water Talk Series and GMD 4 Annual Meeting February 1st, Goodland
 - Upper Republican RAC: Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____



Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Notes

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

1:00 pm, Friday, January 13, 2017

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	Yes
Brian Baalman	Menlo, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	No
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	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	No
Ian de Waal	Saint Francis, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Steven Walters	KDA/DWR
Weston McCary	NW Tech
Ray Luhman	GMD No. 4
Richard Rockel	KWO
Dana Ladner	KDA
Gary Boldt	Public
Dan Wells	KDHE
Brian Schulze	NRCS
Matt Palmquist	NRCS
Lou Frahm	Public

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Sid Metcalf. All present provided self-introductions. A quorum was not present, five of the eleven Committee members were present.
- Review and Approval of July Meeting Minutes:** Notes from the July meeting were reviewed, no issues or modifications were noted as being needed. .
- Water Vision Education and Public Outreach update (Goal 2):** Dana Ladner of the Kansas Department of Agriculture presented Draft #2 of the Vision Education and Public Outreach plan to the Committee. Some points of the plan and Committee discussion are:
 - Grants for Regional Advisory Committee education initiatives

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

- b. Creation of a centralized website for water related resources and information
- c. Developing a grant program for water education groups and educators
- d. Cost of \$10 million for first three years
- e. Ray Luhman commented that he would like to see more education for decision makers and to expose them to Western Kansas issues

4. Republican River Compact Update (Goal 3): David Barfield (KDA-DWR) gave the Committee an update on the August 2016 Republican River Compact settlement between Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. Some of the key points that will impact the Upper Republican region:

- a) Colorado has retired most surface water rights on the South Fork Republican River
- b) Colorado has previously retired 23,000 irrigated acres to help with compliance and restoring base flow
- c) Colorado drained Bonny Reservoir in 2012
- d) Colorado will retire an additional 23,000 irrigated acres, to reduce groundwater use and return base flows

5. Regional Action Plan Goal Updates and discussion: Goal 1: Shannon Kenyon of Groundwater Management District (GMD) No. 4 presented the districtwide Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) being proposed. The GMD No. 4 is looking for a 2018 implementation date and will hold four public information sessions, which will be November 29th, November 30th, December 1st, and December 5th. Some comments from the Committee were:

- a) Provides a place to start
- b) Gets people talking and thinking about water
- c) Can adjust plan in five years
- d) Current Sheridan 6 LEMA can renew in the future
- e) Water Conservation Areas (WCA) can be present within the LEMA area.

Goal 2: Weston McCary of the Northwest Kansas Technical College presented to the RAC the plan for Northwest Kansas Technology Farms. The plan would involve rolling out irrigation technology and technical support to willing NW KS landowners and utilizing the Northwest Tech Precision Agriculture program's resources to do soil sampling, mapping, and additional field work. The plan would provide NW Tech students additional opportunities to do work outside of the classroom, benefit NW Kansas landowners interested in irrigation technology and further conservation, and provide the foundation for a system that could be expanded when additional future funds are received.

Goal 2: An update was given on the plan to hold a Winter Water Informational Event in the Upper Republican region. The event will be called the "2017 Water Talk Series" and be held in conjunction with the GMD No. 4 Annual Meeting on February 1, 2017 at the Northwest Kansas Technical College auditorium in Goodland, Kansas. The event is sponsored through a United States Dept. of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (USDA-RMA) grant that was received by the Kansas Water Office. The event will be focused on providing information about tool and resources available to support reduced irrigation water usage into the future. Information will be provided on irrigation technology, Limited Irrigation crop insurance options to be offered by the USDA-RMA in 2017, the GMD No. 4 LEMA, and NW KS Water Technology Farms.

4. Update on Rules & Regulations: Steven Walters (DWR-KDA) provided an update on Water Conservation Areas (WCA) and proposed changes for 2017. On change would be basing WCA's more on a water management plan instead of requiring term permits for water use flexibilities.

5. **Update on Brewster:** Dan Wells (KDHE) provided the Committee an update on Brewster and the monitoring of nitrate movement within the city. Some key points were that KDHE installed seven additional monitoring wells in August 2016 to better document nitrate plume movement and is working with the City of Brewster to conduct pump tests of the city's public water supply wells to determine impacts on plume movement.
6. **Finalization of Action Plan:** The Committee did a final review of the Action Plan before the October 19th presentation to the Kansas Water Authority for final approval.
7. **Public Input:** None
8. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force: October 31, Topeka, KS
 - b. Kansas Water Authority: December 15, Wichita, KS
 - c. Upper Republican RAC: TBD January 2017 (Poll will be sent out)

900 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612



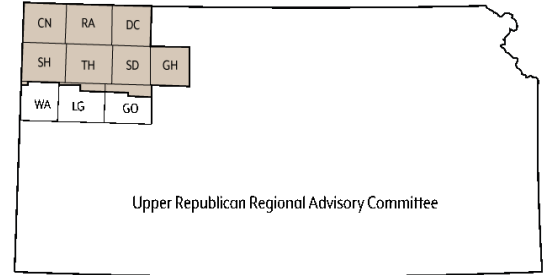
Phone: (785)-296-3185
Fax: (785)-296-0878
www.kwo.org

Tracy Streeeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:
December 29, 2016

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



Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Colby
January 13, 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 Friday, January 13, 1 p.m., at the Groundwater Management District No. 4 Office, 1290 W. 4th Street in Colby, Kansas. The main agenda items include the 2017 Water Talk Series, GMD 4 annual meeting and an update on the planned northwest Kansas Water Technology farms.

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.

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.

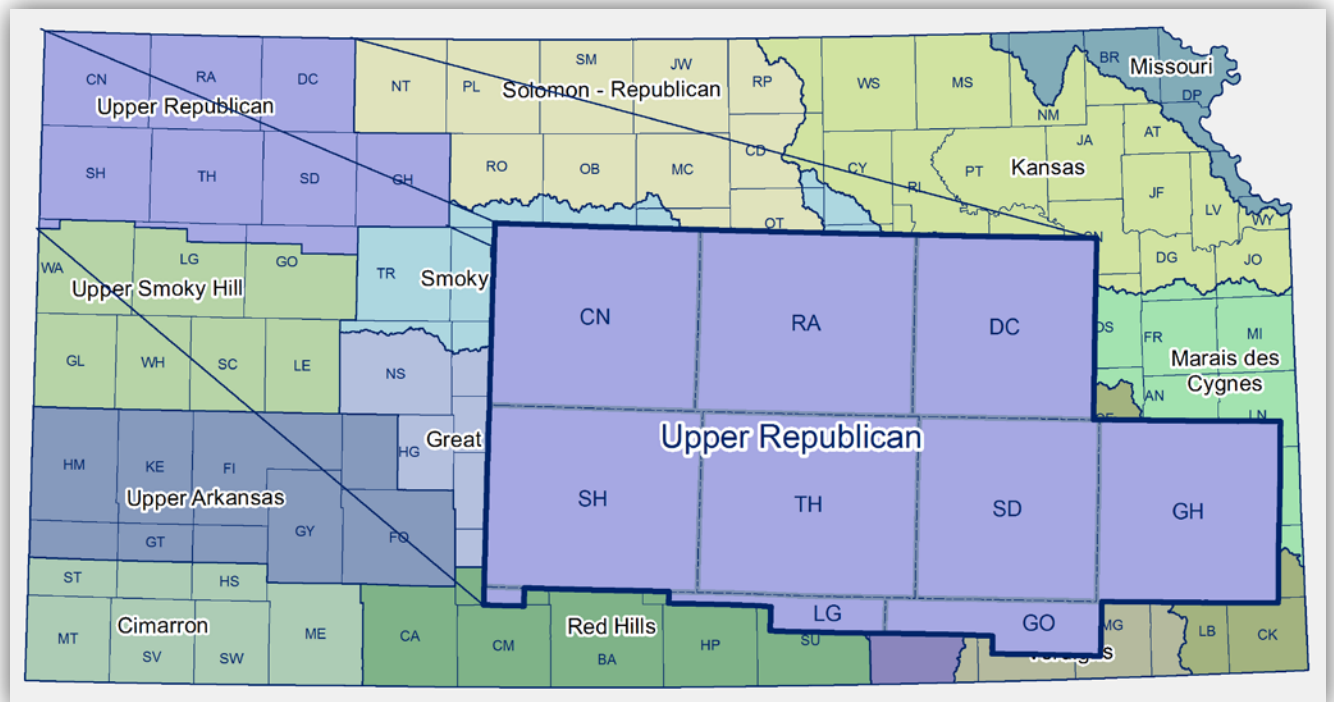
Goal 5: Encourage the state to coordinate with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), as well as our Congressional delegation and neighboring states, to develop common sense tools for crop insurance that encourage water conservation and have such tools and policies available by 2017.

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.