

# MEMO



DATE: February 1, 2017  
TO: Upper Arkansas RAC Members  
FROM: Diane Knowles  
CC: Upper Arkansas Agency Advisors  
RE: February 14, 2017 Meeting

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

---

The next meeting of the Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee will be held on **Tuesday February 14, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the 4-H Building, Finney County Fairgrounds, 209 W Lake Ave, Garden City Kansas.**

The meeting will focus on the next phase the Upper Arkansas Regional Goals, implementation of the action plan. I am happy to report that the Kansas Water Authority approved the final regional action plans at their August 31-Sept.1 for inclusion in the Kansas Water Plan.

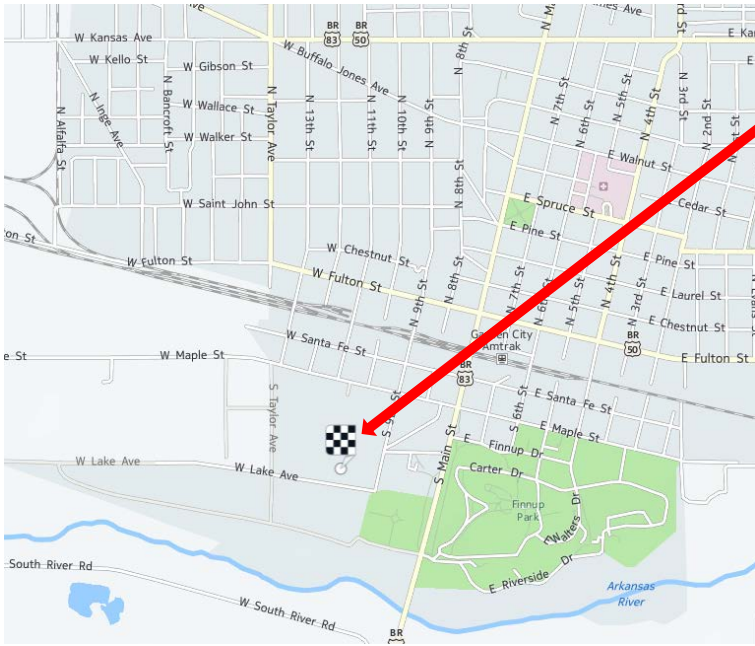
This meeting will focus on RAC operations and updates related to the Upper Arkansas Region action plans. We will have representatives of the USDA Risk Management Agency to provide an overview of the Limited Irrigation Crop insurance program and KSU to report on Water Technology Farms.

This past year has been a busy in regard to water with the usual KWA and RAC meetings as well as the special funding and education committees' work. Documents that summarize recent work to address water issues in Kansas are linked for your reference. The Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature that is a good summary of activities and accomplishments can be found [here](#). The Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force Report can be found at [http://www.kwo.org/Vision/BRTF/Rpt\\_BRFTF\\_Final\\_011217.pdf](http://www.kwo.org/Vision/BRTF/Rpt_BRFTF_Final_011217.pdf) . And the Water Vision Education Supplement at <http://www.kwo.org/Vision/Education/Education%20and%20Public%20Outreach%20Supplement%2011-7-16.pdf>

Enclosed please find the following meeting materials:

- Agenda
- July Meeting notes

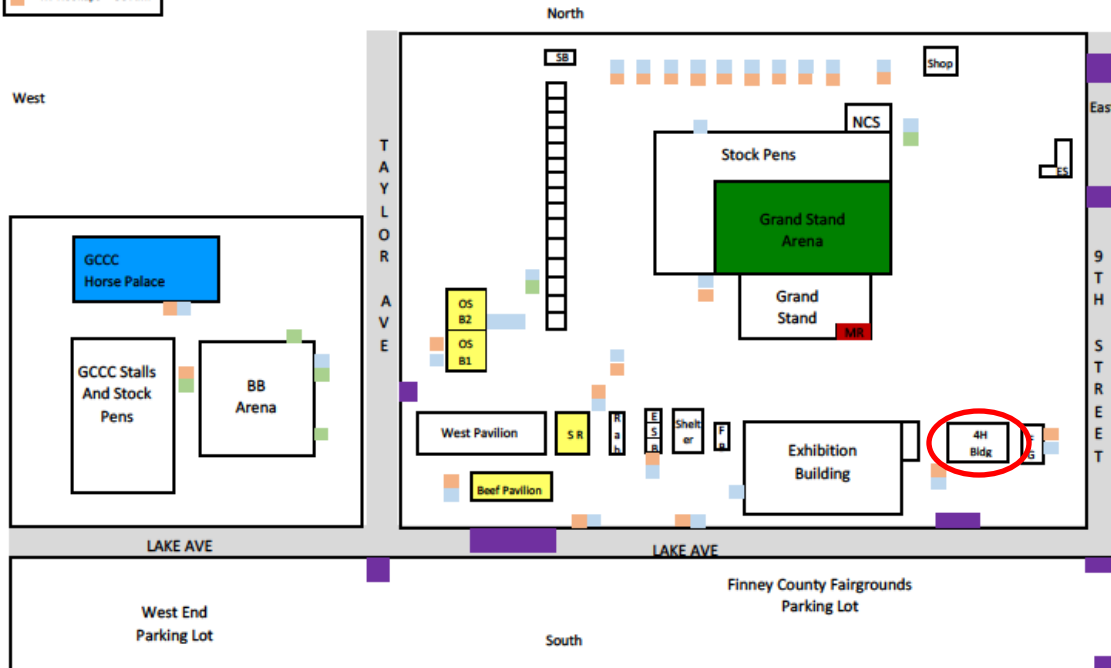
If you have any questions or need additional information prior to the meeting, feel free to contact me at [Diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:Diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov) or give me a call at 785/296-0864. I look forward to meeting with you!



Finney County Fairgrounds-209 W Lake Ave,  
Garden City- 4-H Building

- Stall Barns
- Cutting
- Main Arena
- Rodeo Office
- Entrances
- RV Hookups 20 AMP
- RV Hookups 30 AMP
- RV Hookups 50 AMP

## Finney County Fairgrounds



# Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee

## Meeting Agenda

February 14, 2017, 1:30 pm  
Finney County Fairgrounds, 4-H bldg.  
Garden City, Kansas

---

### DRAFT AGENDA

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review of Meeting Notes
4. Regional Advisory Committee  
Membership
5. KWA Update- December and January meetings  
Annual Report to Governor and Legislature
6. Regional Plans And Statewide Vision - updates  
Water levels and sustainability - tentative, KGS  
Legislation and activities – DWR  
Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance – Shawn Beach, RMA  
Water Technology Farm – Jonathon Aquilar, KSU  
Other – KWO
7. Getting the Word out on Water Issues and Conservation - RAC discussion
8. Public Comments
9. Future Meetings
  - a. Kansas Water Authority: May 17-18, 2017, Garden City KS; RAC Chair or designee attend
  - b. Upper Arkansas RAC Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:30 am July 14, 2016

Garden City, Kansas

### Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Proposed Category</i>	<i>Present</i>
Ted Boersma (Chair)	Cimarron, KS	Dairy	N
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	Y
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	Y
Rich Higgins	Lakin, KS	At Large Public	N
Steven Hines	Coolidge, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	Y
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	Y
Fred Jones	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Y
Joe Jury	Gray County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	N
Wayne Keller	Ford, KS	At Large Public	N
Michael MacNair	Jetmore, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	Y
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	Y
Mike O'Brate	Ingalls, KS	Groundwater Management	Y
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply	N

### Others in attendance:

Gary Boldt, Amanda Shaw (NRCS), Bob Atchison (KFS), David Barfield (KDA-DWR), David Englehaupt (KDA-DWR), Mike Meyer (KDA-DWR), Armando Zarco (KDA-DWR), Kevin Salter (KDA-DWR), Mark Rude (GMD3), Jason Norquest (GMD3), Ginger Harper (KWO), Diane Knowles (KWO)

**Welcome and Introductions:** Titus Jaeger acted as chair for the meeting by consensus. Self-introductions were made.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the Agenda, with the change in item order to accommodate presenters by Steve Hines, second by Roy Dixon. Motion Carried.

**Meeting Notes:** Motion made by Fred Jones to approve the April meeting notes as presented, second by Steve Hines. The motion carried.

### Vision / Action Plan

**KWA feedback** was provided in the draft action plan bullets through suggestions and notes for consideration development of the actions occurs.

### Goal: River Streamflow of 1 cfs at Dodge City

**Compact and Streamflow:** David Barfield (DWR) provided a brief history and pertinent points on the Arkansas river Compact with Colorado and the regional goal of re-establishing streamflow in the river to Dodge City. Compact discussion included: that Colorado stores water in Pueblo Dam and other dams that is pre-compact, trans mountain water and municipal storage. Kansas claim on water above John Martin is not simple; 40% of compact water stored in John Martin can be called for by Kansas; and Fountain Creek flood protection activities are being watched by Kansas, Colorado claiming they will not reduce flows to Kansas.

Discussion on reestablishing flow included: a considerable number of water rights would have to be turned to make the system healthy enough to flow again; water quality impacts could be a concern; precipitation does not contribute much to runoff and river flow in the area; the Compact is silent on flood flows; the state is working on several issues related to flood events; there is no chance to meet the goal with water coming across the state line; and water right retirements and phreatophyte control and flood flows could all contribute towards flows to river.

**Tamarisk Control Project:** Robert Atchison (KFS) provided an overview of Kansas Forest Service proposal to reduce phreatophytes in the region through a USFS Grant. The \$300,000 grant will require a 50:50 match of state and local in-kind from partners. The three-year project can leverage federal dollars such as RCPP and EQIP.

Motion to support and partner on the FY 2017 USFS State and Private Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Program Grant Proposal of the KFS with in-kind was made by Steve Hines, seconded by Roy. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

RAC reviewed the Action Plan for Goal 2: *By 2020, continue to re-establish and maintain flows along the Upper Arkansas River in the amount of one cubic feet per second at the USGS gage located at Dodge City for 100% of Kansas' share of compact water and a quantified share of high flows that is currently stored in Colorado that is over and above the compact amount through management of river flows and maintenance of open channel conveyance through 100% of tamarisk control. Ensure we maintain compact compliance and enforce the compact when necessary.*

Motion made to accept changes to bullets of Goal 2 as presented was made by Hugh Brownlee, seconded by Roy. The motion carried.

### **Goal: Extend Ogallala Aquifer Life; slow depletion- Refine Action Plan**

*Goal 1: Extend the usable lifetime of the Ogallala Aquifer for at least 25 years in the planning region through the promotion of multiple Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMAs), Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) and other incentive-based programs. Slow the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer by 25% in 10 years in the planning region maximizing the opportunity to make use of emerging technologies. Encourage conservation through added flexibility. Find additional sources of water and a place to store water for irrigation and recharge. Increase the opportunity to use wastewater for other beneficial uses. Increase education of aquifer conditions.*

Discussion of the action plan for Goal 1 resulted in setting 2000-2015 as the base aquifer decline rate for the goal; refining bullets and grammatical corrections. The RAC will review a clean copy. If the RAC has no significant changes the Action Plan is considered ready for KWA.

It was requested that DWR generate a map of wells needed to be shut off to meet goal, beginning with the most junior.

### **Goal: Municipal Conservation - Refine Action Plan**

*Goal 3: Maximize available water and promote conservation of municipal use through incentives, education and outreach, reduced water loss, and increased data availability to reduce gallons per capita per day usage.*

The draft set of actions were reviewed and reworded at the meeting. It is now ready for KWA.

## Goal: Industrial Conservation

**Industrial Conservation/incentives:** Due to time constraints it was a consensus to skip Kyle Nelson's formal presentation. Copies were provided to those present.

### Refine Action Plan

**Goal 4:** *Maximize available water and promote conservation of industrial use through incentives, education and outreach, benchmarking efforts, and increased data availability to reduce gallons per production unit usage.*

The draft set of actions were reviewed and reworded at the meeting. It is now ready for KWA.

The RAC will review a clean copy of the entire set of actions. If the RAC has no significant changes the Action Plan is considered final and ready for KWA. If there are comments a conference call will be scheduled to finalize the Action Plan.

**Blue Ribbon Task Force Update-** Ginger Harper provided an overview of the table being used by the Task Force to look at possible fees to support the Water Plan Fund. This included the on line interactive use of the table to see what sort revenue would result. The next meeting of the Task Force is August 4, in Manhattan.

Discussion of fees and their effects occurred with significant discussion of fees already being paid on land and water use.

A motion was made by Steve Hines to recommend to the Blue Ribbon Task Force that any irrigation tax be scale able increasing as water use increases in order to promote conservation. The first half of an authorized quantity would not be taxed. The motion was seconded by Mike O'Brate. The motion carried.

**Timeline for Action Plans-** Diane Knowles reviewed the schedule for KWA to see final versions of the action plans at the next meeting (Aug. 31-Sept1) or at a special meeting scheduled in October. They will be presented to the public at the Governor's Water Conference November 14-15.

**Water Technology Farm update-** Diane Knowles announced the August 2 Field Day at the water technology farm (WTF), southern Finney County. Flyers have been emailed. The event begins at 10 am.

**Agency Updates-**none

### Future Meetings

Kyle Nelson and Hugh Brownlee expressed interest in representing the RAC at the August 31/September 1 KWA meeting if Ted is unable.

The next meeting will be a conference call within a few weeks, if further work on the Action Plan is needed.

Mike O'Brate made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mick MacNair. Motion carried.