

MEMO



DATE: April 4, 2017
TO: Upper Smoky Hill RAC Members
FROM: Richard Rockel, Kansas Water Office
CC: Upper Smoky Hill RAC Advisors
RE: April 19, 2017 RAC Meeting

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Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.org

The meeting of the Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held **at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. meeting room, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, Kansas.**

The committee will discuss the 2017 legislative progress, receive an update on the Wichita County Water Conservation Area, and get a report from the GMD1 annual meeting and Water Talk Series.

Enclosed are materials for the meeting:

- Agenda
- Prior Meeting Notes
- Press Release
- Copy of the Approved Regional Goals
- Upper Smoky Hill Regional Action Plan

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 Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
April 19, 2017
KLA Environmental Services
1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, KS
2:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of January Meeting Notes
3. Wichita County Water Conservation Area Update
4. GMD 1 Annual Meeting and Water Talk Series Update
5. GMD1 Soil Moisture Probe Program
6. Legislative, Funding, and Vision Updates (Ginger Harper via conference call)
7. Committee Update for May 17-18 Kansas Water Authority Meeting
 - What items should be highlighted to the Kansas Water Authority
8. Public Input
9. Future Meetings
 - a. Kansas Water Authority: May 17-18; Garden City, KS
 - b. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____



Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

1:00 pm, Wednesday, January 11, 2017

KLA Environmental Services, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, KS

DRAFT

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Shane Mann (Chair)	Quinter, KS	Irrigation	2019	Yes
Lonnie Busch	Leoti, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	No
Kurt Maurath	Logan County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	No
Frank Mercurio	Scott City, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Maurice Miller	Healy, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	Yes
Mike Todd	Scott City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Farrin Watt	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	Yes
Danny Welsh	Wallace County, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Scott Noll	Scott City, KS	At Large Public	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Mike Meyer	KDA/DWR
Richard Rockel	KWO
Greg Graff	KWA/GMD1
Kyle Spencer	GMD 1
Gary Boldt	Public
Dan Wells	KDHE

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman, Shane Mann. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review and Approval of October Meeting Notes:** Notes from the October meeting were approved.
- 2017 Water Talk Series Update and Planning:** The Committee discussed the agenda and lunch setup for the Water Talk Series. The list of vendors was discussed and ideas were given for some content to be added.
- Wichita County Water Conservation Area Update:** Frank Mercurio gave an update on the Wichita County Water Conservation Area (WCA) development and details on the public informational meeting that will be held on March 9th. An update was given on the Water Right information days where 12-15 people came and over 100 water rights were reviewed. Farrin Watt gave details about the planned public meeting and the interest he has been hearing from the public, continued by sharing that he has been asked what the GMD's role and support of the process was. That the WCA group would like to know what the GMD's plan was for a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) and that folks are waiting to see what the GMD will take action on. Mike Meyer added that he has heard from folks that they are waiting to see what happens with the WCA process and what action the GMD takes.

Membership: Shane Mann (Chair), Quinter, KS; Lonnie Busch, Leoti, KS; Kurt Maurath, Logan County, KS; Frank Mercurio, Scott City, KS; Maurice Miller, Healy, KS; Mike Todd, Scott City, KS; Farrin Watt, Leoti, KS; Danny Welsh, Wallace County, KS; Scott Noll, Scott City, KS
KWO Planner: Richard Rockel, 785-296-3185; richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov

Farrin stated that if there was a threat of a LEMA being developed, more people would sign up for the WCA with its flexibilities. That people are getting into passionate debates in church and at social gatherings about conservation. Gregg Graff asked how the GMD could give the WCA process a boost. Mike Meyer stated that giving the process a boost did not need to be hard, that the GMD could take the WCA plan and turn it into a LEMA.

Farrin and Frank gave details about conversations they've had with producers about the WCA process and that they have heard mostly positive responses and questions.

5. **Priorities to highlight at Legislative Education Session on January 24:** The Committee discussed items to be highlighted at the legislative water education session. Sid Metcalf will represent the Committee and speak with legislators, no other members of the Committee volunteered to attend.
6. **Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force Update:** Gregg Graff gave some details on items he had heard from the funding task force meetings.
7. **Update on proposed legislative action:** Mike Meyer gave an update on legislative actions that were proposed by the Division of Water Resources (DWR), spoke about the planned changes to streamline the Water Conservation Area statute. That there was a bill proposed to modify the water right impairment process and the steps that would be followed by DWR.
8. **Public Input:** Gary Boldt stated that he found the meeting very informative. Gregg Graff asked Chairman Mann if GMD should be doing cost share if there was money available, Mann replied that funds should be focused to WCA areas.
9. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. Kansas Water Authority: May 17-18, Garden City, KS
 - b. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: TBD most likely July 2017.

900 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612



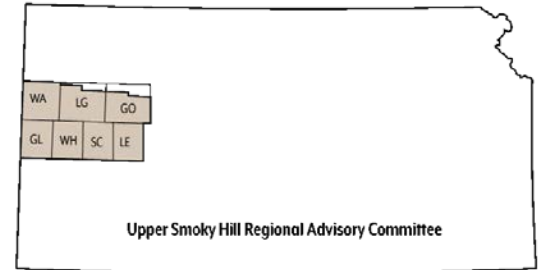
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Tracy Streeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:
April 7, 2017

For More Information:
Katie Patterson-Ingels
(785) 296-3185, katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov



Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Scott City *April 19, 2p.m., at the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. Building*

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting to discuss regional goals and priorities.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 19th at 2 p.m., in the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. meeting room, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East) in Scott City, Kansas. The agenda includes updates on the Wichita County Water Conservation Area update, an update on the 2017 legislative issues, and a report of the GMD 1 annual meeting and Water Talk Series.

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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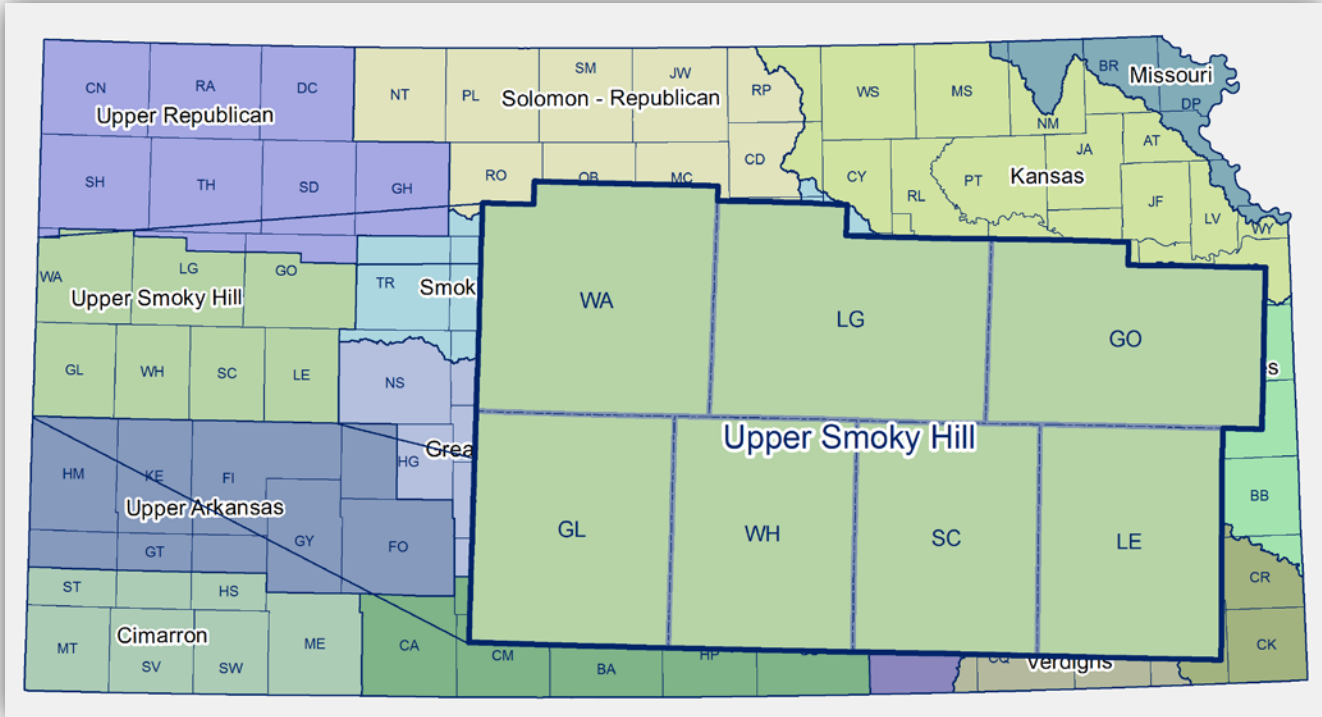
As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.

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 Smoky Hill Regional Planning Area

Guiding Principle

Achieving sustainability is defined for this planning region as ensuring the future health and success of the community, environment, economy and the people of the region. Implementation of these goals should not purposefully or unintentionally penalize good stewards.



- 1. By 2025, reduce irrigation use by 25% based on recent average pumping history per water right. Allow water right transfers and other flexibilities as long as a net reduction is achieved. In addition, annual water use for all irrigation users will not exceed net irrigation requirement for that county.**
2. Develop a water reduction plan and begin implementation by January 2016. Short term: Reduce the rate of depletion of the aquifer within five years to sustain the economy, but begin implementation of conservation immediately. Long term: By evaluating success every five years, determine if conservation measures are achieving a reduced rate of depletion. (Rationale: Within each five year evaluation period new technologies and crop varieties as well as additional sources of supply will be more and more available.)
3. All municipal users within the planning region will be at or below the regional 2015 average gallons per capita per day (GPCD) within the next five years. All municipal users as defined by the Kansas Water Appropriation Act in planning area will follow best management practices and implement a conservation plan.
4. Maximum water use per head will be maintained as defined by the Kansas Water Appropriation Act. Stockwater allocations as defined by Kansas Water Appropriation Act will implement best management practices and be as efficient as possible. Measure the implementation of this goal by a 15% increase in the adoption of practices (overflow reuse, etc.) management practice plans within the next five years.
5. Industrial users and all other beneficial uses of water will develop best management practice plans to be as efficient as possible. By 2020, all industrial users will have a best management practice plan and the adoption of practices will increase by 15%.

Priority Goal: By 2025, reduce irrigation use by 25% based on recent average pumping history per water right. Allow water right transfers and other flexibilities as long as a net reduction is achieved. In addition, annual water use for all irrigation users will not exceed net irrigation requirement for that county.

Action Plan:

- Support GMD No. 1 in formulating another LEMA plan.
- Work with KDA and GMD No. 1 in education of water technology farms.
- Support KDA in education of WCAs.

Goal 2: Develop a water reduction plan and begin implementation by January 2017. Short term: Reduce the rate of depletion of the aquifer within five years to sustain the economy, but begin implementation of conservation immediately. Long term: By evaluating success every five years, determine if conservation measures are achieving a reduced rate of depletion. (Rationale: Within each five year evaluation period new technologies and crop varieties as well as additional sources of supply will be more and more available.)

Action Plan:

- Work with NRCS to evaluate effectiveness of RCPP program and find efficiencies.
- Work with GMD No. 1 in creating a quarterly newsletter to members; include updates from within district and involving water agencies.
- Create a fall event for education of water conservation, involve water agencies and schools.
- Promote conservation through possible incentives and increased data availability.

Goal 3: All municipal users within the planning region will be at or below the regional 2015 average gallons per capita per day (GPCD) within the next five years. All municipal users as defined by the Kansas Water Appropriation Act in planning area will follow best management practices and implement a conservation plan.

Action Plan:

- Review municipal rate structures.
- Review Scott City's education tools to see if their plan can work in nearby cities.
- Promote conservation through possible incentives and increased data availability.

Goal 4: Maximum water use per head will be maintained as defined by the Kansas Water Appropriation Act. Stockwater allocations as defined by Kansas Water Appropriation Act will implement best management practices and be as efficient as possible. Measure the implementation of this goal by a 15% increase in the adoption of management practice plans (overflow reuse, etc.) within the next five years.

Action Plan:

- Research feasibility of reuse options for livestock watering.
- Promote and implement dairy and feedlot Best Management Practices.

Goal 5: Industrial users and all other beneficial uses of water will develop best management practice plans to be as efficient as possible. By 2020, all industrial users will have a best management practice plan and the adoption of practices will increase by 15%.

Action Plan:

- Promote and implement Best Management Practices for industrial users.

*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 US RAC.