

MEMO



DATE: December 27, 2016
TO: Upper Smoky Hill RAC Members
FROM: Richard Rockel, Kansas Water Office
CC: Upper Smoky Hill RAC Advisors
RE: January 11, 2016 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 Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held **at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 11, 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 Water Talk Series, 2017 legislator education session, Blue Ribbon Funding groups funding proposal, and an update on the Wichita County Water Conservation Area.

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
January 11, 2017
KLA Environmental Services
1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, KS
1:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of October Meeting Notes
3. 2017 Water Talk Series Update
 - February 2nd 11 AM Central Time Sharon Springs – Wallace County Fairgrounds
 - RAC member participation encouraged
4. Wichita County Water Conservation Area Update
5. 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
6. Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force Update
 - Project list and funding proposal being put forward
7. Update on proposed legislative action
 - Mike Meyer, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
8. Public Input
9. Future Meetings
 - a. Kansas Water Authority: January 24-25; Topeka, KS
 - b. Upper Smoky Water Talk Series and GMD 1 Annual Meeting February 2nd, Sharon Springs
 - c. 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, Monday, October 10, 2016

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	Yes
Kurt Maurath	Logan County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	Yes (telephone)
Frank Mercurio	Scott City, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Maurice Miller	Healy, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	No
Mike Todd	Scott City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Farrin Watt	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	No
Danny Welsh	Wallace County, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	No
Scott Noll	Scott City, KS	At Large Public	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Dana Ladner	KDA
Mike Meyer	KDA/DWR
Armando Zarco	KDA/DWR
Richard Rockel	KWO
Greg Graff	KWA/GMD1
Kyle Spencer	GMD 1
Gary Boldt	Public
Shawn Beach	USDA-RMA

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman, Shane Mann. All present provided self-introductions.
2. **Review and Approval of July Meeting Notes:** Notes from the July meeting were approved, with a modification to paragraph #3.
3. **USDA-RMA Limited Irrigation crop insurance expansion:** Shawn Beach from the USDA-RMA Topeka Regional office gave the Committee an update on the Limited Irrigation crop insurance changes and options coming for 2017. Some key points covered were:
 - a. Removed the requirement of being within a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA)
 - b. Separate Irrigated and Limited Irrigation Actual Production Histories (APH)
 - c. Ability to go back to Irrigated APH if no longer in a Limited Irrigation situation (revert back to past Irrigated APH in years where would like Irrigated crop insurance)

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

- d. Multiple questions were asked about the calculation of APH histories and the Limited Irrigation APH calculation
4. **Water Vision Education and Public Outreach update:** 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:
 - a. Grants for Regional Advisory Committee education initiatives
 - 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. Chairman Mann stated that community colleges and tech colleges will need to play a large role
5. **Regional Action Plan Goal Updates and discussion:**

Goal 1: Greg Graff of Groundwater Management District (GMD) No. 1 stated that no new Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) discussions have happened since last Committee meeting. Graff stated that the GMD No. 1 Board of Directors have agreed to have a special LEMA meeting this coming winter.

Goal 1: Lonnie Busch provided an update of the Wichita County Water Conservation Area (WCA) formation process. Busch stated that the management plan was submitted to the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources for review and that a public information session was planned to be held in the end of November or beginning of December. There was discussion about having a way to provide prospective WCA participants with a calculation of what their WCA quantity would be at the next informational meeting. The KDA and KWO are looking at options to provide an estimate of WCA quantities for interested participants at future meetings.

Goal 2: The plan of having a winter water informational meeting was discussed. Graff stated that GMD No. 1 may be interested in partnering up with the RAC for holding an event in conjunction with the GMD No. 1 annual meeting. It was discussed about providing the groups that are in the process of forming Water Conservation Areas an opportunity to talk and provide information.
6. **Update on Water Conservation Areas and Proposed Rules & Regulations:** Mike Meyer (KDA) provided an update on water conservation areas and their progress and completion. That there are some changes proposed for K.S.A. 82a-745 that will add further flexibility to Water Conservation Areas, specifically removing the need to use term permits to allow water use flexibilities inside a WCA.
7. **Action Plan Final Review:** The Committee gave the action plan one final look prior to the October 19th presentation to the Kansas Water Authority. The Kansas Water Authority will review and vote on the action plan after Chairman Mann presents in Milford, Kansas.
8. **Public Input:** None was received.
9. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. Kansas Water Authority: October 19, Milford, KS
 - b. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: TBD most likely January or February 2017.

900 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612



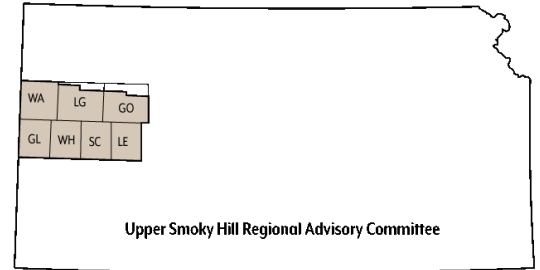
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Tracy Streeeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:
December 29, 2016

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



Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Scott City *January 11, 1p.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, January 11 at 1 p.m., in the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. meeting room, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East) in Scott City, Kansas. The main agenda items include the 2017 Water Talk Series, GMD 1 annual meeting agenda as well as a Wichita County WCA Update.

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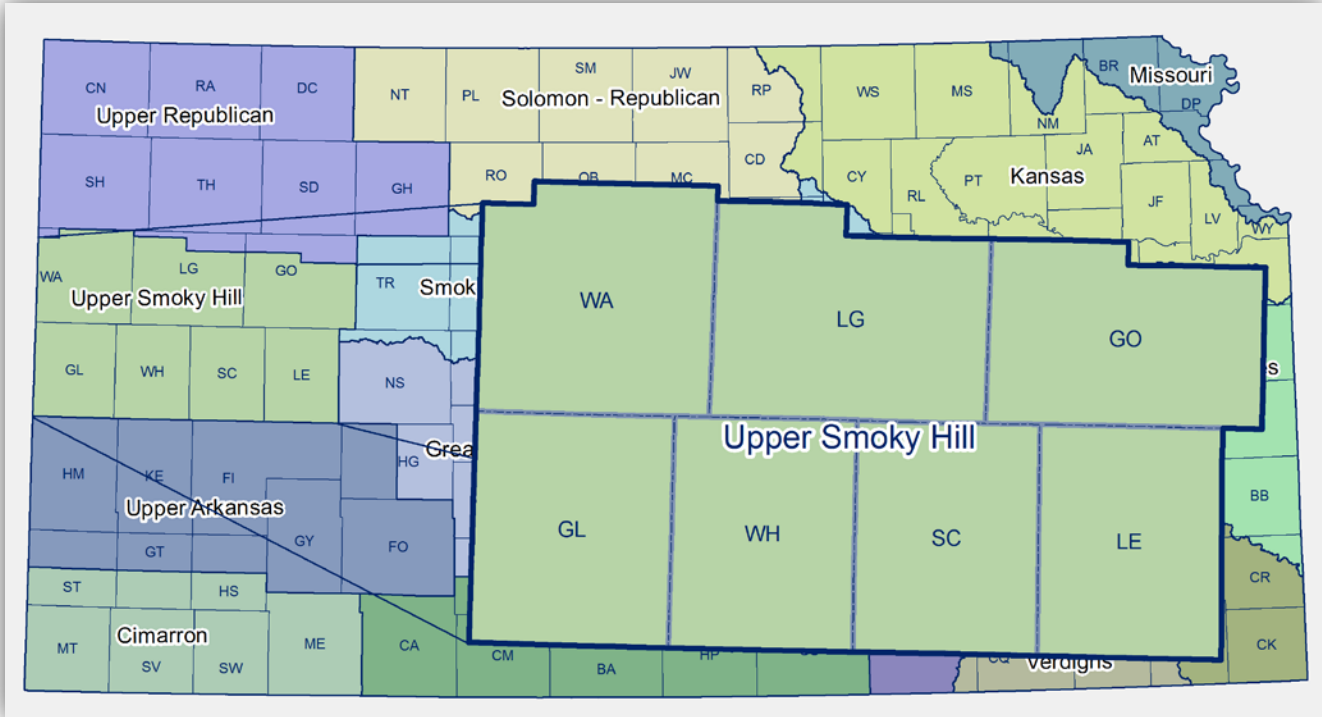
As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.

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.