

# MEMO



DATE: July 6, 2016  
TO: Upper Smoky Hill RAC Members  
FROM: Richard Rockel, Kansas Water Office  
CC: Upper Smoky Hill RAC Advisors  
RE: July 21, 2016 RAC Meeting

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The meeting of the Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held **at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2016 at the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. meeting room, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, Kansas.**

The main items of discussion are the Regional Goals and goal updates. This will include a review of approved Regional Goals and the review and finalization of the priority goal implementation plan.

Enclosed are materials for the meeting:

- Agenda
- Prior Meeting Notes
- Press Release
- 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 Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**July 21, 2016**  
**KLA Environmental Services**  
**1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, KS**  
**1:00pm**

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of April Meeting Notes
3. Action Plan Goal Update
  - Goal 1: GMD No. 1 LEMA Update/Discussions
  - Goal 1: Local WCA updates
  - Goal 2: GMD No. 1 Newsletter and informational outlets
  - Goal 2: Winter Water Informational Event update
  - Goal 2: USDA-RMA Limited Irrigation expansion
  - Goal 3:
  - Goal 4: Livestock water reuse project updates
  - Goal 5:
4. Update on Water Conservation Areas and Proposed Rules & Regulations

Mike Meyer, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources

5. Finalize Action Plan for August/October KWA meeting final approval
6. Public Input
7. Future Meetings
  - a. Kansas Water Authority: August 31- Sept. 1; Emporia, KS
  - b. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_



# Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00 am, Monday, April 4, 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	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
Susan Metzger	KDA
Mike Meyer	KDA/DWR
Kyle Spencer	GMD No.1
Tracy Streeter	KWO
Katie Goff	KWO
Richard Rockel	KWO
Kasey Robinson	NRCS
Jim Whitt	Public
Greg Graff	KWA/GMD1

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Shane Mann. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review and Approval of January Meeting Notes:** Notes from the January meeting were approved as presented.
- Committee Discussion & begin development of Regional Action Plan:**

Goals 1 & 2: The Committee discussed several items that related to the priority goal. The requirements of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) were discussed. The Committee would like changes to the RCP that will allow low capacity wells and soil moisture probes to qualify.

GMD No. 1 representatives stated that new Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) discussions were coming, with public meetings held after the harvest in the Fall. No public vote was being proposed with the

**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](mailto:richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov)

LEMA proposal. A tentative start of 2018 was mentioned. There was discussion about the GMD No. 1 quarterly newsletter and if more could be communicated to the public through it.

Goal 3: The Committee talked about following Scott City's path of education in schools in other cities. Reviewing municipal rate structures was also discussed, to make an incentive to conserve.

Goal 4: The Committee discussed reuse options for livestock watering, which included capturing thermostatic overflows in winter and lagoon water. There was discussion of having a feasibility study done for the reuse of lagoon water. A Smith and Loveless package plant type of option was discussed. Discussion continued on to how many feedlots are over the gross income limit for NRCS programs. There was some talk of having some dairy and feedlot Best Management Practices (BMP) developed and implemented.

The Committee mentioned that there are around 44 feed yards in GMD No. 1, and there may be a possibility of multiple feeding operations using a single reuse facility. Discussion went further to state that with a reuse facility some feeding operations may be able to stay open longer, a point that could be used to justify the upfront capital cost of a reuse facility.

Goal 5: The Committee discussed industrial users implementing BMPs.

4. **Update on Water Conservation Areas and Proposed Rules & Regulations:** Mike Meyer (KDA) provided an update on water conservation areas and their progress and completion. There was discussion of a water conservation area that was being proposed in the western part of Wallace County that the Kansas Geological Survey is assisting with.
5. **Update on Water Technology Farms:** Tracy Streeter (KWO) gave an update on two technology farms that are currently in the planning stages.
6. **Public Input:**  
Having an informational event sponsored by the Committee was discussed, with the idea of an event where information about the groundwater model, LEMA development, and water technology could be shared with a greater audience. The Committee discussed having an early to mid-August timing. Jim Whitt (Public) suggested that the event hold a screening of the water scarcity documentary he helped produce, "Thirsty Land", to attract a greater audience. Several options were discussed on how to get the word out about such an event, having booths at county fairs and teaming up with the conservation districts were proposed.  
  
A question was asked on how to get benefits to water users located outside GMD boundaries who don't qualify for certain programs.
7. **Future Meetings:**
  - a. Kansas Water Authority: May 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, Oakley, KS
  - b. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: To be determined (Doodle Poll will be sent out).

900 SW Jackson Street  
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Tracy Streeter, Director



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Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:  
July 7, 2016

For More Information:  
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**Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Scott City**  
*July 21, 9 a.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 Thursday, July 21 at 9 a.m. in the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. meeting room, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East) in Scott City, Kansas. The agenda includes continued regional action plan development, along with Water Conservation Area and Water Technology Farm updates.

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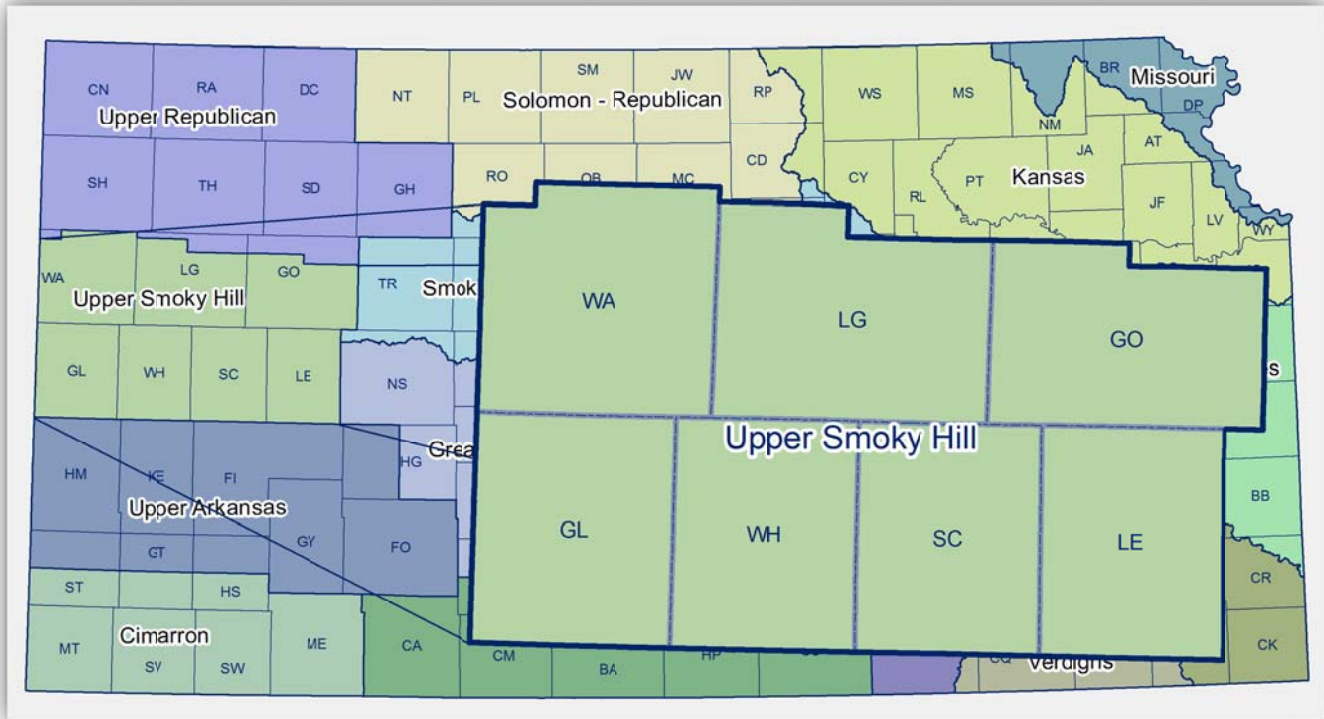
*As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.*

*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.*

# 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 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.)**

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 practices (overflow reuse, etc.) 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.