

MEMO



DATE: October 3, 2016
TO: Upper Smoky Hill RAC Members
FROM: Richard Rockel, Kansas Water Office
CC: Upper Smoky Hill RAC Advisors
RE: October 10, 2016 RAC Meeting

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Topeka, KS 66612
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www.kwo.org

The meeting of the Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held **at 1:00 p.m., Monday, October 10, 2016 at the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. meeting room, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, Kansas.**

The committee will receive updates about the USDA-RMA crop insurance expansion and Water Vision education efforts. Also we will discuss preferred timing and details of the winter water informational event.

Enclosed are materials for the meeting:

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

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
October 10, 2016
KLA Environmental Services
1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East), Scott City, KS
1:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of July Meeting Notes
3. USDA-RMA Limited Irrigation crop insurance expansion update – Shawn Beach
4. Water Vision Education and Public Outreach update – Dana Ladner
5. 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 4: Livestock water reuse project updates

6. Update on Water Conservation Areas and Proposed Rules & Regulations

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

7. Final Action Plan review prior to October 19th submission to the Kansas Water Authority
8. Public Input
9. Future Meetings
 - a. Kansas Water Authority: October 19th; Milford, 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, Thursday, July 21, 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
Farrin Watt	Leoti, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Susan Metzger	KDA
Mike Meyer	KDA/DWR
Armando Zarco	KDA/DWR
Tracy Streeter	KWO
Richard Rockel	KWO
Lori Graff	NRCS
Jim Whitt	Public
Greg Graff	KWA/GMD1
Monty Teeter	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 April Meeting Notes:** Notes from the April meeting were approved as presented.
- Regional Action Plan Goal Updates and discussion:**

Goal 1: Greg Graff of Groundwater Management District (GMD) No. 1 stated that no Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) discussions have happened as of yet. The Committee asked if the GMD No. 1 would like assistance in the development of a LEMA, Graff stated he would like to see the Committee be a part of the LEMA discussions. A tentative start of 2018 was mentioned.

Chairman Mann asked Lori Graff of the NRCS for an update on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and potential options to expand eligibility to areas located outside of a Groundwater Management District (GMD).

Goal 1: Several members of the Committee discussed ideas and plans for a Wichita County Water Conservation Area (WCA). The Wichita County group is going to form a voluntary county wide WCA with a 2017 start date. There is a public information meeting scheduled for August 15th.

Goal 2: Susan Metzger of the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) gave an update regarding the GMD No. 1 Newsletter, "The Waterline", and how stories and information were put together for a recent issue that was sent to GMD No. 1 members. The May 2016 issue of "The Waterline" included the following articles:

- Chairman Mann wrote an update of the Upper Smoky Hill RAC's goals
- Jonathan Aguilar of the Kansas State Research and Extension wrote about recent research involving soil moisture probes, mobile drip irrigation, and an increase in yield of 23 bushels an acre with mobile drip irrigation over spray nozzles in a 300 gallon per minute well study. Additionally the article spoke about the water conservation that is possible by using and trusting soil moisture probe data to irrigate only when the crops need water based on soil moisture profile needs.
- Brownie Wilson of the Kansas Geological Survey provided a summary of results from the GMD No. 1 groundwater model, which is described as "one of the most sophisticated groundwater models in the state." The groundwater model uses climate data from 1947 to 2013 and current/historic aquifer conditions to predict how feasible future pumping is with changes in usage. The model shows that pumping reductions can substantially reduce water level declines in the aquifer. "Simulating conditions that occur if pumping were to be reduced by 30% showed that future water level declines could be decreased 47% in the next 20 years."
- The Scott County NRCS Office provided an article about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and how producers can apply to receive cost share on soil moisture probes. Additional information about the current moisture probe cost share program can be found at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/farmland/rcpp/>
- Brownie Wilson of the Kansas Geological Survey provided a summary of the GMD No. 1 annual water level measurements and the water level trends for the area.
- Kyle Spencer, District Manager of GMD No. 1 provided an article about the 2014 GMD No. 1 Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) process and how the GMD No. 1 will develop future LEMA proposals, using the input and experiences received from the 2014 LEMA discussions.
- An article describing Water Conservation Area (WCA) options was also included. The article described how Water Conservation Areas can be used to give producers flexibility options and the ability for landowners to create their own voluntary conservation plans. The formation of a Water Conservation Area is entirely voluntary and has no permanent change or reduction to a producer's water rights.
- The May 2016 issue of "The Waterline" can be found at: <http://www.gmd1.org/2016-05-nwsltrs.pdf>

Goal 2: An update was given about having a Winter Water Informational Event in the region. The Committee discussed timing and several members mentioned a late November to mid-December timing being the best. The Committee was asked to submit ideas for what they would like to see included or how they would like the event ran to Richard Rockel of the Kansas Water Office.

Goal 2: An update was given regarding the proposed 2017 expansion of Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance policy options to 47 Kansas counties. The Committee was interested in the Limited Irrigation policy possibilities and

expressed an interest in having more information presented at the next meeting. The Kansas Water Office will arrange for more information to be presented at the next meeting.

Goal 4: Lonnie Busch and Frank Mercurio gave an update on livestock water reuse options and a meeting that was held to discuss livestock water reuse. They stated they're looking at options to reuse lagoon water, reduce winter watering overflows, and with on farm demonstrations of the technology, with the goal of having a stockwater technology farm where new technology can be demonstrated and tested on a large scale.

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. That there are multiple producers in the Upper Smoky Hill region interested and looking into forming Water Conservation Areas, an update on the approval of the T&O Farms Water Technology Farm Water Conservation area which proposed a 33% pumping reduction, a few Water Conservation Areas in GMD No. 3 being put together, options for water use flexibility to be gained through stockwatering Water Conservation Areas, and a Water Conservation Area being put together to give dairies increased water use flexibility with water conservation.
5. **Finalization of Action Plan:** The Committee discussed the finalization of the Action Plan and its submittal to the Kansas Water Authority for approval. There was a discussion regarding the role of the RAC and the Committee's authority. Tracy Streeter of the Kansas Water Office stated the RAC provided awareness, spreads the message of the region's goals, and provides a voice for the region to the Kansas Water Authority. Maurice Miller made a motion to approve the Action Plan with a couple grammatical corrections, Kurt Maurath seconded, and the motion was passed by the Committee.
6. **Public Input:**
Jim Whitt gave a "Thirsty Land" movie update and stated he would like to tell the story of Kansas agriculture. He asked what needed to be shared about agriculture and how agriculture needs to tell its story.

Susan Metzger of the Kansas Department of Agriculture gave an update on the Agriculture Economic Summit and meetings held around the state.
7. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. Wichita County Water Conservation Area August 15th
 - b. Kansas Water Authority: August 31st – September 1st, Emporia, KS
 - c. Upper Smoky Hill RAC: October 10, 2016 1 PM KLA Environmental Scott City, KS.

900 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612



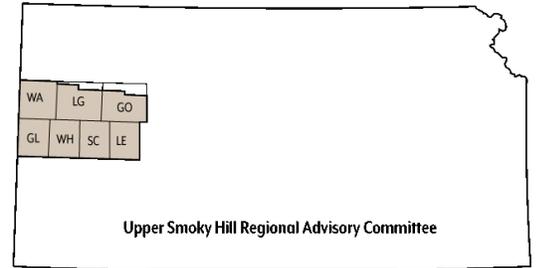
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Tracy Streeeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

For Immediate Release:
September 27, 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 *October 10, 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 Monday, October 10 at 1 p.m., in the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. meeting room, 1303 Yucca Street (KS Highway 96 East) in Scott City, Kansas. The agenda includes finalizing regional action plans, along with Water Conservation Area and RAC education event updates. There will also be a Vision Education and Public Outreach presentation.

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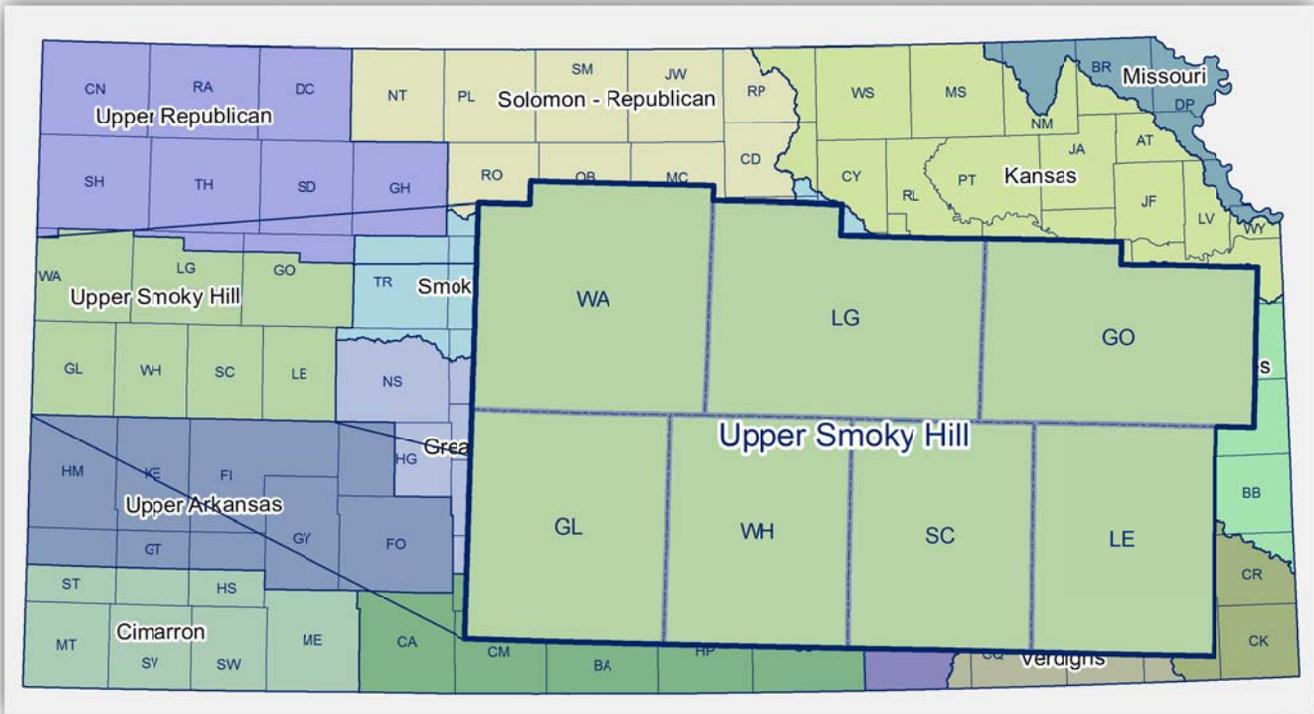
As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.

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.