

## Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9 am October 28, 2015

Garden City, Kansas

### Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Proposed Category</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Present</i>
Ted Boersma (Chair)	Cimarron, KS	Dairy	2017	Yes
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	Yes
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2017	Yes
Rich Higgins	Lakin, KS	At Large Public	2017	No
Steven Hines	Coolidge, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2017	Yes
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	Yes
Fred Jones	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2017	Yes
Joe Jury	Gray County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Wayne Keller	Ford, KS	At Large Public	2017	No
Michael MacNair	Jetmore, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Mike O'Brate	Ingalls, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply	2019	Yes

### Others in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Gary Boldt	Observer	Jonathon Aguilar	KSU-R&E
Randy Hayzlett	KWA	Chris Law	GMD3
Greg Graff	KWA	Jason Norquest	GMD3
Lane Letourneau	KDA-DWR	Tracy Streeter	KWO
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR	Diane Knowles	KWO

**Welcome and Introductions:** Ted Boersma welcomed everyone to the first RAC meeting. Self introductions were made by everyone.

**Committee Expectations:** The RACs and their role in water planning for Kansas were reviewed briefly by Tracy Streeter highlighting expectation for committee members and the chair, interaction with Kansas Water Authority and the overall process for development of the *Kansas Water Plan*. For the KWA meeting December 17, 2015, each of the 14 RACs will have a regional goal selected for implementation/action plan development over the next year.

**Review of Regional Goals** as approved by the KWA (in mailing materials) highlighted the four goals. Ted reviewed the four regional goals adopted for the Upper Arkansas Region as well as the guiding principles developed by the goal team. Discussion of the goals emphasized flexibility to meet the varying conditions in the region, additional data needs, surface and groundwater issues related to impairment, and industrial and municipal use/reductions.

Goal 1 - Questions arose on the feasibility of the goal, as worded. Specifically if 25% in 10 years would reduce the rate for decline and extend the life of the aquifer 25 years. It was suggested to have the groundwater model run by DWR with 25% over 10 years for check on goals as written. Lane noted that DWR will do this for the region.

Goal 2 – Arkansas River flows goal is to get river wet east of Garden City. The need to monitor Compact compliance and Colorado water use effect on Kansas water was discussed. Compact water must be put to use before the Garden City gage so other means of getting flow will be needed.

Goal 3 – Municipal gallon per capita per day water use can be reduced by reclaiming/reusing water.

Goal 4 - Industrial water use (gallon per production unit) is economically based so is generally efficient now and should improve with technology.

### **Regional Implementation:**

Goal 1 was considered the first to implement. As noted in the Goal discussion the feasibility of the goal, as worded was discussed again. Specifically if 25% in 10 years would reduce the rate for decline and extend the life of the aquifer. It was suggested to have the Model run by DWR 25% over 10 years for check on goals as written. Lane noted that DWR will do this for the region.

Ideas to include in implementation included:

- As the largest user irrigation must address reducing usage.
- Re-nozzle and other technological advances encouraged with education and conservation programs.
- Education to include issues such as suitable soils (evaluation), cost of pumping, alternative crops, water/crop plan development, development of educational tools and bulletins (KSU), with a focus on the big picture.
- It was noted that voluntary reductions are already protected under water appropriation law but is not known widely, so get the word out.
- Adjust CREP or conservation programs: Allow more CREP acres in counties capped. Allow CREP acres to dryland farm not mandatory to go to grass. Allow operator to move water by giving up majority (give up 75% allow 25% move or 50%:50%).
- Big push needs to be education.
- Some of the data wanted includes soil types compatible with irrigation water and appropriate quantities actually needed to raise a crop economically, the number of wells needed to be shut off to reach the goal to slow depletion by 25%, farming practices that add value to the farm.

### **Vision Implementation – Water Conservation Areas and Proposed Rules and Regulation Changes:**

Lane Letourneau, Kansas Department of Agriculture- Division of Water Resources (DWR) reviewed upcoming and proposed rule changes (in mailing). DWR is moving forward with the rules to close GMD3 to new appropriations. Discussion occurred on the adjustment of the rule concerning well redrills. Clarification of Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) occurred. There are about 10 WCAs in processing now.

### **Questions/Future Issues form Members:**

A future meeting should discuss the Fountain Creek (Colorado) issue, after information can be provided to the committee. The Compact Meeting information will be forwarded to the RAC.

**Next Meeting** – A meeting the second week in January was favored. (Second Monday is HG Co. Commission, second Tuesday Garden City Commission and second Wednesday GMD3 Board meetings so these days will be avoided.)

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.