



Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m., October 27, 2015
American States Bank
Hospitality Room
216 N. Main Street, St. John, KS

Members Attendance:

| Name | City | Category | Term | Present |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| Berry Bortz (Chair) | Preston, KS | Agriculture (cc) | 2019 | Yes |
| Jay Dill | Kinsley, KS | Public Water Supply 2 | 2017 | Yes |
| Daniel Filbert | Macksville, KS | Agriculture 2 | 2017 | Yes |
| Robert Fisher | Ellinwood, KS | At Large Public (cc) | 2017 | Yes |
| John Haas | Larned, KS | At Large Public 2 | 2019 | Yes |
| Jeremiah Hobbs | LaCrosse, KS | Watershed Protection | 2019 | Yes |
| Jeff Holste | Burdett, KS | Industry/Commerce (cc) | 2017 | Yes |
| Lane Massey | Larned, KS | Public Water Supply 3 | 2017 | Yes |
| Keith Miller | Barton Co., KS | Agriculture 3 | 2019 | Yes |
| Roger Mohr | Albert, KS | Groundwater Irrigation | 2019 | No |
| John Sweet | Lyons, KS | Public Water Supply (cc) | 2019 | No |
| Tom Turner | St. John, KS | Conservation/Environment (cc) | 2017 | Yes |
| Taggart Wall | Sterling, KS | Public Water Supply 4 | 2017 | Yes |

Others in attendance:

| Name | Affiliation |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Orrin Feril | GMD #5 |
| Erich Glave | KDHE |
| Greg Graff | KWA |
| Jeff Lanterman | KDA-DWR |
| Greg Lewis | State Representative |
| Earl Lewis | KWO |
| Matt Unruh | KWO |

- Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Berry Bortz welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.
- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda:** : No changes were made to the meeting agenda as presented.
- Committee Expectations:** Earl Lewis (KWO) presented a Power Point to the RAC on the following:
 - Expectation for Members
 - Kansas Water Authority Process and Involvement

Membership: Berry Bortz, Chair, Preston, KS; Jay Dill, Kinsley, KS; Daniel Filbert, Macksville, KS; Robert Fisher, Ellinwood, KS; John Haas, Larned, KS; Jeremiah Hobbs, La Crosse, KS; Jeff Holste, Burdett, KS; Lane Massey, Larned, KS; Keith Miller, Barton County; Roger Mohr, Albert, KS; John Sweet, Lyons, KS; Tom Turner, St. John, KS; Taggart Wall, Sterling, KS
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- c. Overall Process
- d. Committee Tools
 - i. Technical Options
 - ii. Meeting Format
 - iii. Communication

This presentation is available on the KWO website at the following address:

http://www.kwo.org/RACs/2015_RAC_Sept_Oct_MeetingMaterials/Regional%20Advisory%20Committee_Expectations_edl.pdf

4. Regional Activities and Other Updates

- a. Review of Regional Goals: An overview of all regional goals developed by the Great Bend Prairie Regional Goal Leadership Team in conjunction with the development of the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas was provided. Goals developed for the Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area as well as those developed for the other regions can be found at the following link on the KWO webpage: http://www.kwo.org/RACs/GOALS_RAC_August2015.pdf.

Topics of committee discussion regarding these goals included the following:

- The water quality side of water supply within the Great Bend Prairie can't be ignored.
- Salt water from petroleum production in the region can impact the viability of groundwater resources for all beneficial uses.
- Rattlesnake Creek Impairment Case is an item to keep an eye on as it relates to groundwater sustainability within the Region.
- Accountability and consequence of failure to implement goal should be noted.
- Need to account for economic impact of actions as well.
- Sustainable use of the groundwater resources within the Great Bend Prairie Region is vital to maintaining and growing economy of the region.

After continued discussion on the regional goals, the Committee determined that the following goals would be the first goals the RAC would work to develop action plans for:

- *Achieve water use sustainability within the Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area by 2025 with a starting point being no new net depletions that includes a reasonable raising or lowering of the water table based on average weather conditions.*
- *Enhance the monitoring of poor quality water in areas which have salt water disposal lines, disposal wells and areas with high salt sources to ensure that contamination of fresh water sources does not occur as well as to stop and reverse further contamination of fresh water sources. Establish a self-reporting program under penalty of law if a problem is observed to ensure the problem does not get worse. Start using mapping techniques and disposal line maintenance and replacement to ensure this goal is met. Set up a review program by 2020.*

Keith Miller made the motion to formally submit these goals as the first goals an action plan would be developed for by the Smoky Hill-Saline RAC, seconded by Tom Turner. The motion carried as presented.

- b. **Regional Implementation:** Jeremiah Hobbs discussed watershed districts both within in the Great Bend Prairie Region as well as statewide. Within the Wet Walnut Watershed District for which Jeremiah is the manager there are 54 structures and the district covers portions of 6 counties in west-central Kansas. There was mention of new structures being put on hold as permitting issues with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are resolved. He also mentioned that K-State Research and Extension was developing a story on watershed districts and that this article would probably come out in January 2016.
- c. **Review and Public Comment on Regulations - Kansas Department of Agriculture:** Jeff Lanterman (KDA-DWR) provided an update on proposed water rules and regulations changes as well as Water Conservation Areas (WCAs).

5. Other Business

- a. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:** No additional information was discussed within this section of the meeting.
 - b. **Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** While no formal messages were passed along, it was noted that the KWA should be notified of the first goal which an action plan would be developed for.
 - c. **Future Meetings:**
 - i. Governor's Conference November: 18 and 19, 2015, in Manhattan, KS
 - ii. KWA December 17, 2015, in Ellsworth, KS
 - iii. Great Bend Prairie RAC: TBD but targeting sometime in January before start of legislative session.
6. **Meeting Adjourned:** Jeremiah Hobbs moved to adjourn the meeting, John Haas provided the second. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 am.