



Cimarron and Upper Arkansas Basin Advisory Committees

Joint Meeting Notes



Cimarron & Upper Arkansas
Joint Basin Advisory Committee
City Administrative Center
Garden City, KS

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Cimarron BAC Members in Attendance: Ellen Verell (Vice Chairperson), Bill Barby, Duane Brumbaugh, J.D. Neufeld, Gene Pflughoft, Gregory Shelor, Larry Swan and Theron Walker

Cimarron Members Absent: Judy Adams (Chairperson), Luann Watson and Melvin Webb

Upper Arkansas BAC Members in Attendance: Clark Rusco (Chairperson), Steve Cottrell, Steven Hines, Randy Hayzlett, Beverly Komarek and Mick MacNair

Upper Arkansas Members Absent: Ron Allen, Jamie Cheatum, Roger Mohr

Others in Attendance:

Andy Chappell (USFS), Nancy Brewer (USFS), Rob Reschke (SCC), Sara Kuiatkosky (Kendall), Darin Foster (Poky Feeders, Inc), Dick Verell (ME Co), Lin Reimer (KCC), Ted Tietjen (Repub River NE), Jack Kopfman (Lakin), Dayrl Fisher (KDWP), Ken Collins (USFWS), Mark Sexson (KDWP), Mike Meyer (DWR), Brandy Cole (DWR), Mark Rude (GMD3), Jason Norquest (GMD3), Hal Scheuerman, Trevor Ahring (GMD3), Jean Van Pelt (SEColoWCD), Jim Butler (KGS), David Kraft (NRCS), Mahbub Alum (KSU), Hank Ernst (KWO), Diane Coe (KWO), Susan Stover (KWO) Susan Metzger (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions

BAC Business

Water Issue Forum Registrations were handed out to BAC members.

Approval of July Meeting Notes

Bill Barby made a motion to approve the **July Cimarron BAC** meeting notes as presented. Motion was seconded by J.D. Neufeld. Motion carried.

Steven Hines made a motion to approve the **July Upper Arkansas BAC** meeting notes as presented. Motion was seconded by Steve Cottrell. Motion carried.

CIMARRON MEMBERS:

Judith Adams
Chairperson
Recreation

Ellen Verell
Vice Chairperson
At-Large Public

Bill Barby
Conservation/Environment

Duane Brumbaugh
Municipal Public Water
Supplier

Gene Pflughoft
Industry/Commerce

Gregory Shelor
At-Large Public

JD Neufeld
At-Large Public

Larry Swan
At-Large Public

Luann Watson
At-Large Public

Melvin Webb
Fish and Wildlife

Theron Walker
Agriculture

UPPER ARKANSAS MEMBERS:

CLARK RUSCO
Chairperson
Fish & Wildlife

RON ALLEN
Vice-Chairperson
Recreation

BEVERLY KOMAREK
Domestic

JAMIE CHEATUM
Agriculture Industry

MICHAEL MACNAIR
Conservation/Environment

RANDY HAYZLETT
Surface Water Irrigation

ROGER MOHR
Ground Water Irrigation

STEVEN COTTRELL
Municipal Public Water
Supply

STEVEN HINES
Agriculture

For questions please
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Diane Coe announced that the open membership categories (commerce/industry and at-large in the Upper Arkansas) will be reopened to meet the 60-180 day requirement, and application review at the March meeting.

Kansas Water Authority: Diane Coe noted that a special KWA meeting was held July 24, 2009, via conference call. The meeting was held to discuss actions related to the Clean Water Restoration Act. The KWA approved a letter on S.787, the Clean Water Restoration Act and directed the Kansas Water Office to send the same to the Kansas Congressional Delegation, other appropriate members of Congress and the media.

In August, the KWA adopted the FY 2011 SWPF base budget proposing expenditures totaling \$19,605,820. This assumes a \$6 million SGF transfer and dedicates 10% of the ELARF to water debt reduction and infrastructure projects beginning FY 2011.

At the KWA meeting in August also actions included the release of the Reservoir Sustainability draft statutory changes for discussion with the BAC's and Stakeholders. Susan Stover provided a briefing on the Reservoir Roadmap/Reservoir Sustainability activities and report development progress. The three volume report includes statutory options and estimated budget to address identified needs for future water supply under three categories; secure, protect and restore. Highlighted options include new reservoirs, reducing sedimentation in reservoirs (stabilizing stream banks, conservation easements), authority to dredge, address dam safety, and expanding access to storage. A brief discussion on design life and new reservoir sites occurred.

Tamarisk Basin Priority Issue/UPDATE

Tamarisk Water Use: Recent Research – Dr. Jim Butler (KGS) reported the findings for the years of study of water savings from the elimination of tamarisk at sites near Larned on the Arkansas River and on the Arnold Ranch along the Cimarron River. The results of water table monitoring over time after the non native phreatophytes, primarily tamarisk with some Russian olives were removed indicated similar water use/ water table fluctuations when native plants were reestablished. It was noted that depth to water was very shallow, often only 3 feet. Other similar research indicates the depth to water; evaporation rate, type of sediments and other site details influence the types of plants and corresponding evapotranspiration. The full report is available at www.kgs.ku.edu/Hydro/Phreato/index.html. Dr. Butler suggested future work might include grasses and forbes evapotranspiration, water quality, enlargement of area to a basin scale and emphasized the importance of long term monitoring.

Discussion of control costs, methods, establishment of grasses and native species, streamflow changes and experiences occurred with BAC members and others present.

Rangeland/Grazing Perspective - David Kraft (NRCS) provided an overview of rangeland and grazing considerations related to tamarisk. Tamarisk changes the plant community and dense stands eventually impact species desirable to grazers. The density will determine the impact. Dense stands also increase wildfire potential and increase the difficulty of controlled burns. When fire occurs, tamarisk burns hotter than native plants often impacting the ability of the natives to come back after fire.

Tamarisk impacts water balance in an area with the plant community changes by; the loss of available moisture for understory plants, loss of available moisture by retaining water in the canopy of its litter, changes of water loss compared to native species and impacting long term plant communities with changes to soils with the additional salt added through tamarisk debris. In addition

tamarisk changes the channel geomorphology; changing flood flow access to the floodplain and affecting stream bank erosion.

Mr. Kraft also noted that NRCS does have programs and cost share to control tamarisk but there are few takers in Kansas.

A brief discussion of control methods and costs occurred.

Current Activities in the Colorado Arkansas River Watershed were presented by Jean Van Pelt, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Ms. Van Pelt explained that 30 partners have developed an Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plants Plan for the long term management of Tamarisk. The plan encompasses the entire Arkansas basin in Colorado. In addition, a mapping project has illustrated that the Arkansas River Watershed is the most heavily infested in Colorado with approximately 67,000 total acres of Tamarisk. This means that 69% of the state's problem with Tamarisk lies in the Arkansas Watershed. They have developed various databases and resource materials that can be used by landowners and land managers. Funding of projects has come from multiple federal sources, state dedicated dollars and some local funds. Ms. Van Pelt stressed there is a choice to be made on how the river will look and behave, depending on choices to manage tamarisk.

Tamarisk (Salt Cedar) and Other Non-Native Phreatophytes: Watershed Impacts was presented by Susan Metzger, KWO. After describing Kansas Activities and the 10-year Strategic Plan, Ms. Metzger summarized considerations of tamarisk control in Kansas (turkey habitat in Hamilton County, the Arkansas Shiner habitat in the Cimarron basin, irrigation canal conveyance, salt accumulation, flood plain disruption and if water salvage is not the goal, what value do we place on the following?

- Narrowing Channels
- Displace Native Species
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Increase wildfire intensity
- Interferes with Nutrient Cycling
- Impairs Water Quality
- Loss of Land Utilization

Future of Tamarisk Management in Kansas: Discussion was held by BACs with NRCS, KDWP, SCC, USFWS, and other agencies and the Colorado and Kansas residents present on appropriate actions concerning tamarisk control. Ken Collins (USFWS), commented that the DRAFT Recovery Workplan Outline for the Arkansas River Shiner does mention tamarisk control but this a complete plan.

The basin priority issue recommendations were reviewed with discussion leading to the conclusion that additional research is needed. Some topics of research needs discussed were:

- Determining the tamarisk population that might be advantageous as wildlife and livestock protection;
- Determining native riparian shrub to replace tamarisk and where shrubs are appropriate;
- Defining river channel needs to avoid flooding; defining BMPs to control tamarisk;
- Determining the economically feasible level to control;
- Measuring water use of tamarisk vs. native in other hydrologic settings (example:10-20 ft water table);

- Investigating geomorphic change impacts to the water courses; and
- Defining tamarisk effects on the hydrologic cycle on the basins or sub areas.

The options of maintaining, revising or removing the present BPI for each basin was discussed. Recommendation 4 was identified as important to the Upper Arkansas basin.

No Recommendation on Tamarisk as a Water Plan Basin Priority Issue was made by either BAC.

Other Business

Message(s) to the KWA:

The Upper Arkansas BAC approved the following message to KWA:

The Federal reservoir water consumers should pay a fee to be used to buy more storage in the lakes.

The motion for the above message was made by Steven Hines, seconded by Steve Cottrell and approved by vote of the BAC.

The Cimarron BAC had no message to KWA.

Diane reminded the BAC that the KWA will meet in Liberal on November 17-18 (Tuesday-Wednesday).

The next meeting for the Upper Arkansas BAC was tentatively set for Tuesday March 2, 2010 at Cheyenne Bottoms Visitor Center, if possible.

The next meeting for the Cimarron BAC was tentatively set for Wednesday March 3, 2010 in Liberal.

Steve Cottrell made a motion to adjourn the joint Upper Arkansas and Cimarron BAC meeting, seconded by Beverly Komarek. Motion carried.]