



CIMARRON

Basin Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes

Members

JD Neufeld

Chairperson
At – Large Public
Ulysses, Kansas

Ellen Verell

Vice Chairperson
At – Large Public
Meade, Kansas

Bill Barbly

Conservation /
Environment
Meade, Kansas

Gene Pflughoft

Industry/Commerce
Ulysses, Kansas

Gregory Shelor

At – Large Public
Minneola, Kansas

Judith Adams

At – Large Public
Meade, Kansas

Larry Swan

At – Large Public
Liberal, Kansas

Melvin Webb

Fish and Wildlife
Moscow

Theron Walker

Agriculture
Kismet, Kansas

For questions
please contact:
Susan Stover;
Basin Planner:
785-296-3185
susan.stover@kwo.ks.gov

Thursday, July 17th, 2008, 9:00am

Rock Island Depot
Liberal, KS

Members in Attendance: Ellen Verell (Vice Chairperson), Judy Adams, Gene Pflughoft, Gregory Shelor, Larry Swan, Theron Walker, Melvin Webb, Bill Barbly

Members Absent: J.D. Neufeld (Chairperson)

Others in Attendance: Susan Stover (KWO), Mark Rude (GMD#3), Thom Makens (KDA-DWR), Heather O'Hara (Legislative Research), Carol Meyer (Dept of Commerce), Dick Verell (Meade)

Welcome and Introductions – Vice-Chairperson, Ellen Verell, welcomed those in attendance. Self introductions were made by committee members and members of the public.

BAC Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Gene Pflughoft and seconded by Greg Shelor to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried without dissent.

Agency Reports: Thom Makens (DWR) reported on the two impairment issues in the Cimarron Basin, one in the Meade area. Telemetry is being installed on wells to help track water levels.

Mark Rude (GMD#3) reported on GMD3 contracting for flow meter inspections, and working with land owners to make certain their flow meters provide an accurate measurement of their water use. He also reported on the ground water model under development for the entire district.

Carol Meyer (Dept of Commerce) explained the new program within the Office for Rural Opportunities. She is available to assist the counties in Southwest Kansas.

May Meeting Notes: No one had a copy, to the review and approval was deferred until the September meeting.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

KWA Update: Susan Stover updated the committee on the last Chairs' meeting. She also reported that there are two vacancies on this committee, and letters have been sent out to solicit applications. Applications will be taken until September 4th.

There was discussion on the proposal to recognize an outstanding BAC member from each committee. The Cimarron committee was divided on the usefulness of this action, noting they would have a hard time selecting one person and that their motivation to serve was not for recognition.

BAC Member Reports: Ellen Verell noted it was time to test their home well again, and discussed where to get water quality analyses done.

Melvin Webb noted the most recent legal ruling on the coal fired plant, and that it may open the way for Pioneer Electric and the Holcomb power plant.

Gene Pflughoft updated the testing being done on salt water to determine its usefulness if desalinated for use in an ethanol plant.

Basin Priority Issues

#1 Ark River Shiner Susan Stover reviewed the issue and recommendations. Judy Adams spoke on the issues surrounding the designation of critical habitat for the Arkansas River Shiner in the Cimarron. She shared a study by Don Whittemore at the KGS, on the salinity conditions in the Cimarron. There was a lengthy discussion as to whether the river would ever again support that species of fish, and if the problem is even solvable. Some expressed concern that why the Ark River Shiner isn't located in Kansas is somewhat of a mystery, and even restoring flow and reducing salinity may not solve it.

There was a **motion** made by Gene Pflughoft and seconded by Bill Barby:

The Committee's recommended action is to pursue opportunities with the USFW to delist the Kansas Cimarron River as critical habitat for the Arkansas River Shiner.

Motion passed without dissent. Judy noted that the Shiner is gone from the river, salt cedars have infested the riparian area, the salinity concentrations are increasing, and the stream flow is declining with a loss of baseflow from ground water. She believes the scientific evidence is clear that this is not an area that could reasonably be considered critical habitat for the Shiner, and that designation is an unreasonable burden on land owners.

#2 Bioenergy and Water Susan Stover reviewed the issue and recommendations. A few changes were proposed on the recommendations, to #2 (remove strengthen on regulations and add education), and #4 (add encourage more use of sweet sorghum, grain sorghum and other lower water use crops).

#3 Management of the Ogallala High Plains Aquifer Susan Stover reviewed the issue and recommendations. Susan noted a few additional updates and clarifications that will be made to the description. Mark Rude noted that the chloride upwelling in SW Meade/ SE Seward area is a quick response area for this next year.

#4 Salt Cedar and other non-native Preatophyte Control Susan Stover reviewed the issue and recommendations. An addition to recommendation #5 was made (use extreme caution with biological controls to avoid unintended consequences), and #9 (how to remove and harvest the tamarisk without damaging the riparian areas.)

The Basin Description section was reviewed and discussed.

Policy Issues: Reservoir Sustainability Initiative Susan Stover updated the committee on the Strategic Reservoir Initiative policy proposals, one on sediment management and the other on access to storage. The KWA decided not to move these police pieces forward for a public hearing, and instead have additional work done and return with additional information at the August meeting.

Message(s) to the KWA: There was a **motion** made by Gene Pflughoft and seconded by Greg Shelor:

"The Cimarron Basin Advisory Committee would like to extend an invitation to the Kansas Water Authority to meet in Ulysses for their April, 2009 meeting."

The motion passed unanimously. Gene noted the conservation practices being implemented at Frasier Park would make a good tour for the KWA.

A motion was made by Judy Adams and seconded by Gene Pflughoft to adjourn, passed without dissent.