



Kansas Lower-Republican Basin Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Kansas Lower-Republican Basin Advisory Committee

10:00 am, Thursday, March 11, 2010

Kite's Restaurant
8330 Highway 24
Manhattan, KS

DRAFT

KLR Members in Attendance: Carl Nuzman (Chairperson), Arnold Ross (Vice-Chairperson), Chris Mammoliti, Charles Johnson, Larry Shannon, Daniel Howell, Laura Calwell and Ed Rowe

KLR Members Absent: Shane Munsch and William Ramsey

Others in Attendance: Susan Metzger (KWO), Earl Lewis (KWO), Bobbi Wendt (KWO), Tom Stiles (KDHE), Trevor Flynn (KDHE), Angela Beavers (Clarks Creek WRAPS, Geary County Conservation District), Doug Helmke (Kansas Rural Water Association and Middle Kansas WRAPS) and John Bond (KAWS)

Welcome and Introductions: Carl Nuzman, Chairperson, welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

KLR Approval of Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.

Agency Reports:

Kansas Water Office: Susan Metzger reported that the Status Report and Annual Report to Governor have been finalized. Both highlight water plan activities and achievements. The Status Report includes summaries by basin while the Report to the Governor summarizes accomplishments of the Kansas Water Plan in general. Both are on the Kansas Water Office web site. In addition, the Reservoir Roadmap has been completed and approved by the Kansas Water Authority. A summary handout was provided and the full report is available on the Kansas Water Office website. The Reservoir Roadmap was presented to the Vision 2020 Committee of the Kansas Legislature on March 8, 2010.

Mrs. Metzger noted that the U.S. Geological Survey has completed an assessment of stormwater runoff in Johnson County. Summary handout of the report was provided. The full report is available on the USGS website.

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS): John Bond reported that KAWS is assisting with three WRAPS projects including the Lower and Middle Kansas and Upper Wakarusa. KAWS is completing an assessment of riparian and stream conditions in several watersheds using a GIS application to help target Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation. KAWS is participating in an EPA Wetland Program Development Grant project with the Kansas Water Office and a riparian assessment through a U.S. Forest Service grant.

KANSAS LOWER- REPUBLICAN MEMBERS:

CARL NUZMAN
Chairperson
At Large Public

ARNOLD ROSS
*Vice
Chairperson*
Irrigation District

**CHARLES
JOHNSON**
Public Water
Supply

CHRIS MAMMOLITI
Fish and Wildlife

DANIEL HOWELL
Agriculture

LARRY SHANNON
Water Assurance
District

LAURA CALWELL
Recreation

SHANE MUNSCH
Industry/
Commerce

WILLIAM RAMSEY
Planning
Restoration &
Protection

EDWARD ROWE
Conservation/
Environment

For questions
contact:
Bobbi Wendt
KLR Basin Planner
785-296-3185
bobbi.wendt@kwo.ks.gov

Geary County Conservation District and local WRAPS: Angela Beavers reported on the progress of several streambank stabilization projects on the Smoky Hill River and Kansas River in Geary County. Mrs. Beavers reported that due to successful implementation of practices, the TMDL for Clarks Creek will be delisted and the focus will shift to protection of existing water quality.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

BAC Business: The October 2009 Kansas-Lower Republican meeting notes were accepted as drafted.

Arnold Ross (Vice Chairperson) provided a report of activities from the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) January 2010 meeting in Topeka. Mr. Ross reported that at the meeting of the BAC Chairpersons, the Chairs discussed methods to gain legislative support for water initiatives. Interaction with legislators and the importance of interaction with basin residents to further support and improve grassroots issue understanding and involvement was discussed.

Each member of the BAC provided a report of activities, contacts, and meetings attended relevant to their representative category.

Mrs. Metzger noted that for the KLR BAC, the application deadline for the Other Public Water Supplier category has been extended.

Mrs. Metzger noted that a public hearing was held on January 4, 2010 to accept comments on the final draft of the Kansas-Lower Republican Basin Priority Issue, Lower Republican River Water Supply and Delivery. The final draft was presented to the KWA at their January meeting and accepted for inclusion into the Kansas Water Plan. Mrs. Metzger also reported that the Kansas River cross section survey work was completed in February 2010. The report of these cross sections is in draft format and will include information from the Kansas River Geomorphological Assessment. A second Kansas River assessment is underway to evaluate the economic value of three reservoirs in the basin: Tuttle Creek, Perry, and Milford. The study will assess the impacts on the benefits from navigational releases. The contractor, CDM, will work closely with agencies and the BAC to incorporate stakeholder benefits and uses.

Basin Activities:

Earl Lewis (KWO) announced that KWO staff member, Bobbi Wendt, will be taking on the role and responsibilities of basin planner for the Kansas-Lower Republican BAC.

Mr. Lewis provided an update on Legislative and Budget issues. Mr. Lewis highlighted the Reservoir Roadmap and interaction with the Vision 2020 Committee and discussed the KDA-DWR draft proposed rules and regulations addressing impairment complaints. Earl discussed Senate Bill 510 creating conservation as a beneficial use under the Water Appropriation Act. Committee members asked questions and discussed the potential implications of the bill. Mr. Lewis discussed the current and FY2011 State General Fund and State Water Plan Fund. Also discussed was the plan to restore the litigation fund. During this discussion, maps and contact information for the House and Senate members in the KLR basin were provided. Interaction with legislators and the importance of interaction with basin residents to further support and improve grassroots issue understanding and involvement was discussed.

Carl Nuzman reported on his attendance at the 3rd Annual Water Issues Forum on the topic of Climate and Water. Mrs. Metzger noted that the Water and the Future of Kansas will be held in Topeka on October 26th and that discussions are underway to consider next year's Annual Water Issues Forum or a Governors Water Conference.

Susan Metzger reported that two Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) were awarded to the cities in the KLR basin. The cities of Belleville and Muscotah will receive funding for water and sewer system improvements. The CDBG program is federally funded and provides funding to small cities and counties looking to improve their communities.

Tom Stiles (KDHE) and Trevor Flynn (KDHE) reported that KDHE developed Total Maximum Daily Load documents, addressing impaired streams and lakes, in the KLR Basin in 1999-2000 and 2007-2008. The current (2008) Section 303(d) list of impaired waters highlighted recent impairments in the basin and noted possible waters KDHE would develop TMDLs when they cycled into the basin in 2010. KDHE is now wrapping up development of TMDLs in Northwest Kansas and turning their attention toward the third TMDL cycle in the KLR this year. Mr. Flynn provided a complete inventory of impaired waters for the KLR basin, including modifications that have come about with the drafting of the 2010 Section 303(d) list, now out for public comment.

Susan Metzger reported that KDHE has prepared the 2009 State Basin Plan Updates and Site Accomplishments for the State Water Plan Contamination Remediation Program (SWPCRP). The full report is available on-line. Mrs. Metzger noted that nine sites in the Kansas-Lower Republican basin are included in the 2009 SWPCRP report.

Other Business:

A motion was made and seconded by members of the Kansas-Lower Republican to forward the following message to the KWA:

The Kansas-Lower Republican BAC recommends that further study and evaluation of the implications of Senate Bill 510 are needed before implementation and approval.

The motion passed without dissent.

The next meeting of the Kansas Water Authority will be held May 13-14 in Wichita and August 5-6 in Paola.

Members of the BAC set the tentative 2010 meeting dates and locations as follows: June 25, 2010 in Council Grove (joint meeting with Neosho, Verdigris, and Marais des Cygnes BACs) and September 30, 2010 in Lawrence.

The Water and the Future of Kansas conference will be held on October 26, 2010 in Topeka.

Adjourn: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.