

Kansas-Lower Republican Basin Advisory Committee
November 30, 2006
Topeka, Kansas

Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Basin Advisory Committee Members Present

Carl Nuzman (Chair), Arnold Ross (Vice-Chair), Larry Shannon, Shane Munsch, Eileen Jackson, Joel Davison, Dan Howell, Kent Weatherby, Chris Stewart

Basin Advisory Committee Members Absent

Bill Ramsey

Others in Attendance

Dennis Schwartz (KWA), Mark Green (Kansas Air National Guard), Judy Willingham (KSU), John Robinson (Scandia), Dan Knupp (Wamego), John Piskac (NRCS), Thad Rhodes (KFS), Laura Calwell (Friends of the Kaw), Steve Swaffer (KFB), Tom Stiles (KDHE), Chris Mammoliti (Watershed Institute), Jim Cobler (RWD #4), William Hill (Holton), Kim Christiansen (KWO), Bob McDaneld (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions: Carl Nuzman (Chair) brought the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Those present provided self introductions. Mr. Nuzman thanked the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for providing the meeting room.

Review of November Kansas Water Authority Meeting: Mr. Nuzman asked Dennis Schwartz, a KWA member, to review the November Kansas Water Authority meeting. Mr. Nuzman reviewed the BAC Chairs meeting which had been held at the same time.

Approval of Meeting Notes: Mr. Nuzman said the meeting notes for June and July meetings had been mailed with the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions or concerns. Kent Weatherby and Larry Shannon said their recollection of the June meeting did not match their recollections of action taken. Mr. Weatherby and Mr. Shannon said they were uncertain what action was taken on categories to be filled by the BAC, but agreed the meeting notes were incorrect. Following brief committee discussion, the meeting notes for both the June and July meetings were approved by consensus.

Annual Status Report: Mr. McDaneld summarized a report on State Water Plan funded projects and programs which is being produced by the Kansas Water Office. He noted that a copy of the report would be mailed to each committee member.

Review of BAC Applications and Recommendations for Membership: Kim Christiansen, General Counsel for the KWO, facilitated this agenda item. Ms. Christiansen began with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the selection process and a matrix for comparing applicant qualifications.

Following the PowerPoint presentation, all applicants present were provided the opportunity to address the committee with brief statements about their qualifications for, and interest in, committee membership. At the conclusion of these presentations, Ms. Christiansen suggested working through the categories, beginning with the category with the fewest applicants.

Beginning with the water assurance district category, Ms. Christiansen noted there were no applicants for this category. Mr. Ross moved to defer action and re-advertise the category. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson and carried.

For the irrigation district category, there was only one applicant, Arnold Ross. Mr. Ross declared a conflict of interest and left the room. Mr. Howell moved that Mr. Ross be nominated; the motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson and carried. Mr. Ross was nominated by a majority vote of the committee.

For the fish and wildlife category, there were two applicants, Mark Green and Chris Mammoliti. Mr. Ross moved that the committee vote to fill the position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weatherby and carried. Mr. Mammoliti was nominated by a majority vote of the committee.

For the commerce and industry category, there were two applicants, Shane Munsch and Allen Moore. Mr. Munsch declared a conflict of interest and left the room. Mr. Nuzman moved that the committee vote to fill the position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shannon and carried. Mr. Munsch was nominated by a majority vote of the committee.

The agriculture category was discussed by the committee. Following this discussion, Mr. Shannon moved to defer action on this position until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weatherby and carried.

When the conservation and environment category was considered, Mr. Shannon moved that action on this position be deferred until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weatherby and carried.

Ms. Christiansen thanked the committee for its work and turned the meeting back over to Mr. Nuzman. Following brief committee discussion of the selection process, Mr. Weatherby announced he was withdrawing his application for the at-large position.

Agency Reports: John Piskac (NRCS) reviewed the status of agency programs. Mr. Piskac noted the high demand in the KLR Basin for many NRCS programs, including CREP. He said that NRCS was in the process of consolidating some county offices, which would change staffing levels in some areas.

Judy Willingham (KSU) noted that the Kansas Water Office was no longer sponsoring KERP scholarships for BAC members. She expressed her disappointment in that decision. Ms. Willingham provided a brief overview of the upcoming 2007 class. Thad Rhodes (KFS) provided an overview of agency activities in the basin. He noted the forest service now has a watershed forester, Deborah Goard, who works out of the Manhattan office.

TMDL Update: Tom Stiles (KDHE) provided an update on the TMDL program in the basin. He noted the five year cycle had been completed in the basin. Mr. Stiles also noted that KDHE was no longer under a court ordered TMDL program and would be making some minor changes in the program's management.

Kansas River Streambed Degradation TAC: Mr. Nuzman provided a summary of the Kansas River Streambed Degradation Project. He is a member of technical advisory committee for the project. Mr. Nuzman noted a TAC meeting had been scheduled for that afternoon, but had been postponed because of bad weather.

Basin Activities/Update: Mr. McDanel provided an overview of programs in the basin. He noted that all reservoirs in the basin which provide public water supply have an active WRAPS.

Water Assurance Districts' Joint Resolution: Mr. Nuzman asked Mr. Weatherby to review the proposed resolution with the committee. Mr. Weatherby explained the three river assurance districts

were requesting legislation to put a representative of the assurance districts on the Kansas Water Authority.

Following committee discussion, Mr. Weatherby read a statement of support for the resolution he had prepared and moved that the committee approve the letter of support. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shannon and carried. A copy of the statement is attached to these meeting notes for reference.

Other New Business: Mr. Howell asked for committee discussion on the proposed construction of new coal fired power plants in Finney County. He said he was concerned that mercury emitted as a by-product of power generation could have a negative impact on water quality in Kansas.

Following committee discussion, Mr. Howell moved the following statement be approved by the committee and sent to KDHE, which issues air quality permits for power plants. "In reviewing permits for new power plants, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment should consider the impact of air emissions, including mercury, on water quality." The motion was seconded by Mr. Weatherby and carried.

Messages to the Kansas Water Authority: There were no messages to the KWA.

Next Kansas Water Authority Meeting: Mr. McDaneld stated the next KWA meeting would be in Topeka on January 10th and 11th. He noted that committee chairs would be invited to the meeting.

Next Committee Meeting: Mr. McDaneld said the next round of BAC meetings will be in March, 2007. He noted dates had not been determined for specific committees. He will work with Mr. Nuzman to determine a specific date and location.

Public Comments: Ms Willingham addressed the committee. She said that the selection process was too cumbersome and that the committee had been rude to applicants when it deferred action on two categories.

Adjourned: This meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:30 p.m.