



LOWER ARKANSAS Basin Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes

Members

Byron Warta

Chairperson
Conservation
Newton, Kansas

Vaughn Weaver

Vice Chairperson
Fish and Wildlife
Wichita, Kansas

Brain Meier

Industry/Commerce
Wichita, Kansas

Budd Fountain

At – Large West
Langdon, Kansas

Carolyn McGinn

GMD
Sedgwick, Kansas

Daniel Filbert

Agriculture
Macksville, Kansas

Jay Zimmerman

Conservation/
Environment
South Haven, Kansas

Larry Mangan

At – Large Public
Wellington, Kansas

Mike Brothers

Non-Municipal PWS
Lyons, Kansas

Sharon Falk

Recreation
Stafford, Kansas

Suzanne Loomis

Municipal PWS
Newton, Kansas

For questions
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Monday, July 14, 2008, 9:00 am

**Wellington City Hall, Council Room
Wellington, KS**

Members in Attendance: Byron Warta (Chairperson), Vaughn Weaver (Vice Chairperson), Brian Meier, Larry Mangan, Mike Brothers, Suzanne Loomis, Budd Fountain

Members Absent: Carolyn McGinn, Daniel Filbert, Jay Zimmerman, Sharon Falk

Others in Attendance: Susan Stover (KWO), Angela Buzard (REAP Water Resources Committee), Jim Heinicke (REAP Water Resources Committee) Rich Basore (KDHE), Bruce Falk (KDA-DWR), Orin Feril (GMD5), Jerry Blain (Wichita), Debra Ary (Wichita), Melinda McCurley (Sumner Co.), Amy Morris (City of Wichita Environmental Services), Tabatha Kling (City of Wichita Environmental Services)

Welcome and Introductions – Wellington City Manager Guy Collins welcomed the committee to Wellington. Chairperson, Byron Warta also welcomed people. Susan Stover updated the committee on the position move by Susan Metzger and the search for a new basin planner.

BAC Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Budd Fountain and seconded by Larry Mangan to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried without dissent.

Agency Reports –

Bruce Falk (KDA-DWR) provided an update on the Blatant and Recurring Overpumpers enforcement action.

Rich Basore (KDHE) noted that there are Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP) grants in most of the counties in Kansas. Haskell Co has recently developed sanitary codes, and Comanche County is in the process of developing some.

Angela Buzard noted the good attendance at the REAP May 29th conference. It helps highlight some of the priority issues for next year.

Public Comments – No public comments were provided.

BAC Business –

BAC Minutes: A motion was made by Budd Fountain and seconded by Larry Mangan to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried without dissent.

KWA Update: BAC Chairs Meeting: Byron Warta provided an update of the June KWA meeting in Atchison. He noted there was a strong sentiment to have a joint Lower and Upper Arkansas BAC meeting in the future, to discuss issues in common, particularly those along the Ark River corridor. He noted the next KWA and Chairs meeting will be on August 13th in Hays.

Outstanding BAC Member: Susan Stover explained the proposal to recognize people's contribution to water planning, by an annual outstanding BAC nomination. A memo outlining this proposal was in the mailing. The members thought this was a good idea, and will make a nomination for their basin committee at the next meeting.

BAC Member Reports: Larry Mangan showed a bathymetric map of the city's lake, prepared by the Kansas Biological Survey. It shows the additional pool depth gained by the second dam the city installed, helps their water withdrawals. The City of Anthony is considering a similar approach for their city lake.

Basin Priority Issues: Long Term Public Water Supply: Susan Stover reviewed the description of the long term water supply basin issue. Projected growth in the basin indicates additional water will be needed. Recommendations include the Equus Beds aquifer storage and recovery project, and support for efforts to reduce sedimentation and water quality contaminants to Cheney Reservoir. Committee members discussed the issue. It was recommended that more description of Wichita's ASR project be included. Jerry Blain provided additional information. Angela Buzard explained the proposed Bureau of Reclamation evaluation of brackish water availability in south central Kansas; if funded, the study would begin this fall. It was suggested the GMDs should also be noted as important water management entities in the basin.

The committee also recommended putting in information about the Cheney Watershed Citizen's Management Committee's master plan in the description. Recommended action #3 will be more specific in support of REAP.

Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin: Susan Stover reviewed this long standing basin issue. The Rattlesnake Creek is due for its 8 year review, which will be initiated after the partnership meeting on August 12th. There are a variety of strategies to reduce total water use in priority areas. Development of a groundwater-surface water (Modflow) model of Rattlesnake Creek subbasin, and the entire GMD5 region, has begun. Recommended actions include implementing the management program strategies. Some additional information was proposed for this issue, including a summary of the 2004 program progress findings. It was noted that the Water Banking program, which is growing in awareness and deposits, is a pilot program. If it is taking hold, and provides a workable strategy, in a couple years, the committee may recommend it be a permanent program. Orin Feril, GMD5, will provide more information.

The Committee discussed the need for Quivira to get their water rights.

Role of Reuse in Water Conservation: A revised basin issue on Water Reuse was distributed and discussed. Once a water right is perfected, it cannot increase the amount of consumptive use. Jerry Blain noted that there are more opportunities for reuse from a ground water diversion than a surface water right. The committee clarified the recommendation for additional coordination between state agencies in water re-use permitting and to protect instream aquatic life. Brian Meier recommended the interest in south central Kansas for an evaluation of brackish water be included in the water reuse discussion. Suzanne Loomis requested the BAC get a future presentation on this topic, to more fully understand the limitations on water reuse; when is it an option and when is it restricted.

Bioenergy and Water: Susan Stover reviewed this basin issue. The Committee supported a new recommendation that encouraged land to stay in a conservation planting. Although the economic conditions for biofuels is changing quickly, Larry Mangan and Suzanne Loomis both noted that the water demands can be an issue when an industry wants to use treated water from a municipality. Jerry Blain noted that Wichita is providing an ethanol plant raw water for industrial use.

Walnut Basin Issue Urbanization: Susan Stover reviewed this priority issue in the Walnut Basin, for coordination with the Lower Arkansas BAC. There has been a shift from rural to urban and suburban communities in Walnut and nearby Wichita and Sedgwick County. There has been an eastward expansion of Wichita metropolitan and industrial areas. There are or could be impacts to water quality, public water supply, flooding and related issues. Recommendations include supporting local REAP efforts to develop a comprehensive watershed based plan for addressing the growth. Byron noted the committee wants to remain aware of this issue.

Lower Ark Basin Description: The basin description section was reviewed. Rich Basore asked if Grouse Creek is actually in the Lower Arkansas Basin, rather than the Walnut Basin. [Update: Grouse Creek is in the Walnut basin.] Rich recommended the Grouse Creek and Silver Creek Watershed District be invited to a future Lower Arkansas BAC meeting. They are getting involved with water quality issues, as well as flooding.

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. This was in response to comments heard from the BACs and others.

Susan Stover provided an update on the potential recommendations to increase State Water Plan funds. Jim Heinicke noted that municipalities often think they are the only entity paying into the fund; education is needed if there are increased fees proposed that it hits all sectors.

Message(s) to the KWA: A motion was made by Budd Fountain and seconded by Larry Magnan, and amended by Vaughn Weaver, to forward the following messages to the Kansas Water Authority:

- 1) An emphasis on implementation accomplishment in the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin is needed; there have been eight years of trying to implement the management strategies. If some programs are not working, this needs brought out. If a program can be fixed, provide a fix. If no one is using a strategy, explain why not.
- 2) The role of water reuse is important in planning for future water supplies and needs to be kept in front of people before a crisis causes severe water shortages. It can be particularly protective during times of drought. It is important to find types of reuse that are publically acceptable.
- 3) A supply and demand analysis is needed in the Lower Arkansas basin, and should include a holistic evaluation of water currently available, as well as demand that could potentially be met with marginal water and water reuse.

The motion carried without dissent.

Future Meetings: Susan Stover reported on the next meeting of the KWA, on August 13, 14 and 15th in Hays. There will be work groups to review all of the basin issues. It is important to have the BAC Chair or another representative from this committee at the meeting for that work session on the afternoon of August 13th. Other committee members are welcome to attend and participate in the work sessions.

The next Lower Arkansas Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 2nd, at the USDA office, Hutchinson.

Susan Stover reported on plans for the December Kansas Water Issues Forum, hosted by the Joint BACs, and sponsored by KWO and KSU-KCARE. The theme this year is: Water and Energy: Reduce, Reuse, Recharge! There will be two meetings: Wednesday, December 10th in Wichita at the Extension Office, and Thursday, December 11th at Ft Hays University. More details will follow.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.