

Lower Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee

**City of Newton Public Works Facility, Utility Maintenance Facility Training
Room, 1100 S. Kansas Avenue**

Newton, KS

Thursday February 28, 2008, 9:00 am

Meeting Notes

Members in Attendance – Byron Warta (Chairperson), Vaughn Weaver (Vice Chairperson), Brian Meier, Daniel Filbert, Jay Zimmerman, Larry Mangan, Mike Brothers, Suzanne Loomis

Members Absent – Budd Fountain, Sharon Falk, Carolyn McGinn

Others in Attendance – Susan Metzger (KWO), Angela Buzard (REAP Water Resources Committee), Jim Heinicke (REAP Water Resources Committee), Jess Crockford (NRCS), Tim Wagner (Sedgwick County), Scott Davies (Harvey County), Lisa French (Cheney Lake Watershed/Kansas Water Authority), John Leatherman (Kansas State University), Ron Graber (K-State Research and Extension), Rich Basore (KDHE), Bruce Falk (KDA-DWR), Jeff Klock (Kansas Corporation Commission)

BAC Training – Susan Metzger (KWO) instructed the members on the purpose and use of parliamentary procedures with the Basin Advisory Committees.

Welcome and Introductions – Chairperson, Byron Warta, welcomed those in attendance. Self introductions were made by committee members and members of the public.

Water Quality Trading - John Leatherman, Kansas State University, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Evaluating the Feasibility of Water Quality Trading (WQT) in Kansas". John explained that WQT could allow a wastewater treatment facility to achieve their discharge limits by paying nonpoint sources to reduce their discharges. John fielded several questions and comments from those in attendance. Questions and comments related to the challenge of monitoring and implementing the WQT program, the effectiveness of offsetting point source pollutants with nonpoint source control, and how municipalities and producers were contacted to interview for this research.

Agency Reports – Lisa French reported that several studies are underway within the Cheney Watershed, including a compilation of the history of implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) since 1995. The history also includes a tracking of changes in tillage practices over time. Students from the KSU Sociology Department have interviewed producers in the watershed to learn individual motivations to participate in cost-share activities.

Bruce Falk (KDA-DWR) provided an explanation of the Blatant and Reoccurring Overpumpers (BRO) program. Bruce also reported that the Kansas Legislature has considered cutting the funding for the Subbasin Program within the KDA-DWR.

Rich Basore (KDHE) encouraged involvement in Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). Rich acknowledged the work of local sanitarians and the Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP) within the basin. He noted that one county within the basin does not have an LEPP. Rich announced the retirement of Don Snethen from KDHE and discussed a biodiesel plant located near Sedgwick.

Ron Graber, K-State, provided an update on the Little Arkansas WRAPS. Ron noted that the Water and the Future of Kansas Conference will be held on March 25th in Topeka. The Kansas WRAPS Conference will be held on April 15th in Salina.

Angela Buzard introduced herself to the committee and described the goals of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP). Angela noted that REAP is organizing a regional water conference to be scheduled in May 2008.

Public Comments – No public comments were provided.

BAC Business - Susan Metzger, KWO, provided an update on several items discussed at the January 2008 meeting of the Kansas Water Authority. Items covered under this report included the *Kansas Water Plan 2007* Status Report, a strategic plan for sediment and surface water management, current Kansas Legislative activities and the FY2007-2009 budget.

Committee members offered encouragement for the implementation of the sediment and surface water management policy as a good long-term approach to addressing this issue. The committee discussed the pilot dredging projects and offered that there is a need to include sedimentation reduction as a maintenance item with the federal agencies.

Susan Metzger reported on the attendance and outcomes from three joint BAC meetings held in December 2007 and January 2008 on the topic of Bioenergy and Water. Several members of the Lower Arkansas BAC provided input on their experiences at these meetings.

Byron Warta reported that David Barfield was selected as the new Chief Engineer in the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources. An invitation to attend future Lower Arkansas BAC meetings has been extended to David.

Susan Metzger discussed the process for updating the *Kansas Water Plan* and showed the committee a revised basin description for the Lower Arkansas River Basin.

Committee members discussed potential basin priority issues for inclusion in the 2008 revision of the *Kansas Water Plan* in the Lower Arkansas Basin Section. Potential priority issues offered include:

- Equus Beds and Aquifer Recharge

- Extend and conserve the life of Cheney Reservoir
- Role of Reuse in Water Conservation
- Bioenergy and the Potential Impact to Water Resources

A motion was made by Suzanne Loomis and seconded by Mike Brothers to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried without dissent.

Other Business

A motion was made by Vaughn Weaver and seconded by Mike Brothers to forward the following message to the Kansas Water Authority:

The Lower Arkansas BAC wishes to express the need to retain the funding as proposed in the FY2009 State Water Plan Fund budget request for Lake Restoration/Management, Subbasin Water Resources Management, and Nonpoint Source Pollution Assistance.

The motion carried without dissent.

A motion was made by Suzanne Loomis and seconded by Larry Mangan to forward the following message to the Kansas Water Authority:

The Lower Arkansas BAC wishes to emphasize the importance of the role of water reuse in water conservation. As the state seeks to identify an institutional and regulatory framework to better utilize reclaimed water, we should assure that restrictions do not hinder the opportunity for reuse and make this practice infeasible.

The motion carried without dissent.

Byron Warta reported that the next meeting of the Kansas Water Authority meeting will be held on April 3-4 in Colby. The next meetings of the Lower Arkansas BAC will be as follows:

- Monday, May 19th in Stafford
- Monday, July 14th in Wellington
- Thursday, October 2nd in Hutchinson

A motion was made by Brian Meier and seconded by Jay Zimmerman to adjourn. The motion carried without dissent.