



NEOSHO

Basin Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes

Members

James Triplett
Chairperson
Fish and Wildlife
Pittsburg, Kansas

Peggy Blackman
Vice Chairperson
Watershed Restoration
and Protection
Marion, Kansas

Danny Matthews
Municipal PWS
Council Grove, Kansas

Daryl Meierhoff
Conservation/
Environment
Emporia, Kansas

Eric Shoemaker
Recreation
Saint Paul, Kansas

Morgan Marler
Other PWS
Hillsboro, Kansas

Pat Sauble
Agriculture
Cedar Point, Kansas

Robert Hammond
Industry/Commerce
New Strawn, Kansas

Ronald Nurnberg
Watershed District
Emporia, Kansas

Steve Kubler
At - Large Public
Chanute, Kansas

For questions
please contact:
Deb Baker, Basin
Planner
785-296-3185
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July 24, 2008

Burlington, Coffey County Courthouse
1:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Danny Matthews, Bob Hammond, Peggy Blackman, Steve Kubler, Morgan Marler, Daryl Meierhoff, James Triplett, and Pat Sauble.

Members Absent: Eric Shoemaker and Robert Nurnberg

Others in Attendance: Deb Baker (KWO), Andy Ensz (KWO), Susan Metzger (KWO) Robert Wilson, Warren Bell (K-State) Dan Haines (Coffey County Conservation District), Doug Blex (KAWS), Ann Mayo (Lyon County Health Department), Jo Bea Titus-Hutchison (Morris County Conservation District), Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR), Greg Taylor (KDHE Chanute), Tom Stiles, Steve Wang, Ann D'Alfonso, Kerry Wedel (KDHE Topeka), Carl Hayes (Cherokee County Health Department), Crystal Eisele (See-Kan RC&D), Matt Zimmerman (City of Emporia), John Gillette (Grand Lake of the Cherokees Alliance Foundation), Kevin Gustavson (Oklahoma Conservation Commission), Rich Basore (KDHE Wichita), and Marilyn Eccles (Coffey County Health Department).

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Chair James Triplett.

Self Introductions were made by all in attendance.

The **agenda** was approved as written.

Agency Reports:

Greg Taylor report that KDHE has officially changed from fecal coliform bacteria to E. coli bacteria as a better indicator of fecal contamination. A Mercury clean up program is being offered for disposal of this hazardous waste. Greg distributed a handout describing the program and more information is on the website contained in the handout.

Katie Tietsort reported on changes to the DWR Water Structures Program. Funding has been provided to the Department to provide for inspections without charge to dam owners. Funding is for two engineers and one administrative assistant. High Hazard dams are being inspected every three years and significant hazard dams are being inspected every five years. Owners will be contacted before the scheduled inspections, which will occur between July 1 2008 and April 30 2009. An inspection report will be provided to the dam owner.

Dam regulations underwent internal review in 2007. Internal review of stream obstruction channel changes concerning design, construction, operation of stream obstructions (other than dams), channel modifications, levees, and floodplain fills is being conducted this year. Public meetings will be held in the fall and a public hearing is tentatively scheduled for August 20, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at the DWR office in Topeka. Contact Lesley Garner, KDA Legal Section, 785-296-4623.

The 2009 Dam Safety Conference will be in Lawrence, February 9 – 11, 2009. After the conference a four hour seminar on stream obstructions and floodplain fills will be held. Contact Matt Scherer at 785-296-3083. Katie also discussed a pending water rights application by the City of Pittsburg. An alternative supply of water is needed if the Ozark Aquifer moratorium study finds that the aquifer is not suitable for a long term water supply due to insufficient safe yield. The pending application is for the current amount the city already has rights to, not an additional amount. The application has been on file for 3 ½ years. One irrigator also has a pending application.

Ann Mayo reported that the LEPP provided 442 inspections during the last quarter. This increase resulted from recent revisions to the sanitary code. The inspections found about a 10-20% major failure rate of onsite wastewater systems. They also worked two chemical spills.

Peggy Blackman reported that the KDHE Non Point Source Revolving Loan Fund needs to be linked for deposit ability and will require legislative action to establish. It will be a statewide program administered by RC&Ds.

Jo Bea Titus-Hutchison reported that the Conservation District continues to offer 80% cost share on failing onsite wastewater systems in Morris County.

Carl Hayes reported that installation of onsite wastewater systems has dropped off significantly this summer since there has been little new construction in Cherokee County. He continues to work on the Solid Waste Plan and the Spring River WRAPS. A new casino (two weeks old) may install constructed wetlands to catch and treat stormwater runoff from the parking lot associated with the casino that is in Kansas.

Public Comments:

Crystal Eisele distributed a newsletter containing information on the Spring River WRAPS projects.

The **May meeting notes** were approved as written.

BAC Member Reports:

Bob Hammond reported on the BAC Chairs meeting at the KWA meeting in Atchison. Biofuels were discussed along with policy regarding attendance at BAC meetings. The Reservoir Sustainability Initiative and the Surface Water Management and Wetland/Riparian/Streambank Policies were discussed. Deb Baker reported that neither policy reviewed by the committee at the last meeting was approved for further public discussion. Both are having additional information added to clarify and respond to comments made by the twelve BACs during the public discussions at the July meetings. Deb explained the structure and membership of the KWA and the policy planning process. There was additional discussion of the role of BAC's in state policy development

Jim Triplett reported on Earth Day activities sponsored by the Spring River WRAPS at Wildcat Park. The Grand Lake of the Cherokees Alliance Foundation continues to make progress in developing a master watershed management plan for the basin covering Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas. He has also participated in the Lower Shoal Creek WRAPS. A "Water and Our Future" conference will be held September 11th in Joplin sponsored by the Newton/Jasper County Watershed Group. They also plan to sponsor a WRAPS get together in Grove Focused on the Grand Lake Collaborative.

Daryl Meierhoff reported that he attended a National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) meeting in Tucson. Discussions covered mold, water quality, bacteria, and solid waste issues. The NEHA website is a great source of information on research and other topics. An Illegal dumping brochure has been developed by the Lyon County Health Department and was distributed to school kids at Camp Alexander during an Earth Day event.

Morgan Marler reported that raw water treated with manganese has found to be the best treatment for taste and odor problems occurring during seasonal blue green algae blooms. A blue green algae probe has been purchased. The Surface Water Advisory Board will be responsible for health alert postings around Marion Reservoir.

Pat Sauble reported that cell phone problems are occurring in his area due to towers not being approved for construction.

Danny reported that even though Council Grove City Lake has a lot of geese there has been no problem with E. coli in the water. A bathymetric survey for the lake has been completed.

Bob Hammond reported that water withdrawal plans from John Redmond are being finalized. A bathymetric survey is scheduled for Wolf Creek Reservoir. This information will help with the Oasis (Operational Analysis and Simulation of Integrated Systems) modeling. Water from John Redmond is used to keep the reservoir level at 1088 elevation. They want to keep reservoir full to avoid problems during drought. Wolf Creek has the largest water right in the basin.

Peggy reported on WRAPS activities. A story on rough fish removal from Marion Reservoir made the Wichita Eagle Beacon front page. 100,000 lbs of buffalo fish have been removed and 500,000 total pounds are expected to be removed by the end of the project. The Kansas Biological Survey (KBS) is doing follow up monitoring on reservoir biology to see what effect removal has on the biological system. The WRAPS effort has support from county commission and they are providing match funding for the grant. K-State monitoring and evaluation work is ongoing. Seven sites are to be extensively evaluated by the Watershed Institute and they will include ephemeral gullies to try to determine their contribution to sedimentation. A bathymetric survey of Marion Reservoir has been completed. Mark Jakubauskas from the KBS will meet with the Surface Water Advisory Council on August 12th. The Flint Hills RC&D includes the Melvern, Twin Lakes, Eagle Creek, Clarks Creek and Melvern WRAPS projects. This allows for better use of resources between the groups.

Steve Kubler reported that a river restoration project needed due to a flash flood will include a fish ladder put in the dam. KDWP will pay for it and he suggested that the BAC may want to take a tour at a later meeting.

BAC Member Application:

One application for an opening in the Water Assurance District category was discussed. The committee unanimously approved the applicant, Matt Zimmerman, City Manager of Emporia, be recommended to the Kansas Water Authority for membership on the committee. This will be discussed at the August KWA meeting.

Outstanding BAC Member:

Susan Metzger described the BAC member appreciation program as proposed in the memo in the mailing and asked that members send nominations to Deb for review at the October meeting.

Basin Priority Issues:

The three basin priority issues identified by the BAC were discussed. Deb will incorporate comments and several new recommendations. These issues will be reviewed by the KWA in August and then the BAC will have an additional opportunity to comment on the final contents. Andy Ensz reported that the John Redmond pool raise mitigation requirements by USFWS pool raise will occur in 1-2 years. A survey of water issues in municipalities in the basin will be finished next month. The bathymetric surveys in Redmond and Wolf Creek Reservoirs will help to calibrate the OASIS model. Alternatives that are currently being evaluated include reallocation of the reserve capacity including adjusting marketing or assurance contracts. He hasn't looked at off-stream storage yet; less expensive options such as conservation are being evaluated first to see how much influence those activities might have on increasing long term capacity.

Presentation by Grand Lake Watershed Alliance Foundation (GLWAF)

Jim Triplett introduced the GLWAF as a coordinated effort to produce and implement a basin wide watershed management plan for Grand Lake of the Cherokees. He announced that there will be a 4-State Environmental Conference on March 27, 2009 that is being organized with the assistance of Bob Nichols.

John Gillette, GLWAF President, discussed that there is a need for funding coming to the watershed for improvements. There is not enough government money to accomplish goals for the watershed and he described the Chesapeake Bay Foundation that has been successful in generating private dollars to be used for watershed improvement work. The GLWAF proposes to use Alliance funding to support local citizen organizations in all four states that have watersheds draining to the Lake. The GLWAF includes five board members from each state. They are seeking three more members from Kansas. The purpose is to help raise private funding to help the watershed.

There was discussion that there is a need to energize watershed citizens to make them care about the river and watershed. They have completed an initial watershed assessment. Bob Hammond noted that in Kansas it is a big challenge to make people care about the river since it is not accessible for public recreation. Anyone can join the GLWAF for \$25. 10% of every membership is set aside for education efforts. It is a 501 c 3 organization as of December 2007. John will do a hip hop dance when he gets a million dollars donated to the Foundation! The watershed management plan will be posted on KS-WRAPS website when it is available. Kevin will let KS-WRAPS groups know when the plan is available for review and input. Copies of Kansas WRAPS plans have been provided to Kevin for his use in developing the overall plan.

Announcements

August 26, 27 Range Management meetings in Marion. Contact Peggy for information.

Message(s) to the KWA:

There were no messages to the KWA.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20