



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

Daryl Meierhoff
Conservation/
Environment
Emporia, Kansas

Matt Zimmerman
Water Assurance
District
Emporia, Kansas

Morgan Marler
Other PWS
Hillsboro, Kansas

Robert Hammond
Industry/Commerce
New Strawn, Kansas

Ronald Nurnberg
Watershed District
Emporia, Kansas

Steve Kubler
At - Large Public
Chanute, Kansas

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Planner
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Neosho Basin Advisory Committee

July 15, 2009

Community National Bank
120 E. Madison, Iola, KS
1:00 p.m.

DRAFT

Members in Attendance: Peggy Blackman, Bob Hammond, Daryl Meierhoff, Morgan Marler, Ron Nurnberg, James Triplett, and Matt Zimmerman.

Members Absent: Steve Kubler

Others in Attendance: Pat Sauble (nominee for Agriculture Category), Mark Piper (nominee for Agriculture Category), Rich Basore (KDHE), Travis Robb (See-Kan RC&D), Harold Campbell (Chanute Tribune), and Andy Ensz, Tom Lowe, and Bobbi Wendt (KWO).

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Jim Triplett. All present provided self-introductions.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved and seconded. There was no discussion and a unanimous vote of approval was given.

Agency Reports: Travis Robb (See-Kan RC&D) reported on the efforts the Spring River WRAPS. He announced the Bluegrass Festival that will be held in September and that the WRAPS is moving into the planning stage. Rich Basore (KDHE) reported on the 9 element plans for the WRAPS groups. He also suggested that all WRAPS coordinators should be on the email list for BAC meeting notices. Rich also mentioned the WRAPS conference that will be held this fall.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Reports: There were no reports.

BAC Business:

- a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the May meeting notes. There was no discussion and a unanimous vote of approval was given.

b & c. BAC Member Reports:

Bob Hammond (Industry/Commerce) reported that Wolf Creek's Lake (Coffey County Fishing Lake) was full. The lake was topped off in February, but contract water would need to be used to keep the lake elevation up. Bob also mentioned that gate work would need to be completed at John Redmond and therefore releases would need to be made.

Daryl Meierhoff (Conservation/Environment) reported that LEPP quarterly reports showed that the portion of the Marais des Cygnes basin located in Lyon County had funds to assist with the repair of failing septic systems. Three individuals had already taken part in this program. Daryl mentioned that some in the area utilized programs through the NRCS to help with septic systems and well plugging.

Peggy Blackman (Vice-chair & WRAPS) reported that Marion Lake's drawdown was successful and has now refilled and is actually releasing water. The lake does currently have a blue-green algae problem. The Marion Lake rough fish studied is ongoing and that a plankton study would still be beneficial, however, it may not be necessary due to the zebra mussel infestation. Peggy also reported that the Marion WRAPS SLT meeting went well and that the Cottonwood WRAPS SLT breakfast meeting is to be sometime during the first week in August. Peggy reported that the Marion Lake water quality reports were good and that atrazine levels are very low. Peggy then reported that the flyover to be conducted on the Cottonwood River was not funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), but that funding may be applied for through the Clean Water Neighbor (CWN) Fund. Peggy also mentioned that she had been appointed by the governor to be the representative for the Arkansas River.

Morgan Marler (Other PWS) reported that the City of Hillsboro had experienced a serious Asiatic clam infestation at their plant. She stated that they have had the Asiatic clams for a while, but had not experienced any real difficulty with them. The clams had recently clogged the plant's screens and required daily cleaning. They have also experienced iron and manganese in the past and recently the problem has worsened creating black colored water when oxidize. They have to increase treatment which is costly. Morgan also brought up that a class action suit concerning atrazine in the area has been filed.

Matt Zimmerman (Water Assurance District) reported that the City of Emporia had met with both DWR and KWO to review the City's water rights, water marketing contracts, and water assurance district membership. Matt mentioned that when the Tyson plant closed the City lost 25% of its water sales. He also mentioned that the City still had a water right on Lake Kahola but the possibility of using it for water supply source was not feasible. He did mention that Lake Kahola would be giving out fines if there were any violations in relation to zebra mussels, as is Marion Lake.

Jim Triplett (Chair and Fish and Wildlife) reported that he attended the WRAPS 9 element plan meeting and the Tri-State Water Coalition press release in Joplin. In the press release it was mentioned that it is more feasible to use existing reservoirs than to create a new one for water supply in the SE Kansas and SW Missouri. Jim also reported that the City of Pittsburg may consider drilling a well in Missouri to supply customers in their area. Jim then reported on the KWA chairs meeting held in El Dorado. Both he and Peggy attended and found the meeting very beneficial. They discussed the possibility with KGS to use ARRA funds to pay for basin signage. Jim reported that the Water Congress would be held August 6th and 7th.

c. **BAC membership:** Consideration of Basin Advisory Committee applications:

Pat Sauble nominee for the Agriculture category was recommended by the BAC for approval from the KWA.

Mark Piper nominee for the Agriculture category was not recommended by the BAC for

approval from the KWA. However, discussion was made concerning the possibility of asking Mr. Piper if he would like to apply for a different category that was still open on the BAC. A follow up with Mr. Piper by Bobbi Wendt was suggested. It was also suggested that since Danny Matthews was no longer filling the Municipal category that Steve Kubler could resign from his category of At-Large Public and apply for the Municipal category. Bobbi will follow up on this as well.

Peggy Blackman nominee for the Vice-chair was recommended by the BAC for approval from the KWA.

- d. Basin Priority Issue Implementation: Tom Lowe (KWO) reviewed the Basin Priority Issues (BPI) that were formulated in the past year for the Kansas Water Plan Update. He discussed the May meeting held at Wolf Creek that focused on the Comprehensive Flooding BPI. He also stated that KWO has begun to work with other agencies to begin formulating a strategy to increase awareness of the necessity for flood planning and mitigation.

Basin Activities/Updates:

- a. OASIS/Neosho Water Supply Update – Andy Ensz (KWO) reported on the work that had been done in the Neosho concerning the OASIS model. He reported that KBS has finished surveying the federal reservoirs and Marion and Council Grove Lakes. The report found that there was more capacity in the lake than previously thought. Andy stated that this is most likely due to the improved method of conducting the bathymetry surveys and is more accurate than past surveys. Wolf Creek Lake will be surveyed this year. Andy also mentioned the PAS study that was being considered to look at supply alternatives for the basin.
- b. Poultry Litter Concern – Jim Triplett (Chair) reported that he had contacted both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Environment concerning the poultry litter that is being brought into Kansas from Arkansas and Missouri and applied to Kansas fields. He reported that the import of the litter could not be regulated by either department nor stopped since it is interstate commerce. He stated that Oklahoma has a management plan that requires fertilizer and soil tests so the correct amount of fertilizer is applied reducing phosphorus loading. The lack of a nutrient plan in Kansas is a problem. Proper policy needs to be put in place to manage the litter application.
- c. EPA Regions - Grand Lake of the Cherokees Plan – Jim Triplett (Chair) reported that the Grand Lake of the Cherokees Plan draft had been completed but that since the area was in two EPA Regions (6&7) approval of the plan is difficult for the EPA. Jim mentioned that Oklahoma had little funds to apply to this project but did offer in-kind services. It was also noted that Kansas is ahead of other states in data collection that is beneficial to this Plan.
- d. Recovery Act project for the Neosho Streambank Stabilization (public meeting) – Peggy Blackman (Vice-chair & WRAPS) gave information about the Stream and Riparian Restoration in the Upper Neosho River Basin. She first gave a history of the project and how the project was chosen and would be implemented. She mentioned that all the landowners that had been asked to participate in the project had agreed to participate

and that the project was at no cost to them. The bulk of the project would be funding by the ARRA and the KWO would be the sponsor. The landowners would need to enroll their property in the CP23 practice and maintain the minimum buffer. This project would reduce the sediment load in the basin that could possibly enter John Redmond reservoir which currently has the highest sedimentation rate of any of the federal reservoirs in the basin. Peggy mentioned that TWI would be completing the engineering drawings, and bids to do the project would be taken in the fall. She then asked for questions about the project and referred to the information posted on the website at: http://www.kwo.org/ARRA_Neosho.htm. The only questions asked were concerning how the area was chosen and if TWI had conducted the initial study. Peggy stated that TWI had and the area was chosen because it was the area that had a continuous stretch of "hotspots" that could be corrected to have the maximum beneficial affect. Peggy stated the project area of hotspots consisted of 3.5 miles.

- e. Lake Level Management Plans Memorandum: Bobbi Wendt (KWO) gave a brief synopsis on the Lake Level Management Plans Memorandum that was included in the BAC mailings. The only comments given were that the Lake Level Management Program was a beneficial program and the current Lake Level Management Plan for John Redmond was discussed.
- f. Reservoir Roadmap Memorandum: The Reservoir Roadmap (RRM) and the Reservoir Sustainability Initiative (RSI) were discussed and an update on the progress of the RRM was given by Bobbi Wendt (KWO). Bobbi stated that the deadline for Volume II of the RRM was due in August so that a report could be given to the KWA at there next meeting. The final draft will be finished in January 2010. Bobbi stated that information on the RRM can be accessed at: <http://www.kwo.org/ReservoirRoadmap.htm>
- g. Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Management Plan: Bobbi Wendt (KWO) stated that on July 1, 2009 Kerry Wedel (KDHE) conducted a Glance session to discuss KDHE's NPS Management Program. Comments were made by the BAC stating that the plan needs to be effective and have some "teeth". Also mentioned was that the plan needs to include access to the revolving loan funds so smaller projects can be funded. It was also mentioned that KDHE is considering upper basin WRAPS groups more of a priority at this time because it is more efficient to start at the top and work their way down to improve water quality.

Other Business:

- a. Message(s) to the KWA: A motion was approved and seconded to send the following message: The Neosho Basin Advisory Committee would like assistance in implementing an effective policy to regulate the import and application of poultry litter that is generated in and shipped from (mainly) Arkansas and Missouri poultry farms that is then applied to agriculture lands in Kansas. There was some discussion and a unanimous approval was given to send the message.
- b. The Kansas Water Authority meeting on August 13 & 14 in Salina was announced.
- c. The next BAC meeting was tentatively scheduled on October 8, 2009 at 1:00pm in Galena at

Schermerhorn Nature Center.

Adjourn: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:55 p.m. There was no discussion and unanimous approval was given. |

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