

**Neosho Basin Advisory Committee  
March 8, 2007**

**Burlington, Kansas**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:**

Basin Advisory Committee Members Present

Jim Triplett (Chair), Chauncey Shepard, Daryl Meierhoff, Pat Sauble, Peggy Blackman, Bob Hammond

Basin Advisory Committee Members Absent

Danny Matthews

Others in Attendance

Ron Rhodes (City of Emporia), Keith Beatty (City of Emporia), Ann Mayo (Lyon County Health Department), Deanna Ross (KDHE), Tom Young (Anderson County), Warren Bell (KSU), Katie Tietsort (DWR), David Stutt (KDHE), Marilyn Eccles (Coffey County Health Department), Bob McDanel (KWO)

**Welcome and Introductions:** Jim Triplett (Chair) brought the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He thanked Coffey County for providing the meeting room and Marilyn Eccles for providing refreshments. Those present provided self introductions.

**Approval of December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes of the December 8th meeting in Baxter Springs were approved on the motion of Pat Sauble and the second of Chauncey Shepard.

**Public Comment:** Ann May, Director of the Lyon County Health Department, reported on the work the health department has done in implementing a new sanitation code. There was committee discussion about the possibility of developing a state loan fund to make funds available to home owners to upgrade septic systems.

Warren Bell, KSU Watershed Specialist, updated the committee on the John Redmond WRAPS. There was additional committee discussion about linking implementation of sanitation codes to WRAPS and potential ways to help WRAPS projects function better.

**Agency Reports:** David Stutt (KDHE) provided an update on the Local Environmental Protection Program. He also noted KDHE was working with livestock producers to SE Kansas to address water quality concerns.

Katie Tietsort (DWR) reported on water rights administration in the basin. She noted that committee members had not received a DWR memo on this issue she had provided to the KWO. Mr. McDanel said he would forward it with the drafting meeting notes.

Ms. Tietsort noted that the Spring River had been administered for minimum desirable stream flow this past year. This may create problems for those public water suppliers (e.g. PWWSD #19) which want to use the river as a primary source.

Warren Bell (KSU) updated the committee on the John Redmond WRAPS and his work with local livestock producers. Mr. Bell noted there had been good participation by farmers and ranchers at WRAPS meetings.

**Annual Status Report/Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature:** Bob McDanel provided an overview of two recent publications of the Kansas Water Office. He noted that both documents provided good information on projects and programs funded by the State Water Plan Fund. Mr. McDanel showed how to use the status report to get information on projects in the Neosho Basin and compare that information with other basins.

**KDHE Contamination/Remediation Report:** Deanna Ross (KDHE) provided a review of KDHE's 2006 report, focusing on orphan sites in the Neosho Basin. Ms. Ross noted that 24 of 93 State sites are in the Neosho Basin. She also noted that the legislature is considering a funding change for the program, from the State Water Plan Fund to the State General Fund. Mr. McDanel reviewed the rationale for the proposed change.

Dr. Triplett noted the report was well done and noted how information in the report could be linked with KDHE's work on TMDLs. There was committee discussion about the best way to fund the contamination/remediation program.

The committee took a break from 2:30 to 2:45 p.m.

**Legislative Update:** Mr. McDanel provided an update on water resource legislation and the State Water Plan Fund budget currently being considered by the Legislature.

**Basin Activities/Update:** Mr. McDanel reviewed activities in the basin, focusing on WRAPS projects above federal reservoirs and public water supply issues in the Ozark Plateau region.

Ms. Tietsort provided an update on PWWSD #19's application for a water right to the Spring River. She also reviewed the status of the KGS/DWR well study and the development of a Ozark Plateau aquifer model by USGS. There was considerable committee discussion about the development of adequate public water supplies for communities in Cherokee and Crawford Counties. Dr. Triplett noted that Kansas had been the leader on a multi-state effort to address public water supply issues and requested that this issue be placed on the agenda for the May meeting.

**Committee Membership/Spring Cycle Update:** Mr. McDanel reported on membership applications for the second round of BAC membership. He told the committee that applications would be closed on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and that the committee would nominate candidates at its May meeting.

**Marion Reservoir WRAPS:** Peggy Blackman, who serves as the coordinator for the Marion Reservoir WRAPS provided an update. She noted that a bathometric survey of Marion Reservoir would be done in FY 2008. Dr. Triplett thanked Ms. Blackman for her work on this WRAPS and noted that a WRAPS was being developed for the Spring River.

**Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were no messages to the Kansas Water Authority meeting. Dr. Triplett, however, requested Mr. McDaneld provide information on the possible development of a loan fund for septic tank/lagoon system replacement and repair for discussion at the May meeting.

**Next BAC Meeting:** The committee voted to meet on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Emporia. (Note: Because Mr. McDaneld determined a conflict with his schedule, he worked with Dr. Triplett to reschedule the meeting for Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.)

**Adjourned:** This meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on the motion of Pat Sauble and the second of Chauncey Shepard.