

**Neosho Basin Advisory Committee
Baxter Springs, Kansas
April 18, 2005
Meeting Notes**

Attendance:
(See Attached List)

Welcome and Introductions: Chairman Jim Triplett convened the BAC meeting at approximately 1:00 p.m. Committee members and other attendees were introduced.

Public Input/Comments: No comments were received.

September 2004 Meeting Notes: No changes were made to the September 30, 2004, meeting notes.

Agency Reports: David Stutt, KDHE, passed out information on the contaminated sites list for the Neosho Basin. Triplett also had copies available of KDHE reports on accomplishments at contaminated sites. Warren Bell, KSU, distributed copies of a glossary of water terminology and acronyms developed as a Kansas Environmental Leadership Program (KELP) project.

Spring River TMDL: Tom Stiles, KDHE, updated the Committee on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) proposed for the Spring River, which is impaired from heavy metals. The Spring River watershed is designated as a high priority for implementation in the *Kansas Water Plan*. The TMDL is being submitted to EPA for approval. This is the last high priority TMDL to be developed for the Neosho River Basin in Kansas. KDHE will revisit the TMDLs for the basin in 3-4 years to assess progress in addressing the water quality impairments. The TMDL timeline for Spring River includes ongoing remedial action (2005-2008); reopen TMDL (2008); begin targeted sediment removal (2009); and revisit TMDL, note progress and evaluate whether to dredge Empire Lake (2013). More information is available on the web at: www.kdhe.state.ks.us/tmdl/.

Discussion of Ozark Aquifer Public Water Supply Issues:

- √ Jim Triplett provided some introductory remarks on BAC concerns regarding Ozark aquifer and Spring River issues.
- √ Kerry Wedel, KWO, provided some background on interagency strategic planning efforts on the Ozark aquifer and regional public water supply issues.
- √ Al Macfarlane, KGS, presented information on the general characteristics of the Ozark aquifer and the results of recent water level surveys conducted for the Kansas Water Office. The water level surveys generally indicated that water level declines were continuing in the region and warranted continued monitoring; and water level rises should not be interpreted as a problem that is resolving itself and that renewed or increased pumping will cause water level declines to reoccur or accelerate. There was discussion regarding some of the water level declines observed, particularly in the Pittsburg area.
- √ Katie Tietsort, DWR, presented information on the recent water rights moratorium in southeast Kansas and related activities. The Ozark and Springfield Plateau Aquifers have been closed to regular new appropriations. Term permits can be used for alternate supply to primary source applications. KGS is establishing a monitoring

network for this area and a USGS modeling study is proposed to assist with future water rights management.

- √ David Stutt, KDHE, provided information on the Tri-State Water Resources Coalition. He reported on a public water supply study for the coalition being conducted through the Corps of Engineers. It was noted that membership in the coalition is encouraged and open to communities throughout the Tri-State region.
- √ Fred Weaver, PWWSD 19, gave a brief update on the status of this project. Funding for construction is the primary issue at this time. He noted that some communities have dropped out since the beginning of the project, which has resulted in a need to resize the project. They are now looking at various phasing options for funding.

Update on Neosho River Logjam above John Redmond Reservoir: Jerre Gamble, USFWS, briefed the committee on the recent Corps of Engineers Initial Appraisal report of the logjam. He indicated that the Corps' recommended action to build a new boat ramp at Neosho Rapids was not a good location. He also noted that some temporary clearing at the Jacob's Creek Landing boat ramp had been performed by USFWS refuge staff and that access to the river was now again open, however additional efforts will be needed to ensure continued access in the future. Kerry Wedel reported that the Natural Resources Sub-Cabinet Agencies had requested federal funding to clear the logjam in the immediate vicinity of the Jacob's Creek Landing boat ramp and to initiate a feasibility study with the Corps to evaluate sedimentation and long-term water storage revitalization options for John Redmond Reservoir (See related item – BAC messages to the Kansas Water Authority.)

Other Issues: Jaci Ferguson, EPA, reported on an interstate watershed management project being initiated in the Spring River watershed. Kerry Wedel reported on an Arkansas River Navigation Study being conducted by the Corps of Engineers and some upcoming public meetings on the study.

BAC Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:

The BAC had the following messages concerning the Neosho River/John Redmond Reservoir Logjam:

1. Encourage renewed implementation of sediment and erosion control measures upstream.
2. Encourage maintenance funding in the Corps of Engineers annual Operation and Maintenance budget to keep the Jacob's Creek Landing boat ramp cleared.

Next Meeting: The next BAC meeting was scheduled for *Monday, July 11th, 1:00 p.m., tentatively in Chanute*. Tuesday, July 12th, was determined as an alternate date if necessary. It is anticipated that public comments will be solicited on *Kansas Water Plan* policy issues, which will be considered by the Kansas Water Authority in June.

**Attendance
Neosho BAC Meeting
Baxter Springs, KS
April 18, 2005**

Neosho BAC Members Present:

Jim Triplett Chairman
Freda Culver
Jim Zell

Chauncey Shepard
Jerry Fultz
Jerre Gamble

Neosho BAC Members Absent:

Donald Becker
Pat Sauble
Dennis Youk

Steve Commons
Joe Works

Others in Attendance:

Iona Branscum (KWO)
Stephen Gillis (City of Pittsburg)
Stanley Shafer (City of Baxter Springs)
M. L. Smith (RWD #09)
Charles Tillman (RWD #08 & 02)
Warren Bell (KS-Watershed Specialist)
Duane Zerr (Empire District Elect.)
Dominic Armstrong (Koam-TV/KFSX-TV)
Gary Smith (PWWSO #11)
Cynthia Brookshire (MO DNR)
Donna Wixon (City of Baxter Springs)
Ron Warner (RWD #02)
Bob Norris (City of Scammon)
Kim Moore (KSN 16 TV)
Dave Bruckerhoff (KS Forest Service)
Earl Hatchey
Margaret Fast (KWO)
Al Macfarlane (KGS)
David Stutt (KDHE)

Jaci Ferguson (EPA)
Todd Kennemer (City of Pittsburg)
Roger Qualls (City of Baxter Springs)
Rod Schachtner (RWD #09)
Tom Stiles (KDHE)
Jack Kilsey (RWD #04)
Phil Henson (Cr. Co. #)
Troy Krenzler (Sec-Kan RC&D)
Carl Hays (CK County Health Dept.)
Greg Weeks (MO American Water)
George Weeks
John Parker (RD)
Tom Coble (Baxter News)
Chuck Kunshek (Cv. Co. RWD #02)
Gary Cignett (City of Frontenac)
Kerry Wedel (KWO)
Katie Tietsort (DWR)
Bob Lytle (DWR)
Jan Tupper (Tri-State Water
Resources Coalition)