

Neosho Basin Advisory Committee
September 30, 2004
Burlington, Kansas
Meeting Notes

Attendance:

BAC Members Present

Jim Triplett (Chair), Jerry Fultz, Joe Works, Steve Commons, Jim Zell and Fredia Culver.

BAC Members Absent

Chauncey E. Shepard, Jerre Gamble, Dennis Youk, Pat Sauble and Donald Becker

Others in Attendance

Kerry Wedel (KWO), Rich Basore (KDHE), David Stutt (KDHE), David Brazil, (Marion Co. Health Dept), Dan Haines (WCNOC/Coffey Co. Conservation District), Marilyn Eccles (Coffey Co. Environmental Health Dept), Bob Lytle (KDA, DWR), Tom Stiles (KDHE), Peggy Blackman (Marion Co. Conservation District), Kent Askren (KS Farm Bureau), Dave Bruckerhoff (KS Forest Service), Ed Carney (KDHE), and Troy Kenzel (See-Kan RC&D).

Welcome and Introductions: Chairman Jim Triplett convened the BAC meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m. Committee members and guests were introduced.

Public Input: Peggy Blackman emphasized the importance of the Marion Reservoir High Priority TMDL designation and shared some of the restoration and protection efforts underway in the watershed. She also expressed her support for some of the policy recommendations related to the State's Water Marketing Program, which are scheduled for public hearings on October 6th & 7th.

Agency Reports: Rich Basore, KDHE, distributed information on World Water Quality Monitoring Day and a list of County Buffer Coordinators. David Stutt, KDHE, distributed a brochure on obtaining permits for dredge and fill activities. Troy Krenznel, See-Kan RC&D, reported on his agency's efforts to support WRAPS activities in the Marais des Cygnes basin. David Brazil, Marion Co. LEPP, reported on TMDL related activities underway in the Marion Reservoir watershed in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission. Bob Lytle, DWR, reported that a new Water Commissioner had been appointed to replace Iona Branscum for eastern Kansas; and that a recent meeting had been held in Wichita of the KS-Oklahoma Compact Commission which governs interstate storage allocations. Dave Bruckerhoff, KS Forest Service, reported on forestry activities, including riparian buffers, in the Marais des Cygnes Basin as part of the WRAPS implementation process focusing on high priority TMDL watersheds. Kerry Wedel, KWO, distributed a handout on current WRAPS strategic plan activities and announced two public hearings on October 6-7 on proposed Water Plan Policy Sections and the November 17-18 Kansas Water Authority meeting in El Dorado; he also noted that a draft watershed-based plan for the Grand Lake watershed had been prepared by

the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for the Oklahoma portion of the basin and that Kansas planned to address watershed management issues in Kansas using the WRAPS approach.

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

KELP Scholarship: The committee voted to recommend an applicant from the Crawford County LEPP to represent the Neosho Basin as a participant in the 2005 KELP Program.

Presentation on Blue-Green Algae in Reservoirs: Ed Carney, KDHE, presented a slide presentation on blue-green algae growth in reservoirs and potential problems for public water suppliers including taste and odor, and toxicity. Causes and treatment of algae blooms were discussed. There were numerous questions and considerable discussion by committee members and agency advisors following the presentation.

Proposed Neosho Basin Total Maximum Daily Loads: The committee discussed the proposed high priority lake TMDLs for Marion Reservoir and Olpe City Lake, which were presented at the public hearing preceding the BAC meeting. The Committee also discussed the possibility of considering Bachelor Creek as a possible high priority. The following motions were passed by the committee on the proposed amendment to the Neosho Basin Section of the Kansas Water Plan:

1. Recommend that Marion Reservoir be added as a High Priority watershed for TMDL implementation to the Neosho Basin Section of the Kansas Water Plan.
2. Recommend that Olpe City Lake be added as a High Priority watershed for TMDL implementation to the Neosho Basin Section of the Kansas Water Plan.
3. Do not recommend that Bachelor Creek watershed be included as a High Priority for TMDL implementation.

Update on Ozark Aquifer Activities: David Stutt provided an update and distributed materials on current activities of the Tri-State Water Resources Coalition. The study contract for the Corps of Engineers regional water supply study (Black & Veatch consultants) is being finalized and the consultants hope to take about a year to complete the study. An interagency work group involving KDHE, KWO and DWR continues to coordinate activities identified in the Water Issue Strategic Plan (WISP) for this issue. The FY 2005 federal funding request for a USGS regional groundwater study was not successful. Other funding options are being considered and discussions will be initiated with the appropriate Missouri and Oklahoma resource agencies. The BAC expressed the need to get Oklahoma Congressmen more directly involved.

An October 21, 2004, public hearing in Topeka was announced on proposed DWR regulations relating to term permits for new appropriations in the Ozark and Springfield Plateau aquifers. It was also noted by the BAC that additional attention was needed on development of Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 13 due to the poor health of Fred Weaver, a key local advocate.

Public Water Supply Security Issues: David Stutt distributed information from KDHE and EPA on planning for water system security and vulnerability assessments. It was noted in committee discussion that some funding has been made available to local governments for developing local plans.

Update on Neosho River Log Jam: Kerry Wedel reported on recent activities of state agencies regarding this issue. The Corps of Engineers has committed to conduct a study with FY 05 funds on the potential risks of the log jam and possible alternatives to address the identified problem. A number of activities have been undertaken by KDHE to assess health concerns raised by local residents. No immediate health risks have been identified by KDHE. Long-term actions include assessing riparian timber conditions and considering appropriate management practices as part of a watershed management approach. The state intends to coordinate with the Corps on their impending study of the situation.

Messages to the Kansas Water Authority: The BAC emphasizes the importance of addressing the water quality issues at Marion Reservoir and the need for continued support of technical and financial assistance programs.

Next Meeting: The committee tentatively decided to hold the next meeting at the Coffey County courthouse, but decided to wait until after the November KWA meeting to schedule the meeting date and time. A preliminary draft of a Public Input Policy Section may be prepared for public review and comment in conjunction with BAC meetings early next year. Kerry Wedel will contact BAC members to coordinate a suitable date after January 1.