



SOLOMON

Basin Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes

Members

Raymond DeBey

Vice Chairperson
Fish and Wildlife
Cawker City, Kansas

Dennis Lehmann

Conservation/
Environment
Gaylord, Kansas

James Metzler

At – Large Public
Minneapolis, Kansas

John Wyrill, III

Dryland
Kirwin, Kansas

Joseph Keith

Industry/Commerce
Penokee, Kansas

Myron Abbott

Municipal PWS
Agra, Kansas

Orville (Dee)

Blubaugh

Recreation
Phillipsburg, Kansas

Stanley Kats

Agriculture
Prairie View, Kansas

For questions
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July 15, 2008

Rooks County Health Department, Stockton, Kansas

Members in Attendance:

Dee Blubaugh, Raymond DeBey

Members Absent:

Myron Abbott, Stanley Kats, Joe Keith, Dennis Lehman, J. P. Metzler,
John (Bruce) Wyrill

Others in Attendance:

Robin Blubaugh, Carolyn Nichols (WRAPs), Scott Ross (DWR), Scott Voss (DWR),
Darci Paul (DWR), Tara Lanzrath (DWR), Andrew Lyon (DWR), Tina Alder (DWR),
Wayne Bossert (GMD4), Dan Wells (KDHE), Jack Wergin (BoR), Heather O'Hara
(KLRD), Diane Coe (KWO)

Welcome and Introduction was made by Vice-Chair, Ray DeBey. Mr. DeBey also announced that Chair, Paul Best had resigned from the committee for personal reasons. The BAC acknowledged Paul Best with appreciation for the 17 years of service and his leadership in water resource planning. Self introductions were made by all present.

As there was not a quorum present no formal actions were taken by the Solomon BAC. The following notes provide an overview of the discussion of agenda topics.

Agency Reports

Dan Wells, KDHE provided a handout from the NWLEPG that provides a summary of their FY 2008 activities and domestic water well testing results.

Scott Ross, DWR reported metering is progressing well and there is water in the reservoirs.

Tina Alder, DWR reported that the subbasin model construction for the upper north and South Forks of the Solomon River is complete. Scenarios have been chosen for the first runs and work continues with the consultant to better define the inputs for these runs.

Carolyn Nichols, WRAPs coordinator noted that the leadership team will meet in November and the project is entering the assessment phase.

Wayne Bossert, GMD4 explained the GMD's progress in defining subunits to address the Ogallala decline issue. They have validated the data used and have six high priority areas defined. Meetings in each of the areas are the next step.

Public Comments: Concerning the activities to address the Ogallala decline priority issue, Wayne Bossert noted that GMD 4 would rather see resources spend on incentives than the suggested coordinator.

BAC Business:

Approval of May Meeting Notes: must wait until next meeting, no quorum.

KWA Update-KWO

BAC Chair Meeting at KWA: Diane Coe reported that the last chair meeting included a discussion on BAC membership and attendance requirements and methods to promote attendance. There was discussion on ways to engage BAC members in providing input for the development of the policy and basin priority issues.

Discussion of the upcoming KWA meeting and work session in Hays resulted in Ray and Dee indicating they would attend.

Strategic/Policy Status: Diane Coe reported that KWA requested input on two policies last BAC meeting, on sediment management in reservoirs and access to storage in reservoirs. (*Enhanced Stream Corridor and Wetland Management to Address Reservoir Sedimentation and Surface Water Management: Access to Storage*) The KWA decided not to move forward with a public hearing on the working draft of these issues. A revised Sedimentation draft will incorporate background information recommendations that address comments received from the BACs and others including; further evaluation of regulation and additional financial incentives, consider additional compensation for wetland and riparian area protection/improvement such as tax credits or tax relief. The revised Access to Storage draft will address feedback from stakeholder meetings and further develop details of changes to assurance district membership.

BAC Member Reports: none

Management Sections: A draft of the general basin section management categories was provided in mailing materials. These are to relate other water management areas to the *Kansas Water Plan* as well as include items that were not identified as basin priority issues.

Basin Issues: Diane Coe provided an overview of the three priority basin issues identified by the BAC in February and a fourth issue identified by state agencies. Recommended actions were discussed but no alternatives or alternate directions were suggested to the three identified by the BAC.

A suggestion was made by Scott Ross (DWR) that *The Benefits and Values of Various Water Uses* issue could be addressed by Dr. Bill Golden.

The fourth issue was identified by state agencies, concerns water levels in Webster Reservoir. This priority issue seeks to maintain a slightly higher lake level using a portion of irrigation storage. The Webster Irrigation District has expressed interest in discussing this possibility. The KDWP is in discussions with the Webster Irrigation District and data being developed to examine appropriate levels.

Other Business

Message(s) to the KWA: none

Future BAC Meeting Dates: KWA meetings are scheduled for August 13-15 in Hays and November 6-7 in Pittsburg. The next Solomon meeting tentatively scheduled for October 1 but may be moved to another day that week.

Diane reminded the committee of the December water forum for BACs, scheduled for Wichita Dec 10 and Hays Dec 11. Suggested additional topics for the break out sessions from all those present were: wastewater lagoon methane use for energy; energy from waste; and more water efficient crops.

Diane also reminded the committee to think about a nomination for Outstanding BAC member at the next meeting.