



Solomon Basin Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Solomon Basin Advisory Committee
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources Field Office
820 South Walnut
Stockton, KS
6 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2009

DRAFT

Members in Attendance: William Elliott, Kendall Francis, Dee Blubaugh, Stan Kats, Dennis Lehman

Members Absent: Ray DeBey, John "Bruce" Wyrill III, James Metzler, Joseph Keith

Others in Attendance: Darla Juhl, Solomon Valley RC & D; Mike Niehoff, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; Hank Ernst, Kansas Water Office

BAC Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda of the Sept. 29, 2009 meeting was made, seconded and approved with no dissenting votes.

Agency Reports: Darla Juhl, Solomon Valley RC&D reported on the RC&D's selection as one of four RC&Ds in the nation to share in a \$1.6 million grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) received by the North Olympic Peninsula RC&D of the State of Washington. NASA sees working with the RC&Ds as an excellent way to make practical use of its remote sensing technologies. The Solomon Valley RC&D has submitted a proposal for evaluation of the watershed to determine the level of tillage vs. no-till in place in the basin and the relationship to both water quality and quantity. The proposal is being reviewed by the North Olympic Peninsula Solutions Network.

BAC Business

Approval of July 2009 meeting notes: Meeting notes were approved as presented.

BAC member reports: There were no reports from BAC members.

KWA Update-KWO August Kansas Water Authority meeting: Kendall Francis reported on his attendance at the KWA meeting held in Salina, Kansas. He represented the Solomon BAC at Chairman Ray DeBey's request during the meeting of the state's 12 Basin Advisory Committees. The day he attended, he heard a presentation by Salina's Friends of the River, a group interested in developing an area along the banks of the Smoky Hill River in Salina.

MEMBERS:

RAYMOND DEBEY
Chairperson
Fish & Wildlife
Cawker City, KS

ORVILLE 'DEE'
BLUBAUGH
Vice-Chairperson
Recreation
Phillipsburg, KS

DENNIS LEHMANN
Conservation/
Environment
Gaylord, KS

JAMES METZLER
At-Large Public
Minneapolis, KS

JOHN WYRILL, III
Dryland
Kirwin, KS

JOSEPH KEITH
Industry/ Commerce
Penokee, KS

KENDAL FRANCIS
Municipal Public Water
Supply
Beloit, KS

STANLEY KATS
Agriculture
Prairie View, KS

WILLIAM ELLIOTT
At-Large Public
Glade, KS

For questions please
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Reservoir Road Map: Hank Ernst presented background information on the Kansas Water Authority's Reservoir Sustainability Initiative and the Reservoir Roadmap. The Initiative frames the issue of decreased storage capacity due to sedimentation and the need to make a long-term commitment to water infrastructure. The companion Roadmap quantifies the sedimentation problem, statutory and financial changes needed to address the problem and detailed information on at least one basin (Cottonwood/Neosho River basin) that can lead to projects and operational changes.

Basin Activities Updates

Basin Priority Issues: Subbasin Water Management Status. The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Solomon Subbasin Management team continues to work to correlate ground water withdrawals with stream flow of the Upper North Fork and Upper South Fork of the Solomon River. This work is a follow-up to the modeling work done by S.S.Papadapulos and Associates.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Tom Stiles, Chief of the Watershed Planning Section for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, presented information on TMDLs with high priority for implementation in the Solomon Basin. They included E. coli bacteria on the Lower North Fork Solomon River at Portis, E. coli bacteria on the Lower South Fork Solomon River near Osborne, total suspended solids (TSS) on the Solomon River at Niles; and a revision to the sulfate and selenium TMDLs for Deer Creek between Phillipsburg and Kirwin. The Solomon BAC concurred with the designation of all of the TMDLs as high priority for implementation. The committee also requested that KDHE do a preliminary analysis of the Solomon River upstream of Beloit for E. coli bacteria. A public hearing, date and location to be determined, will be held in the Solomon River basin before the end of 2009.

Other Business

Messages to the Kansas Water Authority

The Solomon Basin Advisory Committee expressed appreciation for the efforts underway to extend the life of the state's federal reservoirs and other surface water bodies. The Committee endorsed the dam safety and rehabilitation component of the Reservoir Roadmap. Specifically: A dam owner should be held harmless should damage occur to real property developed after the landowner received notice from the county registrar of deeds that the property is located in the breach inundation zone of a dam. This would be one of several points to be addressed in the future as part of a comprehensive Reservoir Sustainability Act. A companion proposal to establish a cost-share program to help eligible dam owners pay for needed dam rehabilitation and upgrades was not addressed.

Future meetings: The Kansas Water Authority will meet Nov. 17-18 in Liberal Kansas. Future BAC meetings: Basin Advisory Committees in Kansas will co-host the "Climate and Water Forum: Adapting to Change" on Dec. 9, 2009 in Wichita and Dec. 10, 2009 in Hays.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **1 p.m., Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in Beloit, KS.** Details will be confirmed with Solomon BAC member Kendal Francis, foreman at the City of Beloit's Water Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. |