



UPPER ARKANSAS Basin Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes

Members

Clark Rusco
Chairperson
Domestic
Great Bend, Kansas

Ron Allen
Vice Chairperson
Recreation
Dodge City, Kansas

Beverly Komarek
Fish and Wildlife
Great Bend, Kansas

Jamie Cheatum
Agricultural Industry
Syracuse, Kansas

Vacant
At – Large Public

Lynn Freese
Industry/Commerce
Scotty City, Kansas

Michael (Mick) MacNair
Conservation/
Environment
Jetmore, Kansas

Randy Hayzlett
Surface Water Irrigation
Lakin, Kansas

Roger Mohr
Groundwater Irrigation
Albert, Kansas

Ron Allen
Recreation
Dodge City, Kansas

Steve Cottrell
Municipal PWS
Garden City, Kansas

Steven Hines
Agriculture
Coolidge, Kansas

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**King Center, 2312 Main Street, Jetmore, KS
Thursday, February 26th, 1:00 pm**

Members in Attendance: Clark Rusco (Chairperson), Ron Allen (Vice Chairperson), Steven Hines, Randy Hayzlett, Mick MacNair, Roger Mohr, Jamie Cheatum

Members Absent: Steve Cottrell, Lynn Freese, Beverly Komarek

Note: Kermit Thompson passed away February 11.

Others in Attendance: Jean Van Pelt (SE CO WCD), Scott Selee (SWKLEPG), Daisy Martin (SWKLEPG), Bob Frisbie (KSU), Mark Rude (GMD3), Cameron Conant (DWR), Steve Frost (SCC), Dale Younker (NRCS), Mike Schraeder (HG Co. CD), Kim Woods (HG Co. CD), Tina Alder (DWR), Tara Lanzrath (DWR), Sandra Vaughn (DWR), Brandy Cole (DWR), Carol Meyer (KDOC), Al Guernsey (KDHE), Diane Coe (KWO), Susan Stover (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions –Chairperson, Clark Rusco, welcomed those in attendance. Self introductions were made by committee members and members of the public.

BAC Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Randy Hayzlett and seconded by Roger Mohr to approve the agenda with the addition of an item for HorseThief. The motion carried.

Agency Reports:

SWKLEPG – Scott Selee handed out a brief description on the Southwest Kansas Local Environmental Planning Group work in the five counties they cover in the basin. In addition to inspection and permitting of on site wastewater systems and domestic water well testing for nitrate and bacteria, they are licensing wastewater installers and pumpers, and inspecting water and wastewater systems for real estate transactions and foster care residences. The board appreciates support of funding.

KSU – Bob Frisbie, Upper Arkansas Watershed Specialist, reported that the WRAPS document for the Upper Arkansas has been completed. Meetings are scheduled this week and next for the three watersheds to discuss the process, the document and CREP.

DWR Garden City - Brandy Cole noted that water use reports are due March 1, overpumpers have been sent letters, the river is at 97cfs today, 93 cfs into the Amazon ditch, and Lake McKinney is up from last year.

DWR Stafford – Cameron Conant reported that the Pawnee Buckner's non-domestic wells should be completely metered soon (under a meter order). There has also been a meter order for north Stafford County.

GMD3 - Mark Rude reported the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 annual meeting will be held March 11 in Liberal, at the Seward County fairgrounds. The GMD is also working on an Agricultural Water Enhancement Program application, a new EQIP option to voluntarily retire water rights that will allow dryland farming. State Intensive Groundwater Control Area (IGUCA) rules, under the new regulations, provides periodic

reviews of all IGUCAs.

KWO -Diane Coe updated the committee on the water resource planner basin assignments.

Diane Coe reported on behalf of KDHE: Kerry Wedel provided a memo/update on the nonpoint source pollution management plans in mailing. This plans the use of federal 319 funds that go to WRAPS and other projects. The last update was in 2000. It is expected to be completed by October 2009.

Diane noted that the annual Contamination Remediation report is available for BAC members, provided by KDHE.

ARKWIPP: Jean Van Pelt, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, provided a presentation and information on ARKWIPP, a multipartner effort for tamarisk control along the Arkansas River, including the states of Colorado and Kansas. Mapping of tamarisk in Colorado indicated that 69% of tamarisk in that state is along the Arkansas River. Colorado's goals are to eliminate the seed source in the upper basin and address the infestation in the lower basin. Estimates of 70 million dollars is needed and hope to use federal funds from the Demonstration Project act (2006), maybe stimulus funds and state funds (\$4 million over the next 4 years) to address the problem. An educational website is up at www.arkwipp.org. The presentation was greatly appreciated by the BAC.

Water Right Assistance Transition Program (WTAP) - Steve Frost, State Conservation Commission, provided an overview of the Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP). Discussion occurred on the process to get a target area included. There is interest by the Hodgeman County Conservation District in getting an area included. The Chief Engineer approves areas based on an established need, hydrologic information, retirement goal (quantity) upon request and submission of the appropriate information.

Tina Alder, Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources, provided additional information on the process timeframe, as the Kansas Legislature must be informed of new approved areas before an area can receive funding. To provide for this, the request would need to be processed by the Chief Engineer by the end of the year.

Discussion continued into another potential program, to retire water rights, that allows dryland farming, Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). Three GMDs and the state are considering submitting proposals for this new federal program, with a deadline next week. Areas suggested by the state include an Ogallala area and alluvial areas along the Pawnee in Hodgeman County.

After further discussion, Mick MacNair made a motion to send a letter of support for the AWEP concept proposed by the State of Kansas for areas in Hodgeman County as is consistent with priority issues of the Upper Arkansas BAC. Jamie Cheatum seconded the approved motion.

Public Comments - There were no public comments.

BAC Business

Meeting Notes: Ron Allen made a motion and seconded Steven Hines to approve the October meeting notes. The motion carried.

BAC members' reports: Ron Allen reported on the KWA meeting, including legislative visits and the Chair of the Chairs meeting. He reported that the legislative visits of BAC representatives, KWA members and KWO staff were time well spent.

Kansas Water Plan Updates: Diane Coe noted that the entire Kansas Water Plan, including the upper Arkansas Basin Section was approved by KWA at the January meeting. Complete plans are available on disk

or the web.

Budget and Legislative Update: Susan Stover updated the committee on the changes to the FY2009 budget due to reduced revenues. The Legislature is working on FY2010 now. CREP is still in the budget, with carry over funds. WTAP has been reduced to only salary for the administrator. The fee increases the KWA recommended have been introduced as bills but the future is uncertain. ELARF is not moving and not in the governor's budget for 2010.

Federal Stimulus Package: Susan Stover provided a broad overview of federal agencies and dollars allocated.

BAC Membership: Diane explained that the application process has begun for terms on the BAC expiring June 30, 2009.

Diane presented the Chair meeting motion: "KWO staff should forward all BAC applications to the BACs for consideration and KWA can make an exception to the BAC membership requirements if an ineligible applicant is nominated" for discussion and comment.

Ron Allen made the motion to have the water resource planner for the basin forward all applications for committee consideration with notes of ineligibility and reasons. The motion was seconded by Steven Hines. The motion carried.

HorseThief: Ron Allen reported that there may be some federal funds that could be used to develop the facilities at HorseThief. A draft letter of support of the HorseThief Reservoir Benefit District was presented.

Randy Hayzlett made a motion to sign the letter of support for federal funds for HorseThief recreation facility development to Senator Pat Roberts. The motion was seconded by Roger Mohr. The motion carried. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes.

Basin Activities/Updates

Priority Issue Implementation: General table and basin specific recommendation tables were presented by Diane Coe. No changes were suggested.

Compact: Randy Hayzlett, Compact Commissioner, reported on the Annual Arkansas River Compact meeting held in December 2008. The meeting includes reports and recommendations from various subcommittees to the entire commission. Highlights outlined by Randy are the Colorado efficiency rules are underdevelopment, the special engineering committee was reauthorized, and the required annual accounting report to federal officials has not been prepared since 1993 but will be in the future. In 2009, the meeting will be Tuesday December 8 in Garden City, with committees meeting the afternoon before.

WCPF activities: Randy Hayzlett, Chair of the Arkansas River Litigation Funds Committee reported on the progress of Water Conservation Project Funds projects. The South Side Ditch Association alternative delivery system project is moving dirt to restoring ditch capacity, mostly cleaning out the ditch. The engineering work for restoring capacity in Lake McKinney has started, including taking core samples.

Other Business

Message(s) to the KWA: There were no messages to the KWA.

Kansas Water Authority: Update since meeting: KWA meeting will be a conference call on April 17th.

Future Meetings: The next regular Upper Arkansas BAC meeting is, tentatively scheduled for, Tuesday, May

5th, at 2 pm in Jetmore, KS.

Adjourn

Steven Hines made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Randy Hayzlett. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. |