

**Upper Republican  
Basin Advisory Committee**

**Prairie Land Electric  
1101 W. Hwy 36, Norton, KS  
December 12, 2006 1:00 pm**

Basin Advisory Committee Members Present

Anne Marie Worley, Wayne Bossert, Greg Grafel, Craig Ingram, Lee Juennemann, John Keller, Sid Metcalf, Charles Peckham

Basin Advisory Committee Members Absent

Harlan Downing, Charles Worden

Others in Attendance

Don Paxton (KWA), Carolyn Armstrong, John Arford, Gordon Ross, Scott Ross (DWR), Scott Voss (DWR), Mark Shaw (KDWP), Dan Wells (KDHE), Kim Christiansen (KWO), Diane Coe (KWO)

**Welcome and Introductions** – Anne Marie Worley, BAC Chair opened the meeting. Self introductions were made by all present.

**Review of Meeting Notes** – Sid Metcalf made the **motion to approve the meeting notes for the October meeting held jointly with the Smoky Hill-Saline and Solomon BACs**. Lee Juennemann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Annual Status Report** – Diane Coe, KWO reported that the KWO has been compiling information on the various programs working on the Kansas Water Plan objectives. The report includes the achievements of the programs in FY2006, expectation For FY2007 and budgets for FY2008 and FY2009. Some of the information is broken out by basin.

**Review of BAC Applications and Recommendations for Membership** – Kim Christiansen, KWO facilitated the review of applications for BAC membership, the process developed for all 12 BACs to use as a tool in their nomination process. There are four steps in the process, Applicant Ranking, Applicant Presentation, Committee Consideration and Discussion, and Voting. The categories will be considered in order of the number of eligible applicants, with the fewest considered first. Applicant rankings by those members that utilized this review and evaluation tool were compiled and averaged for reference if desired. Applicants who were present were invited to provide a 2-minute self-introduction regarding their candidacy.

Ms Christiansen then facilitated a discussion with the Committee for each of the positions to be filled. The BAC has two choices of action for each category, to nominate a candidate or leave the category open and re-advertise that category.

Category discussion began with the **Groundwater Management District Basin Specific** Category with one application. **Lon Frahm received the majority of eight votes.**

The **Government**, basin specific category, with one application was discussed next. Charles Peckham declared a conflict of interest and left the room. **Charles Peckham received the majority of seven votes.**

The **Irrigated Farming**, basin specific category had two applicants, with one remaining eligible applicant, Steven Cox. Lon Frahm was nominated in another category. **The majority of the eight votes were for Steven Cox.**

The **Dryland Farming**, basin specific category had three applicants with two remaining eligible applicants, Mason Wolf and Anne Marie Worley. Lon Frahm was already nominated in another category. Anne Marie Worley declared a conflict of interest and left the room. **Anne Marie Worley received the majority of the seven votes.**

The Municipal Public Water Supply category had three applicants, with two eligible applicants for consideration, Carolyn Armstrong and Joe Cabrinha. Charles Peckham was nominated in another category. Carolyn Armstrong left the room for this discussion. The first vote of the eight members resulted in a tie. A second vote was taken; **Joe Cabrinha received the majority of the eight votes.**

The **At Large Public**, basin category had four applicants, with three remaining eligible candidates, Danielle Freeman, mason Wolf and Wayne Bossert. Anne Marie Worley was nominated in another category. Wayne Bossert declared a conflict of interest and left the room. **Wayne Bossert received the majority of the seven votes.**

Having completed the nomination process, a discussion on the process was held. There was general agreement of the committee that more applicant information would be helpful, so encouraging the applicants to attach additional information should occur.

It was also suggested that a subcommittee could be formed on specific issues and other knowledgeable basin residents included in the process that way if there is that much interest within the basin on an issue.

Ms Christiansen announced that all applications will be kept on file and can be supplemented with support letters, additional categories and additional information if the applicant so desires. Applications will continue to be accepted. The formal solicitation for applications for the remaining categories will occur after the January Kansas Water Authority meeting. Applications received by the first Monday in April will be considered for the open categories.

### **Agency Reports**

**KDHE** –Dan Wells reported that a WRAPs coordinator has been hired to work out of the Norton County Conservation District. The process will seek public input on water quality issues. The BAC is encouraged to participate. Mr. Wells also announced a WRAPs conference in Wichita on January 17-18, 2007. Information is available at [www.kswraps.org](http://www.kswraps.org). An additional WRAPs website is being develop for project information.

**KDWP** – no report

**DWR-** Scott Ross reported that there are rules and regulations changes coming on water structures, primarily small dams. This coincides with the recent recognition of need for dam rehabilitation. There are also new federal mapping criteria for levies coming in the future.

Mr. Ross also reported on the status of the Republican River Compact Administration and compliance. Preliminary evaluation indicates there may be a need for the arbitration process to

go to the US Supreme Court. In order to address the compact the Kansas Legislature opened positions on the interstate team. Mark Billinger has moved into that position.

Jessica Ahlquist has taken Mark Billinger's old position with the sub basin team. She will be working on Subbasin and Ogallala activities.

Metering is going well. Of the approximate 3200 wells, about 2000 have been inspected. It is anticipated that 600 to 650 inspections will be inspected each of the next three years.

Ethanol Plants are a developing industry. There are some plants planning to expand and other coming in new. This is an area to watch.

EQIP, a federal program to not use an irrigation right is taking applications in quick response areas. One of these priority areas is Prairie Dog Creek as well as Beaver Creek. Another program to retire water rights is the State WaterTAP program. One of the two areas is Prairie Dog Creek.

**Basin Activities/Update** – Diane Coe, KWO provided information on the water office activities in the basin.

Progress is being made by the contractor and state team on the refining and calibrating of groundwater model in NW Kansas, three areas chosen by GMD 4. GMD4 working on their management ideas to use as scenarios in the model. Hopefully this will provide a good tool for future management decisions by GMD and State. In addition to the groundwater model there will be an economic model run by K-State to simulate the economic effects of management scenarios to the region. A second part of the project covers the alluvial areas on the north and south forks of the Solomon above Kirwin and Webster.

Keith Sebelius Reservoir and the Almena Irrigation District lake level agreement has had no activity recently, but a meeting in January is expected.

**Public Comments - none**

**Other Business** – There were no messages to the Kansas Water Authority.

The next Kansas Water Authority meeting will be January 10-11 in Topeka.

The next Upper Republican BAC Meeting will be scheduled in March.

Adjourned at 2:45 pm.