

BAC Chair Meeting

May 14, 2010

iSi Training Center, Wichita

BAC Chairs/Vice Chairs present: Carl Nuzman (Chair, KLR), Byron Warta (LARK), David Bailey (SHS), Wayne Bossert (UR), Jake Geiger (MO), Clark Rusco (UARK), J.D. Metzler (SOL), Rodger Maechtlen (WAL), Jim Triplett (NEO), Ron Brown (Mdc)

BAC Chairs Absent: Ron Smith (VER), Judy Adams (CIM)

Others present: Susan Metzger, Deb Baker, Margaret Fast, Earl Lewis, Tracy Streeter, Kim Christiansen (KWO), Ben Rogers, Mitch Mitchell (KWA)

Communication Tools: Several months ago, KWO requested feedback from BAC members about the best way to facilitate communication between and among BAC members and the KWO. Forty seven percent of BAC members responded to the survey, including at least one person from each BAC so it is felt that these responses are representative of the membership. Of several communication options proposed, the top two choices were a BAC specific webpage and a newsletter.

BAC Webpages: Susan Metzger demonstrated the new BAC specific webpage format. The webpage provides an opportunity for BAC members to interact with each other. Susan detailed the contents proposed to be included on the webpages. The content will include, but not be limited to: Meeting materials (current and past), meeting notes (current and past) and basin related links. After the demonstration, BAC Chairs were asked to provide feedback and suggestions for additional content. Suggestions were:

- Provide pertinent info about the Chair, including contact info
- Contact info for each BAC member
- Description of top two water related issues in the basin
- Library of resource materials including history of issues and policy
- Basin specific priorities as a blog monitored by KWO staff
- List of RWDs in the basin
- List of Water Assurance Districts in the basin
- Provide a forum for public discussion about issues that is open to and accessible by the public

There was some discussion that not all BAC members want their personal contact info available to the public due to concerns about irrelevant communications and spam. KWO will discuss this issue and provide feedback at a later meeting. It was commented that blogs are useful and do get read but they need to be monitored.

BAC Newsletter: The newsletter will be available in both hard copy and electronic format. It will be delivered to members in the format in which they indicate they prefer. After an overview of the

proposed content of the newsletter, BAC Chairs were asked to provide feedback and suggestions for additional content. Discussion included:

- Basin specific items are of interest to other BACs
- Highlight upcoming meeting items that will be discussed at the next meeting
- Reservoir of pertinent facts about an issue, a record of the history, reference points for implementation
- Article suggestion: Use of bonds for purchase of reservoir storage
- What about expanding the audience to include legislators?
- As an alternative, BAC members could forward specific items in the newsletter to their representatives
- The audience can evolve in the future but the newsletter should be just for BAC members for now
- KS has a position of leadership with other states. We want to influence others to collaborate yet maintain high standards
- Individual BAC members should take it upon themselves to spread info
- Info needs to get out on the street, not necessarily up the ladder
- Roll topics into a blog so others can follow the discussion. It was noted that blogs were not a popular response to the survey but may be revisited since the suggestion came up during both the webpage and newsletter discussion

KWO staff will review and discuss these suggestions and report back to the BACs at the next meeting.

Review of Policy Issues

Bonding proposal to pay for reservoir storage. Bond proposal might be the answer to lump sum payment to pay for storage. Spreads payment around to everyone. How would bonds be repaid? The more people paying for the water, the less expense to each person. Right now the bond proposal is just for Clinton and Hillsdale reservoirs and does not include Perry or Tuttle and does not include other users besides municipal and industrial. This could be a pilot to see how it works. Discussion concerning taking advantage of very low interest rates now. KWO should explore this in detail. It would be helpful in taking unknowns out of future costs. There was also interest in using the bond money to start paying off interest now to take advantage of low rates.

Sediment Baseline Study. The solution to sedimentation will not be one size fits all and any solution will need to be tailored to specific characteristics of each region. WRAPS groups should focus on bank stabilization above reservoirs. Suggestion to use areas behind levees as more active flood storage. Also to manage floodplains so they function as intended. Reservoir drawdown should be considered more seriously in which floods or high flows are anticipated and the reservoir is drawn down prior to an event to flush the sediment through the system. Buyouts should be continued for repetitive flood losses.