

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 21, 2009
TO: Solomon Basin Advisory Committee
FROM: Hank Ernst *Hank Ernst*
SUBJECT: 6 p.m., Monday May 4, 2009 Basin Advisory Committee Meeting
 Division of Water Resources Field Office, Stockton, Kansas

In preparation for the May 4 meeting, please jot down and be ready to discuss water challenges you face in your business and personal lives, whether it be quantity, quality or distribution. Expand this thought to your community and your neighbors: How can those challenges be met?; Does it fit in with the Solomon Basin Priority issues the committee identified in the *State Water Plan*?

Membership: Our main action item will be selection of nominees for the term 2009-2013 on the basin committee. The chart below summarizes the categories and the applicants in those categories. Copies of their applications and letters of support are included in this mailing.

Both Kendall Francis of Beloit and Bill Elliott of Glade were approved by the Kansas Water Authority at its April 17, 2009 meeting. Bill's term in the At-Large Public category will expire in 2011. Kendall's term in the multipurpose Public Water Supplier category expires June 30, 2009. He will be considered for nomination for the term 2009-2013, along with Scott Robertson and John White, provided John confirms his interest in being re-considered. Other candidates and the categories they have applied are listed in the table below.

Applicant	Industry/commerce	At-Large Public	Recreation	Municipal Public Water Supplier
Dee Blubaugh			X	
Kendall Francis				x
Joe Keith	x			
J.P. Metzler		x		
Scott Robertson		x		x
John White		x		x
Randall Weller		x		

Webster Reservoir: At the February 24, 2009 meeting, a question was asked about the economic value of recreation assigned to Webster Reservoir in the *State Water Plan*. I've obtained a copy of the study, with help from Mark Shaw, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, I'll share some history and data on how the values were determined.

Budget and Legislative Update: The Kansas Legislature will reconvene next week. I'll have a legislative update and State Water Plan Fund budget update at the meeting.

(over)

Non-point source pollution management plan: At the Feb. 24, 2009 meeting, the committee was asked by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Watershed Management Section) to review Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan before the May meeting to help update the plan as needed. Due to budget constraints, that discussion with KDHE has been postponed until after July 1, 2009. The current plan is available at www.kdheks.gov/nps/resources/2000update.pdf; Kerry Wedel, head of the Watershed Management Section, or a member of his staff will lead the discussion in July. The final plan is targeted for completion by October 2009. Points to consider include:

- What are the priority NPS pollution concerns in the Solomon Basin?
- Are the priority concerns being addressed adequately?
- Are there new or revised strategies that should be considered for addressing priority concerns?

Enclosed are the May 4, 2009 mailing materials:

- Agenda
- Press Release
- Membership applications
- Minutes of the Feb. 23, 2009 meeting
- Map of BAC members and applicants for 2009-2013 BAC term

Please bring your notebook and name plates for the table.

Given that the nominees for the basin advisory committee will be selected at this meeting, full attendance is important. I realize that early May is a busy time for all of you. If you cannot attend or have any questions or issues regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone or e-mail at (785) 296-0877 or hank.ernst@kwo.ks.gov. Or you may reach me at home at (785) 286-1905.

Solomon Basin Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

6 p.m. Monday, May 4, 2009

Division of Water Resources Field Office, Stockton, Kansas

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. BAC Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Agency Reports ***
- 4. Public Comments****
- 5. BAC Business**
 - a. Approval of Feb. 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes
 - b. BAC member reports: Water challenges
 - c. KWA Update-KWO
 - d. Budget/Legislative Update
 - e. Membership: Selection of term 2009-2013 nominees
- 6. Basin Activities Updates**
 - a. Basin Priority Issues: Including clarification of earlier study on Webster Reservoir economic value
- 7. Other Business**
 - a. Messages to the Kansas Water Authority
 - b. Kansas Water Authority Meeting, June 11-12, El Dorado; August 13-14, Salina; Nov. 17-18, Liberal
 - c. Future BAC meeting dates: First full week of July. Perhaps July 9.

Note: Underlined items require BAC action

* Oral agency reports are limited to 5 minutes. Written reports are welcome and encouraged.

** Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per speaker on water resource issues and concerns. Other comments should be addressed to the Director of the Kansas Water Office.



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2009

Solomon Basin Advisory Committee meeting
6 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2009
Division of Water Resources Field Office
820 S. Walnut
Stockton, Kansas

Solomon Basin Advisory Committee considers membership applications

Water users, from representatives of water utilities and industry to farmers and recreation, will be considered for membership on each of the state's 12 river basin advisory committees in the first half of May. The committees serve as the local sounding board and forum for public meetings on water resource issues. Applicants of record as of April 10, 2009 will be considered for four-year terms beginning July 1, 2009.

The Solomon Basin Advisory Committee will meet at 6 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2009 at the Division of Water Resources Field Office in Stockton, Kansas. Applicants will be considered to represent the categories of Industry/Commerce, Recreation, Municipal Public Water Supplier, and At-Large. Nominees selected will be forwarded to the Kansas Water Authority for ratification at its June 11-12 meeting in El Dorado, Kansas.

"We count on the basin advisory committee members for their knowledge of local water issues and to help their communities understand how their issues fit into the goals of the *Kansas Water Plan*," says Tracy Streeeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office. Advice received from the committees is taken into account by the Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority in their advisory role on water resources to the Governor and Kansas Legislature.

In addition to the selection of nominees, the members of the committee will receive updates on basin plan priority issues and state legislative and budget news.

For more information, including an agenda of the meeting, please refer to the Kansas Water Office web site www.kwo.org or call (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283) or (785) 296-3185.

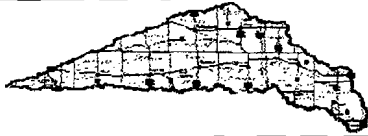
Note to media: The Kansas Water Office coordinates the Kansas water planning process in concert with the Kansas Water Authority. The Authority's 24 members include representatives from diverse water use interest groups and leaders of the state's natural resource agencies.

Advice on policy development comes from Basin Advisory Committees in each of the state's 12 river basins and other local stakeholders. The Authority, in turn, advises the Governor and Legislature on water issues to be considered for policy enactment. Water planning in Kansas is an open process.

Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101), requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations message.

If accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 901 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least two days prior to the meeting.

The Kansas Water Office is the water planning, policy, and coordination agency for the State of Kansas. It prepares a state plan of water resources development, management and conservation, reviews all water laws, and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for new or amendatory legislation. The Office administers the *Kansas Water Plan Storage Act*, the *Kansas Weather Modification Act*, and the *Water Assurance Act*. It also reviews the plans of any state or local agency for the management of the water and related land resources of the state.



Basin Advisory Committee

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

February 23, 2009

Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources Field Office
820 South Walnut, Stockton, Kansas

DRAFT

Members in Attendance: Stanley J. Kats, J. P. Metzler, Ray DeBey, Dee Blubaugh, John B. Wyrill III and Joe Keith

Members Absent: Dennis Lehman

Others in Attendance: John White, Phillips RWD No. 1; Bill Peck, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Jack Wergin, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Scott Voss, Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources; David Means, Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources; Sherry Koster, Phillips County Local Environmental Planning Group; Andy Wilson, Kirwin-Webster Irrigation districts; Bill Elliott, of Glade; Kendal Francis, City of Beloit; Mark Shaw, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; Scott Robertson, City of Phillipsburg; Randall Weller, Hill City; JoAnn Gruber, Glen Elder Irrigation District; Carolynn Nichols, Waconda Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS); Susan Stover, Kansas Water Office; and Hank Ernst, Kansas Water Office.

BAC Approval of Agenda: Stan Katz moved the approval of the Feb. 23, 2009 Solomon BAC agenda. Dee Blubaugh seconded. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Conversation with Kirwin, Webster and Glen Elder Irrigation district managers: Andy Wilson, manager of the Kirwin and Webster Irrigation districts shared the history and management of the irrigation districts. A copy of his presentation is attached. The two districts will have a joint meeting on March 3, 2009 at the Community Center in Gaylord.

Jo Gruber, manager of the Glen Elder Irrigation District discussed management of the Glen Elder Irrigation District. She showed a map that depicted water use in the district. The Glen Elder Irrigation District will have its annual meeting March 2 at the Knights of Columbus in Beloit.

Agency Reports

Phillips County Local Environmental Planning Group: Sherry D. Koster, county sanitarian, reported on the number of new and replacement on-site waste disposal systems installed at new and existing home sites. A copy of her report is attached. It details installation of systems in Phillips, Rooks, Smith, Osborne, Jewell, Mitchell and Republic counties.

Waconda Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies: Carolynn Nichols,

WRAPS coordinator, noted that the WRAPS group that she coordinates is in the assessment and planning stage. The Waconda WRAPS leadership team is focusing on e.coli and stream bank stabilization. E. coli has been confirmed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in a HUC 14 on the lower north fork of the Solomon River near Portis and a HUC 14 on the lower south fork of the Solomon River near Osborne. A stream bank assessment will be conducted by the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS) in these areas. KAWS will inform the Waconda WRAPS leadership team of any bank stabilization issues that are found.

Solomon Working Group: Scott Voss with KDA's Division of Water Resources, Stockton, reported on the Feb. 23, 2009 meeting of the Solomon Working Group. Alex Spiliotopoulos and Steve Larson with S.S. Papadopoulos and Associates, Inc. presented information by teleconference on six scenarios, or "what-ifs," run on the North Fork of the Solomon River and their effects on the water balance. It was found that reduction of ET by 50% (Lower ET to see the outcome of eliminating or reducing phreatophytes) had the most significant effect, although it was noted that this may not be a realistic goal. The working group affirmed that the manner in which the North Fork of the Solomon River was modeled should be applied to the South Fork of the Solomon River.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

BAC Business

Approval of meeting notes: Dee Blubaugh moved and Stanley Katz seconded the approval of the meeting notes of the Oct. 1, 2008 meeting notes as presented. Motion carried.

BAC Member Reports

Members of the committee who attended the Water and Energy Conference in Hays in December of 2008 spoke to the quality of information presented. They reaffirmed the connection between water and energy and how energy generation would affect the need for water.

KWA-KWP Update: Hank Ernst reported on the Jan. 28-29, 2009 Kansas Water Authority meeting in Topeka. The Kansas Water Authority approved the 5-year updated 2009 Kansas Water Plan. He thanked the committee for its help in developing the basin priority issues.

Sid Metcalf, chair of the Upper Republican BAC joined other BAC chairs, KWA members and Kansas Water Office staff in calling on members of the Kansas Legislature. Legislation calling for a 50% increase in the fees that make up the State Water Plan Fund has been introduced and the Water Office seeks to have 10% of the Expanded Lottery Act Revenue Fund (ELARF) committed to water infrastructure. The latter is stymied because only one of the three proposed casinos, the one is Dodge City, still is slated to be built. Legislators were receptive to the needs of the State Water Plan to continue projects, but questioned the timing of the fee increase.

Budget and Legislative Update: Susan Stover, manager of the High Plains Unit of the Kansas Water Office, spoke about budget cuts, but noted that the final outcome is yet to be determined. A concerted effort was made to keep intact the funding for salaries in programs for which personnel was the key expense and key to delivery of services.

Federal Stimulus Package: Susan Stover outlined the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the \$787.2 billion that was to be distributed during the course of 10 years. Details are in the

attachment. The emphasis is on projects that are ready to go, or "shovel ready."

Membership: Five applicants for membership on the Solomon BAC spoke. Applicants for the municipal public water supply category were Kendal Francis, Beloit and John White, Phillipsburg. Mr. White also applied for the at-large public slot. Other at-large public category applicants included: William Elliott, Glade; Scott Robertson, Phillipsburg; and Randall Weller, Hill City.

The committee selected Kendal Francis for the municipal public water supply category which had been open since July 2008. His name will be submitted to the Kansas Water Authority for ratification at the Authority's April 17, 2009 meeting. The municipal public water supply term officially ends June 30, 2009. Given that Kendal Francis was just selected by the committee, his application will be considered current. The committee, however, will have to submit his name (if members so choose) for reaffirmation by the Kansas Water Authority at its June 2009 meeting.

The committee selected Bill Elliott for the at-large public category term which ends in 2011. His name also will be submitted to the Kansas Water Authority.

Bruce Wyrill III moved the nomination of Kendal Francis and Bill Elliott for consideration by the Kansas Water Authority. Dee Blubaugh seconded. Motion passed.

The question of the need for members of a Basin Advisory Committee to live within the basin was raised at the meeting of the Basin Advisory Committee chairs held in conjunction with the January 2009 Kansas Water Authority meeting. Applications of those who apply from outside the basin are considered ineligible and are not submitted by Water Office staff to BAC committees for consideration. The question is: "Do you as BAC members, want to see all BAC applications, even those that are not qualified according to the Internal Policy Memo on membership?" And, at the BAC's discretion, request from the Authority an exception to the IPM.

The consensus was that BAC members should live within the basin they represent.

Stanley Katz moved and Joe Keith seconded that the committee be shown only the applications for membership from applicants who are qualified according to the Internal Policy Memo on membership. Motion carried.

Basin Activities/Updates

Basin issue implementation: Three Solomon basin priority issues were identified in 2008 and included in the 2009 Update to the Kansas Water Plan. They were "Minimum Water Levels in Webster Lake," Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer Water level Declines," and "Subbasin Water Management."

Chairman Ray DeBey noted that minimum water level in Webster Lake was not an issue identified by the committee. Hank Ernst offered that Basin Advisory Committees are one of the main avenues through which basin priority issues are surfaced, but they can be brought forth in other ways.

The Webster Lake information cited a study conducted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation on the value of the Webster fishery (stilling basin included). The figure, \$11,129,238 during a 20-month period of evaluation, was questioned. The committee asked for clarification at its next meeting of the amount, the time frame and the accuracy

of the footnoted reference.

The Kansas Water Office, in concert with the state agencies that made up the Water Issues Strategic Team, assessed the action status of the three issues relative to issues all across the state. Current activities and available resources, both personnel and financial, were taken into account. "B" status indicates that some activities and recommended actions already are underway and will continue. As success is achieved in implementing actions in the "A" category, or as specific opportunities arise additional effort will be dedicated toward actions in the "B" categories.

Note: The issue description for the "Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer Water level Declines" had been modified from the original text distributed in the meeting notification packet, but Hank Ernst forgot to distribute the revision at the meeting. The revised text more accurately reflects the work of the GMD 4 and the Solomon working group. It reads:

"Conserve and extend the life of the Ogallala through aquifer subunit management, and targeting of water conservation activities. Hydrologic and economic models are being used to support planning discussions underway between GMD4 and water users to address aquifer declines. The northwest Kansas modeling will help GMD4 work with stakeholders to develop possible management solutions. GMD4 is coordinating its efforts with the Solomon working group where the Ogallala discharges to the alluvial valleys in the Upper North and South Forks of the Solomon River."

The statuses of current recommended actions were also considered. Copies of the status of implementation and the recommended actions were distributed to the committee members in their pre-meeting packet.

The committee had no further questions.

Other business

Next meetings: The Solomon Basin Advisory Committee will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, May 4, 2009 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources office. The Kansas Water Authority will meet by conference call at 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 17, 2009.

Message(s) to the KWA: No messages.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Solomon Basin

Basin Advisory Committee (BAC) and 2009 Applicants

