

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 23, 2009
TO: Hank Ernst
FROM: Solomon Basin Advisory Committee Meeting
SUBJECT: 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2009 Basin Advisory Committee Meeting

The next Solomon Basin Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7th at 6 p.m., at the Division of Water Resources, 820 S. Walnut , Stockton, KS.

Modeling: Andy Lyon, Kansas Department of Agriculture's sub basin team will lead off the meeting with a layman's explanation of modeling. He'll tell of how modeling has been used on the Upper North Fork and Upper South Fork of the Solomon River. The modeling work was done under contract by S.S. Papadopoulos and Associates.

The modeling looked at six possible ways (scenarios) that flow is potentially affected in the respective forks of the Solomon River. With that information in hand, the Solomon River Task Force will work to identify possible management options that will make a difference. BAC members will be kept apprised of developments.

Water challenges: At the May 4, meeting, Committee member Bill Elliott talked about some of the water issues that he's aware of. He said he'd bring back more information to the next meeting to continue the discussion.

If there's a water quantity, quality or distribution problem that you're aware of, please bring it to the meeting for discussion. How can those challenges be met? Does addressing the problem fit in with the Solomon Basin Priority issues the committee identified in the *State Water Plan* or should it be considered for a future basin priority issue?

Non-point source pollution management plan: Kerry Wedel, head of the Watershed Management Section of KDHE will present information via teleconference and on-line "Glance session" on the state's Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan on July 1. Plan to listen in and either offer your comments as part of that presentation or bring them to the July 7 meeting. The current plan is available at www.kdheks.gov/nps/resources/2000update.pdf

- 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 July 7, 2009 mailing materials:

- Agenda
- Press Release

- Minutes of the Feb. May 4, 2009 meeting
- Contact information for Solomon Basin Advisory Committee members
- TMDL memo from Tom Stiles, KDHE
- Lake Level Management Plan

Please bring your notebook and name plates for the table.

I realize that early July 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. Tuesday, July 7
Division of Water Resources Field Office
820 South Walnut
Stockton, Kansas

DRAFT

1. Welcome and introductions
2. BAC Approval of Agenda
3. Modeling 101 by Andy Lyon, KDA DWR Subbasin Team
(Upper North Fork and Upper South Fork Solomon River)
4. Agency Reports *
5. Public Comments**
6. BAC Business
 - a. Approval of May 4, 2009 Meeting Notes
 - b. BAC member reports
 - c. KWA Update-KWO June Kansas Water Authority meeting
 - d. Reservoir Road Map
 - e. BAC feedback: Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan presented by KDHE via teleconference/Glance session.
7. Basin Activities Updates
 - a. Basin Priority Issues: Subbasin Water management: Follow-up discussion on Andy Lyon's presentation
 - b. Lake Level Management Plan
 - c. Total Maximum Daily Loads: Potential High Priority for Action
8. Other Business
 - a. Messages to the Kansas Water Authority
 - b. Kansas Water Authority Meeting, August 13-14, Salina; Nov. 17-18, Liberal
 - c. Future BAC meeting dates: First full week of October. Climate and Water Forum, Dec. 9, Wichita; Dec. 10, Hays.

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.



KANSAS WATER OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2009

Solomon Basin Advisory Committee
6 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2009
Division of Water Resources Field Office
Stockton, Kansas

Scientist to present computer modeling 101 to Solomon Basin Advisory Committee

By the time scientist Andy Lyon says, "That's it," he expects his audience to better understand a few things about computer modeling and its value to the Solomon River basin. Lyon, who works with the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources, will be talking to the Solomon Basin Advisory Committee at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 7 at the Water Resources Field Office in Stockton Kansas.

Computer modeling, he explains, involves developing mathematical formulas based on historical data. Those formulas will help predict what might happen into the future given controlled actions by man or predicted, but uncertain, acts of nature. His presentation will focus on the modeling work done, in part, to better understand the interaction between groundwater of the High Plains-Ogallala aquifer and surface water in the Upper North and South Forks of the Solomon River. The modeling was done by S.S. Papadopoulos and Associates under contract.

The modeling looked at six scenarios, or "what-ifs," run on the two stretches of the Solomon River and their effects on the water balance. With this information at hand, the objective is to work with the Solomon Basin Working Group to develop management strategies that address declines in stream flow and ground water levels. The program is funded by the State Water Plan Fund.

Members of the nine-member basin advisory committee represent diverse water interests. They're nominated locally and several were approved as new or renewing members by the Kansas Water Authority in June.

The newly appointed or reappointed members and the water interest they represent include Joseph Keith of Penokee, industry/commerce; James Metzler of Minneapolis, at-large public; Orville "Dee" Blubaugh of Phillipsburg, recreation; and Kendal Francis of Beloit, municipal public water supplier. Their four-year terms end in 2013.

The meeting's agenda also includes an update on the State Water Plan Fund 2010 budget (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010) approved by the Kansas Legislature and progress in the development of the state's Reservoir Road Map. The latter outlines proposed steps to secure, protect and restore the state's water impoundments' value as a source of water.

For an agenda, please see the Kansas Water Office web page www.kwo.org or call (785) 296-3185.

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 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.

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SOLOMON Basin Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes

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

Stanley Kats

Agriculture
Prairie View, Kansas

Kendal Francis

Municipal PWS
Beloit, Kansas

William Elliott

At-Large Public
Glade, Kansas

For questions
please contact:
Hank Ernst;
Basin Planner
785-296-3185
hank.ernst@kwo.ks.gov

May 4, 2009

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

DRAFT

Members in Attendance: Joe, Keith, Stanley Kats, James Metzler, Kendal Francis, Dee Blubaugh, William Elliott, John Wyrill

Members Absent: Dennis Lehman

Others in Attendance: Mike Nyhoff, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; Doug Schneeweis, Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources; John White, Stuttgart

BAC Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda of the May 4, 2009 meeting was made, seconded and approved with no dissenting votes.

Agency Reports: Scott Voss, Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources Solomon River Basin Management Team, reported that the modeling work on the South Fork of the Solomon River was complete. He said the Solomon Working Group would meet on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 to discuss the results of the six scenarios, or "what-ifs" run on the South Fork of the Solomon River and their effects on water balance.

Public Comments: No public comments.

BAC Business

Approval of Feb. 23, 2009 BAC meeting notes: Stanley Kats noted that his name was misspelled and asked for it to be corrected. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the meeting notes of Feb. 23, 2009 subject to the changing of the spelling of Mr. Kats' last name.

BAC member reports: William Elliott of Glade reported on municipal and industrial water usage in the Phillipsburg area and the cost of upgrading a water system that primarily serves livestock operations.

KWA Update-KWO and 2010 Budget: Hank Ernst reported that Kendal Francis' nomination was approved as a member of the Solomon BAC for the term that expires June 30, 2009. Due to the Kansas Legislature's on-going dialogue on the budget, there was no new news. The Kansas Water Office plans to make available a budget update by conference call when the outcome is known.

BAC members were reminded of the need to obtain permits when altering a stream, whether it is to construct a crossing or for some other purpose. Permits are needed from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Membership: The Solomon BAC selected four nominees for basin advisory committee membership for the four-year term July 1, 2009-June 30, 2013. The nominees and their membership categories are: Joe Keith, industry/commerce/J.P. Metzler, at-large public; Dee Blubaugh, recreation; Kendal Francis, municipal/public water supplier. Their names will be submitted to the Kansas Water Authority for ratification.

John White, a candidate for the at-large public and municipal/public water supplier category, said that he would continue his interest in the activities of the BAC and would attend as time allowed.

Basin Activities and Updates

Basin priority issues: An accounting in the Solomon river basin priority issues section of the Kansas Water Plan references a study on the economic benefits associated with Webster Reservoir. The amount of \$11,129,238 for the 20-month period is accurate based on the computation using trip expenditure information developed through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey's national Surveys of Fishing, Hunting and wildlife-Associated Recreation trip expenditures. Background information is that the Webster Reservoir and other northwest Kansas reservoirs were filling after an extended dry period with low lake levels. As the water levels returned, Webster became a national fishing hot spot featured in national outdoor publications. The publicity and the excellent fishing accounted for the increased attendance and related increase in economic value.

Other Business

Message to the Kansas Water Authority: No messages were offered for the Kansas Water Authority.

Meeting dates: July meetings are difficult to set due to wheat harvest. Hank Ernst asked that he be given latitude in setting up a date due to wheat harvest and to allow for a more detailed presentation by the Solomon Basin Management Team on the results of modeling work on the Upper South Fork and Upper North Fork models. The group would like to begin a discussion of management options for both subbasins. Possible date: July 7, 2009.

The Kansas Water authority will meet June 11-12, 2009 in El Dorado; August 13-14, Salina; and Nov. 17-18, Liberal.



Mark Parkinson, Governor
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

Division of Environment

MEMORANDUM

TO: Solomon Basin Advisory Committee

FROM: Tom Stiles, Watershed Planning Section

DATE: June 19, 2009

RE: Update on TMDL development within the Solomon Basin

KDHE is working on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) on certain impaired waters of the Solomon Basin. The Watershed Planning Section is emphasizing TMDLs that will potentially be slated as a “high” priority for implementation, through NPS-watershed management via the Conservation Districts and WRAPS groups or permit requirements of municipal, industrial and agricultural dischargers through the NPDES program.

Within the Solomon Basin, current efforts are focusing on the following:

1. E. Coli Bacteria on the Lower North Fork Solomon River at Portis
2. E. Coli Bacteria on the Lower South Fork Solomon River near Osborne
3. Total Suspended Solids (TSS) on the Solomon River at Niles.
4. A revision to the Sulfate and Selenium TMDLs for Deer Creek between Phillipsburg and Kirwin.

The E coli bacteria TMDLs have carried over from the last time we were in the basin (2003) when the assessment rules and water quality standards for bacteria and recreation use on streams changed. Subsequent sampling indicated a continued issue with elevated bacteria on the two forks of the Solomon River.

Analyzing total suspended solids on streams is exploratory at this stage, but the initial goal is to get the median of sample concentrations of TSS to fall below 50 ppm, which we have correlated with strong biological communities in streams. The Solomon River at Niles, along with most of the Lower Smoky Hill and Saline rivers has a high load of TSS, indicative of high sediment loads. Median TSS concentration at Niles is 123 ppm, indicating heavy sediment input into the stream. We are currently investigating how to address the issue in a stepwise fashion to begin to progress in reducing loads and stabilize the stream reaches themselves.

Deer Creek had a TMDL established for both sulfate and selenium as part of an overall regional TMDL for Waconda Lake. That 2003 TMDL had certain expectations for point sources in the Phillipsburg area. In the five years since that TMDL was completed, we've compiled much more information on sulfate and selenium along Deer Creek and its tributaries, notably Plotner Creek at Phillipsburg. The revised TMDL will indicate updated expectations for Phillipsburg, TAMKO and Mineral Right and their wastewater discharges. One option is for Phillipsburg to open a new well field in the High Plains Aquifer and lessen its withdrawals from the North Fork Solomon River alluvium, which can contain high concentrations of sulfate and selenium.

Drafted TMDLs should be completed and available for public review and comment sometime this summer. The completed documents will be placed on the Watershed Planning website at <http://www.kdheks.gov/tmdl/index.htm> as soon as they become available. We will schedule a public hearing in the Solomon Basin on these TMDLs and will brief the BAC at its next meeting on findings of these TMDLs. If you have any questions regarding the current efforts of the Watershed Planning Section within the Solomon Basin please feel free to contact me at (785) 296-6170, or through email at tstiles@kdheks.gov.

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 19, 2009
TO: Basin Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Nathan Westrup, KWO
SUBJECT: Lake Level Management Plans

The Kansas Water Office is charged by the State Water Planning Act with negotiating and entering into agreements with the Corps and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) regarding operation or releases of water from federal projects. These two federal agencies are responsible for the operation and maintenance for the state's 24 federal lakes. Lake Level Management Plans are developed by Corps Lake Managers in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, local stakeholders and other state water-related agencies. To insure key parameters are met within these proposed plans and coordination is accomplished, the Kansas Water Office is responsible for reviewing these plans. These plans are sent to the appropriate federal agencies for their review and approval, and if approved they become part of the annual operating plans for the reservoirs.

Currently, 20 Kansas federal lakes have lake level management plans. The overarching purpose of Lake Level Management is to increase the benefits to recreational users and increase wildlife and aquatic habitat while protecting the flood control, water supply and water quality purposes of the lake.

Examples of general benefits resulting from seasonal lake level manipulations include:

- Lake levels above normal will inundate shoreline vegetation that will benefit waterfowl and create fisheries spawning habitat
- Lake levels below normal provide additional space for flood control, create habitat and stabilize the shoreline by allowing re-vegetation and lesson ice damage to infrastructure during winter months

Each Lake Level Management Plan is tailored to the characteristics of the lake and uses. The key parameters for all management plans are storage requirements for flood control and, when applicable, storage requirements for water supply. Of particular importance in the review process is consideration of planned lake level changes on state-owned water supplies. Drawdowns that might threaten the state's ability to meet contract obligations are not allowed.

The Kansas Water Office recently submitted draft Lake Level Management Plans to the Corps and Bureau for reservoirs in your basin. To view the current Lake Level Management Plans, visit:

http://www.kwo.org/Reports%20%26%20Publications/Rpt_LLMP_WY2009_100108_new.pdf

For questions regarding the draft plans for WY2010, please call Nathan Westrup at (785) 296-3185 or e-mail at Nathan.Westrup@kwo.ks.gov.