

Rattlesnake Creek Partnership Meeting - Minutes

DWR Conference Room, Stafford, KS

February 21, 2008

Attendees: Steven Sorensen, Gary Seibert, Megan Estep, Dave Hilley, J. Paul Cornes, Jim Sellers, John Janssen, Darrell Wood, Dennis Dutton, Susan Stover, Kent Askren (phone), Peter Balleau and Dave Ramero (phone), Steve Larson (phone), Sharon Falk, Orrin Feril
KDA-DWR staff: David Barfield, Bruce Falk, Tina Alder, Andrew Lyon, Lisa Sader, Darci Paull

Facilitator: Bruce Falk

Meeting started 1:20 pm

Partnership Updates:

GMD 5: WaterTap program had one (1) approval, water rights purchase program had one (1) approval and continue to support EQIP

USFWS: Couple of staff retirements, Kansas is moving into a different district

WaterPACK: Annual meeting will be in mid-March and they will be electing a new president

DWR: New chief engineer – David Barfield and new staff members Darci Paull and Lisa Sader who will be working the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin. Compliance and enforcement in the subbasin has had a significant impact on water savings

Other Updates:

KWO: Completed an augmentation study per legislative request. There wasn't a lot of interest in the program.

Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin Recap:

- June 1994 the Rattlesnake Creek Partnership was created – GMD 5, USFWS, WaterPACK and KDA-DWR
- Defined priority areas
- Management program established in 2000 with 4-year reviews in 2004, 2008 and 2012.
- Highlighted the various voluntary options to meet the goals and the analyses that will be completed each 4-year review.

Rattlesnake Creek Model

Purpose of the Model

- Another tool for management strategies for the entire subbasin
- To identify areas for voluntary programs
- Administrative purposes
- The model has other purposes besides the Rattlesnake Creek Partnership management program, but could be used for the program

Why collaborate?

- Success in the Northwest Kansas/Solomon modeling project which includes USBR, KWO, DWR, Steve Larson, GMD 4 and KGS.
- DWR is willing to pay for the main construction, updating, recalibration and a few scenarios identified by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with the work to be completed by S. S. Papadopoulos Associates (SSPA).

- DWR is inviting others to participate in the process, in which they are welcome to bring any expertise, peer reviewers, etc... to participate and/or to represent them at the TAC meetings.
- Peer reviewers and/or representatives participate throughout the process
- TAC meetings held approximately every 4-6 weeks in which the primary modeler (SSPA) presents to the TAC group latest model developments. Opportunity for all to provide input/feedback. We have a number of ideas in which this can work effectively and efficiently. We are also open to new ideas.
- Minutes will be drafted following each TAC meeting and distributed for comment.
- There will be one central contact person whom will provide information to all TAC members and the primary modeler.
- The original model files were forwarded to SSPA to review and comment on whether the data could be used to update and re-calibrate the RSC model.
- Only the Partnership can make decisions regarding the management program, but all participants in the TAC can comment on the modeling process.
- All TAC sessions will be provided through a GLANCE/conference call.
- Model files are open to the public.
- TAC would select scenarios that can be ran as a group, all additional scenarios can be ran by outside consultants or the individual participants at their expense
- Final model report will be drafted by SSPA.

Why update an existing model?

- The Rattlesnake Creek model will overlap the Middle Arkansas model which will eliminate the boundary flow concerns between the two subbasins.
- Model data ended in 1994 so we would need to update data since then.

Model Discussion

- Peter Balleau had a number of questions that were responded by David Barfield and Steve Larson:
 - o Access to all data
 - o Purpose of joining the Middle Arkansas and Rattlesnake Creek models
 - o Closed topography of the subbasin and its effects
 - o Recharge and irrigation return flow
 - Questions about land use and farm operations
- Establishing objectives and scenarios prior to the start of the process

New Business

- Written responses regarding joining the TAC are expected within the next month (mid-March)
- Model process expected to take approximately one year with updates and calibration completed in about 6 months
 - o It was requested that an update be provided to the Partnership half way through the process
- The 4-year review will be in August, 2008
 - o If any of the partners have additional analyses they would like to see for the 4-year review please notify the Basin Team.
- Basin Team will have a booth at the 3i show May 7-9

Meeting ended 2:55 pm