



# WaterWise

From the REAP Water Resources Committee

November /  
December  
2010



## Looking Ahead

### November 4-5

1:00 PM & 8:45 AM  
Kansas Water Authority  
Meeting  
Beloit, KS

### November 9

1:00 PM  
GMD # 2 Meeting  
Halstead, KS

### November 15

REAP Water Resources  
Committee Meeting  
8:00 AM - Noon  
WSU Metroplex

### November 18

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Environmental  
Sustainability Alliance  
Meeting  
Exploration Place

### December 2

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
South Central Kansas  
Legislative Policy  
Summit  
Courtyard Marriot - Old  
Town

## EPA Issues Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy

The EPA recently issued its new Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Policy, in an effort to promote sustainable infrastructure within the water sector. One of the biggest challenges facing the water sector is the sustainable management of water infrastructure. Communities across the nation are currently faced with a variety of water infrastructure challenges, stemming from aging systems in need of both repair and improvement. In their policy the EPA emphasizes the need to build on existing efforts to promote sustainable water infrastructure and encourages communities to develop sustainable systems. Through a collaborative effort with national, state, and local partners the EPA will develop guidance, provide technical assistance, and target funding to increase the sustainability of water infrastructure. For more information please visit: [www.epa.gov/infrastructure](http://www.epa.gov/infrastructure).

## Emerging Energy Conservation Measures Can Reduce Wastewater Utilities Energy Consumption

In October the EPA dedicated a page on their website to wastewater technology. This page provides information on innovative and emerging energy conservation measures, which can help wastewater utilities reduce energy consumption. By accessing this page municipal utility owners, and operators, can find information on cost-effective energy management, and energy conservation measures and technologies, for reducing total energy usage in their wastewater treatment facilities. All site data has been developed from literature sources, with help on the project coming from manufacturers and operating facilities. For more information please visit: [www.epa.gov/scitech/wastetech](http://www.epa.gov/scitech/wastetech).



## REAP Begins Work on Strategic Plan

On November 1, 2010 REAP and the REAP Water Resources Committee members will gather at the Sedgwick County Extension Offices for the Partnership's annual retreat.

This will mark the beginning of REAP's work toward drafting a strategic plan for the next three to five years. This is the first time REAP has gone through the strategic planning process and the REAP Water Resources Committee

will be involved in all planning efforts.

Following REAP's Annual Retreat the REAP WRC will meet at the WSU Metroplex to discuss the Committee's 2011 work plan.

Results from the REAP WRC survey will also be presented, and used to determine the committee's priorities for 2011. For more information please contact Dane Baxa at: [dane.baxa@wichita.edu](mailto:dane.baxa@wichita.edu).



### Arbitrator Sides with Kansas in Multiyear Dispute with Nebraska

On October 7, 2010 an arbitrator sided with Kansas in a pair of disputes over the use of water from the Republican River. Specifically the arbitrator’s decision stated that Nebraska could not continue to over-use water that naturally would flow to Kansas and simply pay fines for it. Changes offered up by Nebraska, which would provide the state with water credits if the state paid for their violations of the Republican River contract, were also rejected by the arbitrator. Attorney General

Steve Six assured Kansans that the state would, “Continue to pursue the water they are entitled to under the Republican River Compact and litigation settlement terms.” Division of Water Resources Chief Engineer, David Barfield, also was greatly encouraged by the ruling and noted that the Department of Agriculture and DWR would, “Continue to assert Kansans’

water rights in this case.” The arbitrator also ruled in favor of Kansas in regards to Colorado’s planned pipeline to offset the

effects of groundwater depletion. For more information on this ruling and the full



story, please visit: [www.ksda.gov/interstate\\_water\\_issues](http://www.ksda.gov/interstate_water_issues).

### KDHE Calls for Proposal for Nonpoint Source Projects

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s Bureau of Water is now accepting proposals for nonpoint source pollution abatement projects. Funding for these projects is made available by the Green Project Reserve portion of the FY 2010 Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund. Selected projects will receive funds in the form of

loans, with principal forgiveness. Eligible projects may be submitted by state and local government agencies, public universities, and nonprofit organizations. Submitted projects should focus on water quality, with the goals

of restoring or maintaining natural hydrology, and promoting

sustainable water resources management. For more information please visit:

[www.kdheks.gov/nps/index.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/index.html).



### Water and the Future of Kansas Conference Recap

The Water and the Future of Kansas Conference was held on October 26th, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kansas. The Conference consisted of one morning general session, a lunch presentation on The state economy, and two afternoon general sessions. The morning general session focused on the key issues involving water in Kansas, including presentations by former

Governor Mike Hayden, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, on sustaining Kansas water resources and Secretary of Agriculture, Josh Svaty, on the structure of sustainability. Afternoon breakout sessions included presentations on

watershed sedimentation, water quality, watershed conservation,

municipal water sustainability, and nutrient management.

For a full conference agenda and presentations please visit:

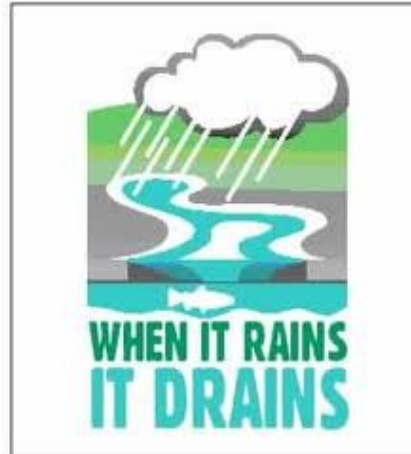
[www.dce.k-state.edu/](http://www.dce.k-state.edu/).



## Johnson County Stormwater Solutions Tour a Success

On October 14th REAP WRC Members, community leaders, and environmental educators traveled to Johnson County for the 2010 Stormwater Solutions Tour. The trip featured lunch and a tour of Johnson County's Extension Office, followed by presentations on various stormwater projects, and site visits of several Johnson Co. facilities and projects. During the trip participants learned how Johnson County communities solved stormwater problems, finding that the county preferred plants over pipelines to control stormwater runoff and preserve

water quality. With the help of a 0.2% sales tax, passed by the Kansas State Legislature in 1988, Johnson County was able to acquire funding for



stormwater development. Johnson County was the only county to take advantage of the sales tax, and since then has raised over \$200 million to pay for a network of wetlands, and other natural

filtering systems. These systems allowed for the creation of new parks and increased value for residential developers. Through this tour, the GreenWay Alliance and REAP

hope to spur ideas for managing stormwater within the region. For more information on Johnson County's Stormwater Management Program please visit:

[www.stormwater.joco.org](http://www.stormwater.joco.org) and

## Equus Beds Aquifer Model Being Developed by U.S. Geological Survey

In cooperation with DWR, GMD #2, and the City of Wichita, The U.S. Geological Survey is in the process of building a groundwater model of the Equus Beds aquifer in south-central Kansas. Through this effort the City of Wichita will be able to quantify the operations of the Aquifer Storage and Recover Project and more accurately monitor the transportation of chlorides in the Arkansas River. The model may also

be used for refining estimates of the region's safe yield for the purposes of granting new

appropriations. For more information on the Equus Beds aquifer groundwater model and past models, please visit:

[www.ksda.gov/dwr](http://www.ksda.gov/dwr).



## What is the REAP Water Resources Committee?

In 2007, the Water Resources Committee was formed as a subset committee of REAP with the purpose of serving as a regional forum and informational resource for water quality and quantity issues in South Central Kansas. The Committee is currently comprised of 27 cities and counties. The WRC also serves as a regional voice on behalf of the members before federal, state and regional agencies. Interested communities can attend our meetings and contact the Committee's Executive Officer, Dane Baxa, at the information below to learn more about the Committee.

### WaterWise

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Feedback and topic suggestions are welcome!

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