

September /
October
2010



Looking Ahead

September 13
8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
REAP & WRC Meeting
WSU Metroplex

September 14
6:00 p.m.
GMD #2
Halstead

September 22
9:00 a.m.
Lower Arkansas BAC
GMD #5 Field Office
Stafford

September 22
5:30p.m.
Walnut BAC
Pizza Hut
Augusta

September 28
Kansas WRAPS Meeting
Topeka

October 26
Water and the Future of
Kansas Conference
Topeka

EPA Proposes Drinking Water Rule Revision to Protect Public Health

In order to protect public health against waterborne pathogens, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to revise national primary drinking water regulations. Waterborne pathogens are the leading cause of a variety of illnesses, and the EPA seeks to protect people from potential exposure to these dangerous microbes. To do this, the EPA is calling for a revision to the 1989 Total Coliform Rule (TCR). This change seeks to incorporate improvements based on recommendations from a federal advisory committee of key

stakeholders. The revised regulations will require water utilities to

regularly monitor for microbial contamination. For more information on the TCR and its proposed changes please visit: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/>.



EPA's Launches Program to Encourage Conservation

The EPA recently kicked off its national WaterSense "We're For Water" campaign to encourage Americans to make simple choices to conserve water. Beginning in July, the EPA, in partnership with American Water, traveled across the country to educate Americans about WaterSense products. These products use 20% less water than standard products, and include a variety of fixtures for faucets, toilets and showerheads. Through this program the EPA hopes to protect the future of the nation's water supply by educating Americans on simple ways to use less water. In 2009 the EPA's WaterSense program saved over 36 billion gallons of water and \$267 million on water and sewer bills. For more information on this year's WaterSense campaign please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>.



Baxa Begins Work as New Executive Officer for the WRC

Dane Baxa has joined REAP as the new Executive Officer for the Water Resources



Committee. Baxa recently served as Coordinator for the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment's EARTH and WaterLINK programs at the Kansas State Research and

Extension office in Sedgwick County. He received both an undergraduate and MBA degree from Kansas Wesleyan University and will complete a Masters of Environmental Science degree from Friends University in 2011. Baxa looks Forward to working with the WRC and will be visiting its member communities over the next several weeks to discuss water related issues and regional priorities.

Essay Examines the Historical Link Between Water and Economic Activity in Kansas

Recently discovered by DWR staff, James Sherow's 2002 essay titled "The Art of Water and the Art of Living" shows a fascinating perspective on the link between water use and economic activity in Kansas. Highlighted in Sherow's essay is George Knapp, the first chief engineer of the Kansas Division of Water Resources, who had a profound impact on how Kansans developed water for economic purposes. Mr. Knapp was involved with Kansas water resource

management from 1910 until his retirement in 1950. The essay also features several key events in Kansas' water resource history to explain the tension between economic use of water and environmental considerations.



Knapp

Particularly the essay touches on the development of irrigation in western

Kansas, interstate river compact negotiations and litigation, and the transition of Kansas water law. Sherow also shows how the "American conservation movement" and the "ideology of mechanism" influenced Knapp and DWR. The essay includes a variety of historic photographs to illustrate points and put historical events into context.

For more information on this article and the full essay please visit the DWR website at:

<http://www.ksda.gov/.dwr/content>.

KWA Approves \$19 Million Dollar State Water Plan Budget at August Meeting

At its August 5-6 meeting the Kansas Water Authority approved a 2012 State Water Plan budget request of \$19 million. This budget is expected to address water quality and quantity issues in Kansas. The KWA hopes that by investing in water resources now, Kansans will benefit from an abundant quality water supply in the future. Drawing funds

from the State Water Plan Fund, KWA's 2012 budget request seeks to restore the fund's \$6 million general fund transfer, which was reduced to \$1.4 million for the current fiscal year. Upon legislative approval during the 2010-2011



session, the budget will help the Authority work towards the long term sustainability of water resources in Kansas as well as promoting conservation, protecting reservoirs, and preventing pollution. For more information on the approved KWA 2012 State Water Plan budget request please visit: <http://www.kwo.org>.

Upcoming Statewide Conference

The 27th Annual Water and the Future of Kansas Conference will take place on October 26th at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Conference registration begins at 8:00 am with general sessions from 8:30 am to noon, a lunch discussion over the state of the economy, and concurrent



sessions from 1pm to 4pm. This year's conference is a one day event and will adjourn at 4:00 pm. Conference attendees will be provided information on the current status of water in Kansas, and will get the chance to interact with others who share an interest, responsibility, or concern for water. Communities

and organizations with an interest in water are encouraged to attend this conference, as it serves as a forum for those who study, plan, regulate, or are interested in influencing decision on how waters are managed. For more information on the 2010 Water and the Future of Kansas Conference please visit the conference website at: <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf>.

Hutchinson Issued Permits for Groundwater Withdrawals from Remediation Wells

Since its completion in 2009, the Hutchinson reverse osmosis treatment plant has pumped and treated contaminated groundwater to prevent the spread of the contamination to other water supplies. This plant has allowed the City of Hutchinson to supplement other water supplies with the purified water from its treatment plant. On July 6th, Chief Engineer David Barfield issued four water appropriation permits, which authorize groundwater withdrawals from the remediation wells for municipal use. These permits will replace previous term permits that

authorized diversions for contamination remediation. By acquiring these permits the city will be able to move forward in



developing and obtaining a water right, instead of term permits, over the next ten years. These permits also recognize that the reclaimed water serves Hutchinson's water

supply needs, allowing the remediation to count as water treatment. The new permits, however, are limited and in combination with the city's other water rights allow for a quantity adequate to serve the city and immediate vicinity for the next 20 years. By working with GMD #2 and the City of Hutchinson, DWR was able to create an equitable, efficient and economic solution for the provision of water within the City of Hutchinson. For more information on this story please visit <http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/content/>.

GMD #2 Reward Grant for Water Conservation Project

On July 2nd, the United States Department of Agriculture awarded the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District #2 a \$1,135,00 grant for water conservation. Under the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, this grant will be used by GMD #2 for the improvement of irrigation efficiency and for the installation of flowmeters. GMD #2's proposal was selected through a competitive process



which used a variety of factors, including statutory priority areas and water conservation activities, to determine the best candidates. For more

information on this story please visit <http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/content/>.

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 26 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

c/o REAP Water Resources Committee
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Feedback and topic suggestions are welcome!

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