



Looking Ahead

November 3

8:30 am
REAP Retreat
WSU Metroplex

November 17

8 am
Water Resources
Committee
WSU Metroplex

November 17 (10 am) and 18 (9 am)

Legislative Interim
Committee: *Eminent
Domain and Water
Rights*, chaired by
Sen. Carolyn McGinn
Topeka Capitol
Statehouse
Room 535 N

December 10

8:30 am
KS Water Issues
Forum—Wichita
SG Co. Extension
Education Center

December 11

8:30 am
KS Water Issues
Forum—Hays
KSU Agriculture
Resources Center

Dietzmann Visit a Success

Noted attorney and author [Elizabeth Dietzmann](#) was a guest speaker for the Water Resources Committee on October 15th. She presented her thoughts regarding territory disputes between rural water districts and cities. Ms. Dietzmann is known for her well rounded approach to the issue. She encouraged RWDs and cities to work cooperatively to resolve disputes to avoid the high costs of litigation. As one of her recent articles discusses, she also holds the USDA at least partially accountable for failing to force mandatory mediation, following their own regulations for loan review, and lacking a leadership role on the issue. Ms. Dietzmann complimented the cooperative efforts of the Committee to bring resolution to the issue.



Water Issues Forum

The [Kansas Water Issues Forum](#), hosted by the Basin Advisory Committees, will be December 10th, 2008 in Wichita and on December 11th in Hays. The forum is free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided. Reservations are suggested as space is limited. Breakout session topics include Water Harvesting, Republican River Compact, Expense of Water Treatment, and Biofuels: The Environment and Economy. Register by visiting the Kansas Water Office site at www.kwo.org by Monday, November 17th.



Meet Chairman Willis Heck

We'd like to take the chance in our first newsletter to highlight Commissioner Willis Heck. Aside from his duties as Chairman of the WRC, he is serving a third consecutive term as Commissioner in the City of Newton. Willis received a B.S. from Sterling College, and a M.S. from Emporia State University. His career in education ranged from a classroom teacher to school psychologist, building administrator, and as superintendent of schools in Parsons and Newton from 1980 until his retirement. In 2006 Commissioner Heck



received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Newton Chamber of Commerce. He also served as REAP chair from 2004–2006. We are very fortunate to have Commissioner Heck as Chair and look forward to his continued leadership as the Committee looks forward to its second year.

Groundwater Study Does Not Receive Funding

The Kansas Water Office contacted the Water Resources Committee earlier this year to partner on a second study funded by the Bureau of Reclamation titled “Brackish Groundwater Characterization and Treatment— South Central Kansas,” which was intended to



study aquifers having high levels of contaminants, particularly salts.

Unfortunately, the Committee received notification on October 23 that study was not selected as one to be funded. According to the Bureau, unless the U.S. Geological Survey leads the effort and can provide the funding, the study is unlikely to move forward.

Kansas Water Authority Proposes 50% Increase in Water Fees to Meet Budget Demands

Representatives from the Kansas Water Office are providing presentations as requested about the Kansas Water Authority’s proposal to increase all water user fees by 50%. The fees have not been raised in almost twenty years so this could be a ‘hot topic’ in the upcoming legislative session. The State Water Plan Fund will gain a projected \$4.67

million from the fee increase. The money is planned to provide funding for a number of on-going programs and projects that would otherwise be short on funding. A few of those programs

The proposed fee increase could be a ‘hot topic’ in the next legislative session

could include wetland and riparian protection, reservoir sedimentation, purchase of additional reservoir storage, and the City of Wichita’s Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project. The final proposed budget will be published around November 15th. For more information visit www.kwo.org

Legislative Committee to Discuss Eminent Domain for Water Rights

Senator Carolyn McGinn of the 31st District is the chair of the Legislature’s Special Committee titled *Eminent Domain in Condemnation of Water Rights*. Topics proposed for their November 18th and 19th meeting include a study of the use of eminent domain as it relates to water rights and a



review of recent legislative proposals related to local annexation. Specifically, the committee is charged with studying 2008 House Bill 2747 which deals with unilateral annexation and requiring voter approval. Mrs. McGinn (R- Sedgwick) is also a member of the Lower Arkansas River Basin Advisory Board so she has great insight into some of the issues the REAP region encounters. The committee meeting is set to

begin at 10 am on Tuesday the 18th and at 9 am on Wednesday the 19th in committee meeting room 535 North in the Capitol building. This should be a productive and informative committee. The Water Resources Committee will provide updates. You can also visit www.kslegislature.org for additional reports.



Ground Water Management District #2 Updates...

- Of the 9 board members, 3 seats are up for election on January 2nd. At the October meeting, two of those board members indicated they will not be seeking reelection; Kirk Larson and Frank Harper.
- The City of Wichita's Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project Phase II applications are under review. The City and GMD 2 are working on a Memorandum of Understanding before moving forward. Construction for the project is set to commence in the fall of 2009.
- As of October 20th, Tracey Rockett of Halstead took over the position of District Hydrologist. The position had been left vacant upon Tim Boese's acceptance of the Manager's position in November 2007.

Lower Arkansas and Walnut Basin Updates...

Both the Lower Arkansas and Walnut Basin Advisory Committees recently discussed the need for REAP's involvement in developing a comprehensive regional watershed based plan to manage urbanization and minimize impacts on water resources in the region. This would be a pilot project for the state to encourage other regional plans of its kind. More meetings will be conducted to determine the cost, scope, and timeline. Funding is a key component that is yet to be determined.



Lower Arkansas Basin Priority Issues

- Rattlesnake Creek Sub-basin
- Long Term Public Water Supply
- Role of Reuse in Water Conservation
- BioEnergy and Water

Walnut Basin Priority Issues

- Recreational Use of Walnut River
- Planning for Urbanization
- Watershed Restoration and Protection
- Surface Water Supply and Conservation
- Comprehensive Flood Assessment

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 conduit of information and education regarding water quality and quantity issues in the South Central Kansas Region. The WRC also serves as a regional voice on behalf of the members before federal, state and regional agencies. The Committee is currently comprised of 23 cities and counties. Interested communities are encouraged to attend WRC meetings and contact the Committee's Executive Officer, Angela Buzard, at the information below to learn more about the Committee.



WaterWise

c/o REAP Water Resources Committee
Hugo Wall School
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 155
Wichita, KS 67260

Feedback and topic suggestions are welcome!

Please contact Angela Buzard
Phone: (316) 978-3401
E-mail: angela.buzard@wichita.edu
Website: www.reap-ks.org