

January/February
2009



Looking Ahead

January 12
8 am
REAP Meeting
followed by
Water Resources
approx. 9:30 am
WSU Metroplex

January 28 & 29
Kansas Water Authority
Topeka

January 29 & 30
KS Natural Resources
Conference
Wichita Airport Hilton

January 31
10 am- 3 pm
Regional Energy
Conference and Fair
WSU Metroplex

February 19
10 am
WRC Technical
Subcommittee
WSU Metroplex

Going Blue: The New Green

The push for 'going green' at home has been in full swing for sometime now, but the 'going *blue*' trend is still emerging. As part of the blue trend, the first home earning the WaterSense® label was finished in Chapel Hill, N.C. in November. Homes built to WaterSense specifications are designed to use 20% less water than conventional homes by including WaterSense labeled products and using water efficient features and practices. WaterSense was introduced by the EPA in 2006 as a tool for Americans to save water and protect the environment by identifying water efficient products and new construction. In 2007, WaterSense partners were responsible for labeling, selling, and promoting more than 193,000 products, saving the U.S. more than 277 million gallons of water annually. More information is online at: www.epa.gov/watersense/



The WRC had a successful first year! Using results of a committee survey, members evaluated past, ongoing, and future projects/activities at their November meeting. Results revealed an emphasis for the coming year will be placed on municipal growth issues, creating a regional water plan, and providing additional educational opportunities. The committee also recommended a 2009 budget and work

Class Action Lawsuit Settled

Park City was one of over 150 plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit brought against nearly all of the country's large oil companies regarding the pollution of water wells serving municipal water systems by Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE). The compound is carcinogenic and water soluble which allowed it to move easily and quickly from leaking gasoline tanks into the underground water supply. A settlement was reached in May of 2008 totaling \$422 million on top of a guarantee to treat wells that have yet to be impacted but show the potential for MTBE contamination in the future. Exxon Mobile was a major non-settling defendant that has vowed to continue the legal fight.

The total settlement was approximately \$422 million.

REAP Water Resources Committee 2008 Highlights & Survey Results

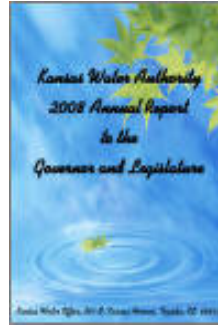
plan to the full REAP Board which were approved on December 8th. 2008 WRC Highlights include:

- Forming the Municipal Utility Growth Issues Special Committee to research territorial disputes between RWD's and Municipalities
- Touring the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project
- Hosting a Regional Water Conference
- Compiling regional Water Supply and Demand information
- Developing and distributing *WaterWise*, the Committee's bi-monthly newsletter

2008 KWA Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature

Citing the direct link between water and the Kansas economy, the Kansas Water Authority emphasized the importance of strategic planning in its Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature posted online in November. Funds for the 2010 budget total \$35.1 million including \$20.9 million in base funding, \$4.7 million in proposed enhancement funds from fee increases and another \$9.5 million

from the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund (ELARF). ELARF funds would be dedicated to Reservoir Debt Reduction and Water infrastructure. Maintaining and improving water quality, storage, and delivery in Kansas is the highest priority for



the Kansas Water Authority. This forward thinking approach on maintenance and preventative projects will ensure a healthy and sustainable water supply and infrastructure for future Kansans. Looking to the future, KWA will depend on additional revenue sources as current funding sources cannot keep up with the growing demands. The full report is available online at www.kwo.org

Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service Conference

The Wichita Airport Hilton will host the 2nd Annual Kansas Natural Resources Conference, titled



“Renewable Energy–Renewable Resources” on January 29 & 30. Session speakers include representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, the Environmental Working Group, The Nature Conservancy’s Flint Hills

Initiative, and Westar Energy’s Green team. A tradeshow with booths from various vendors will accompany the conference. Early registration rates are available until January 8. Hotel information and a tentative schedule is available at www.kansasnrc.net

EPA Issues New Requirements for Controlling Manure

On October 31 the EPA finalized a rule designed to protect water quality across the nation by requiring concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) to safely manage manure. In Kansas, the requirements will be implemented by KDHE. The EPA predicts the new regulations will prevent 56 million pounds of phosphorus, 110 million pounds of nitrogen, and 2 billion pounds of sediment from entering streams, lakes, and other waters.

New regulations require a nutrient management plan (NMP) for manure to be submitted as part of a CAFO’s Clean water Act permit application. Currently, an operator of a CAFO that discharges to waters must apply for a permit under the Clean Water Act. Now, operators who do not discharge can show their commitment to pollution prevention by obtaining “zero discharger” certification. The rule also includes technical

clarifications regarding water quality based effluent limitations and use of best management practices to meet zero discharge requirements. The deadline for newly defined facilities to apply for permits is Feb 27, 2009, and more information can be found at <http://www.kdheks.gov/feedlots/>



Hutchison's Reverse Osmosis Plant Near Completion

In the early 1980's, a well located in the city of Hutchison was found to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Community leaders and the City took action to keep the industrial area from being classified as a Superfund site by assuming responsibility of the clean-up once financial agreements were made with the companies suspected for the contamination. In addition to the settlement payments, a tax increment finance (TIF) district was established in 1996 to provide some tax funding for actual groundwater cleanup and remediation work.

Cleanup efforts hit a road block when officials discovered they were unable to discharge the treated well water to a nearby stream due to high levels of chlorides (salts). The city began looking for a solution to address not only the site in question, but also other

industrial contamination in the area. The most effective means to remove both VOCs and chlorides from the water is through the reverse osmosis (RO) treatment process, thus the City decided to construct a Reverse Osmosis (RO)



Water Treatment Plant. The project includes source area remediation treatment, miles of buried pipelines, groundwater remediation extraction wells, deep disposal wells and an RO treatment facility. The RO Project provides a regional solution to the widespread groundwater contamination

problem in the City's southeast industrial area, resulting in an economically beneficial and environmentally sound approach to cleaning up the groundwater contamination.

The project is estimated to cost around \$34 million dollars. Funds for the project include \$12 million received from companies responsible for the groundwater contamination, \$1 million from the TIF district tax proceeds, \$3.4 million from EPA grants, and \$16.7 million from KDHE low interest revolving loans. Revenue generated from the City's water rate payers will be used for the KDHE loan repayment.

Project construction is 80% complete with a projected final completion date of April 2009. For information and a map of the site, visit the City's Water, Sewer and Wastewater page at www.hutchgov.com

What is the 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 Committee is currently comprised of 25 cities and counties. The WRC also serves as a regional voice on behalf of the members before federal, state and regional agencies. Interested communities are encouraged to attend our meetings and contact the Committee's Executive Officer, Angela Buzard, 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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