



# WaterWise

From the REAP Water Resources Committee

**March/April  
2009**



## Looking Ahead

### March 16

8 am  
Water Resources  
Committee  
WSU Metroplex

### March 24, 25, & 26

Kansas Rural Water  
Association Conference  
Century II  
Wichita KS

### March 26

8:30 am—5 pm  
Water and the Future of  
Kansas Conference  
“Assessing Impacts”  
Topeka, KS

### April 16

9 am  
WRC Technical  
Subcommittee  
WSU Metroplex

### May 17-20

National Watershed  
Coalition Conference  
Wichita Marriott  
Wichita, KS

## \$55.2 Million for KS Water Funds

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 includes \$7.2 billion for EPA water programs. The EPA announced \$4 billion will be contributed towards Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and \$2 billion will be used for drinking water Infrastructure needs. It is estimated Kansas will receive \$35.7 million for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and \$19.5 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.



Clean Water Fund projects are chosen state by state and finance a wide variety of water quality initiatives, whereas Drinking Water State Revolving Fund projects assistance public and community water systems on compliance with national drinking water regulation compliance.

## \$58.4 Million for Conservation

The recent federal farm bill established \$58.4 million in financial assistance for agricultural producers and entities through the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). The program provides technical and



financial assistance to help farmers and ranchers carry out water enhancement activities that conserve ground and surface water and improve water quality on agricultural land. Enhancement projects include conversion to less water-intensive agricultural projects, irrigation system improvement or efficiency enhancement, and activities designed to reduce drought impacts. Agricultural producers can apply for available AWEP funds at their local USDA service center.

## 2nd Annual Regional Water Conference hosted by the WRC

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Regional Water Conference hosted by the REAP Water Resources Committee. The one day event will be Thursday, May 28th at the Grand Prairie Hotel in Hutchinson. The Conference will feature “Community Partnerships for Water Solutions” and will highlight the City of Hutchinson’s Reverse Osmosis Plant among other innovative projects in the state and the nation. Attendees will also get the opportunity to hear from state officials on the most current state water issues. Last

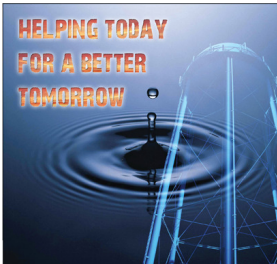
year’s event had over 100 attendees and served as a great networking opportunity for the region’s local government officials. Registration is free for WRC member communities, and a small fee applies to non-members. Details for the event are still being



developed. Additional information on registration and an agenda will be sent via e-mail as well as posted on the WRC website at [www.reap-ks.org](http://www.reap-ks.org)

## Upcoming Kansas Water Conferences

The 42nd Annual KRWA conference will be at Century II Convention Center in Wichita on March 24–26.



Topics for this year include a concurrent session describing a successfully mediated RWD and city territorial dispute as well as a panel entitled

“Perspectives On Water Service Territories” including a developer, RWD rep. and water utilities director. If your schedule will not allow for a three day conference, consider instead the “Water and the Future of Kansas” conference on March 26 in Topeka. Session topics include “The Water Footprint of Energy from Biomass” and “Impacts of a New Administration: Challenges and Opportunities

Regarding Water Quality and Quantity.” The featured speaker is Dr.

Winnie Gerbens–Leenes of the University of Twente in the Netherlands, whose research uses the water footprint concept to study the relationship of water and biomass production. Registration details can be found at [www.krwa.net](http://www.krwa.net) and [www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/waterfuture/](http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/waterfuture/)



## Kansas Natural Resources Conference a Success

The 2nd Annual Kansas Natural Resources Conference was held January 29–30 at the airport Hilton hotel in Wichita. A collaboration of six professional societies including the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams sponsored the conference which had a series

of water related sessions. Among these were a demonstration of WARAT, a web–based decision tool for managing reduced irrigation by assessing risks and profit goals developed by KSU followed by explanations of solar powered livestock watering systems and water pumping for “green”

agricultural water management. The event hosted hundreds of attendees, multiple vendor booths and a variety of speakers which made it a great networking opportunity. Visit [www.kansasnrc.net](http://www.kansasnrc.net) for more information.

## Hutchinson Water Projects Honored by EPA

On January 6, the city of Hutchinson was honored for its multiple innovative water infrastructure projects including the reverse osmosis plant featured in the last edition of Waterwise. EPA officials presented the Hutchinson City Council with the 2008 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Award and the 2008 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Awards for the cities efforts to remediate contaminated groundwater, reduce salt loading to

the Cow Creek and Arkansas River watersheds, and produce potable water for the cities water system. The projects have resulted in the construction of remediation and extraction wells, raw water pipelines, distribution pipelines,

**“The people of Hutchinson can be proud of these investments”**

and a reverse osmosis water treatment plant. EPA Region 7 Administrator John Askew believes “The People of Hutchinson can be proud of these investments. These projects not only provide Hutchinson with an excellent quality of drinking water now and into the future, but they also serve to improve downstream water quality.” Congratulations go out to the city of Hutchinson for its hard work and well–deserved recognition on these projects.

## Water Commissioner Retires After 38 Years with the State of Kansas



On December 12, 2008, the Division of Water Resources said goodbye to Mr. M. Bruce Falk, who has served as the 3rd Water Commissioner in the Stafford Field Office for 17 years. Mr. Falk spent almost 38 years of his career in service with the state. A reception was held to recognize his contributions to the state of Kansas. Congratulations, Bruce, and enjoy your retirement, you've earned it!

## Groundwater Management District #2 Election Results

Equus Beds Groundwater Management District # 2 held elections for 3 of 9 board of director positions on February 10, 2009. Vin Kissick and Mike McGinn, both of Sedgwick County, are newly elected and Dennis Gruenbacher was reelected for another term. Board officers recently changed as well. In January, Larry Jacob of Sedgwick County became President of the Board, David Stroberg of Reno County became Vice President, Fred Seiler of McPherson County became Secretary and Don Koci of Reno County is now Treasurer. Information on the district's current activities can be found online at [www.gmd2.org](http://www.gmd2.org).



## WRC and KS Water Office Submits Letter of Interest

The Kansas Water Office in cooperation with the REAP WRC have submitted a joint letter of interest to the Bureau of Reclamation for funding from the "Water for America" program. Water for America is a merging of three existing Bureau water supply management programs and through partnerships uses the latest technology to help state, local, and tribal governments respond to changing water needs. The KWO and the WRC look to use the programs funding and services to compile a comprehensive regional watershed plan. More information on Water for America can be found online at <http://www.usbr.gov/wfa/>

## What is the REAP Water Resources Committee?

In 2007, the Water Resources Committee was formed as a 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 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 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**  
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](mailto:angela.buzard@wichita.edu)  
Website: [www.reap-ks.org](http://www.reap-ks.org)