



WaterWise

From the REAP Water Resources Committee



Looking Ahead

September 21
8:00 a.m.
WRC Meeting
WSU Metroplex

September 7
8:00 a.m.
REAP Meeting
WSU Metroplex

September 14-16
Dust Bowl to Mud Bowl
Soil & Water
Conservation Society
Kansas City, MO

September 24 & 25
KAWS Annual Meeting
KS Wetlands Ed. Center
Great Bend, KS

September 30 & Oct. 1
Disaster Mgmt for Water
& Wastewater Utilities
Wichita Water Center
Wichita, KS

October 8
9:00 a.m.
Joint Lower Arkansas &
Walnut BAC Meeting
WSU Metroplex

Management is Key to Water in the West

A study by the University of Colorado Boulder reports that if, as some studies predict, climate change results in a 10 % reduction in the Colorado River's average stream flow, the chances of fully depleting reservoir storage for the river will exceed 25% by 2057. If climate change results in a 20% reduction in flow, the changes jump to 50% by the same year. As roughly 30 million people depend on the Colorado River for drinking and irrigation water, the potential for water shortages is widespread. The study concludes that the scope of the risk will depend on the extent of climate change related drought and on the types of water management and conservation strategies that are established. The study was published in the American Geophysical Union Journal and more information can be found in the press release at <http://www.colorado.edu/news/r/f0f273435508fe6525e5e4903baa539b.html>



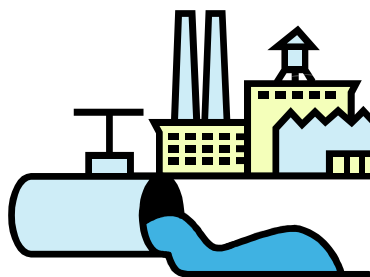
World Water Monitoring Day

Friday, September 18th is the start of the 5th Annual World Water Monitoring Day, an effort to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. The event is designed to engage people of all ages in monitoring the condition of local water bodies and had over 73,000 participants from 70 countries in 2008. By using their own equipment or purchasing an easy to use test kit from the organization, participants sample local water bodies for a core set of water quality parameters such as temperature and turbidity. Results are then shared with participating communities around the world through the World Water Monitoring Month website. For more information about World Water Monitoring Month or to participate, visit the WWMD website at <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.com/>



2009 REAP Wastewater Rates Survey Now Available Online

As a complement to the water rate survey of REAP members conducted by Water Resources Committee staff earlier this year, a wastewater rate survey of the same REAP communities has now been compiled. Like the water rates survey, the data is designed to help municipalities compare their own rates to the rates of nearby communities or those that are similar in size. The survey also allows staff to compile

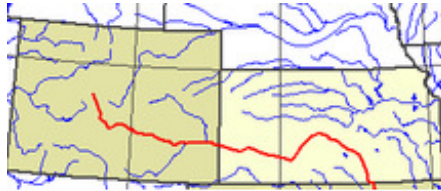


regional averages that can be compared to other state and national figures. Monthly base fees range from \$4.70-\$31.00 and the average monthly household use, 5000 gallons, costs an average of \$24.12. Rates for 5,000 gallons across the region range from \$10-\$37.50. Both surveys are scheduled to be updated annually. To learn more and to see the data sets and calculations visit the REAP website at www.reap-ks.org/water.html.

Kansas & Colorado File Jointly to End Kansas v. Colorado Lawsuit

In 1948, the Kansas–Colorado Arkansas River Compact was negotiated in conjunction with the Federal government to settle existing disputes and remove causes of future controversy between the states concerning the Arkansas River waters and John Martin Reservoir. In 1985, Kansas filed suit against Colorado for violation of the Compact. The case resulted in four opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court, which approved a complex computer program to calculate water

depletions in Colorado and required Colorado to pay \$34 million in damages to Kansas for past overuse



of water. On Tuesday, August 4, 2009 the states jointly filed to end the U.S. Supreme Court's active consideration of the Kansas v. Colorado lawsuit that has spanned more than two decades. Chief

Engineer David Barfield of Kansas and State Engineer Dick Wolfe of Colorado reached an agreement on the final technical issues pending in the case that specifies how Colorado's replacement requirements will be evaluated to ensure compliance with the Arkansas River Compact. More information on the history of the case can be found online at the KDA's Interstate Water Issues Page. http://www.ksda.gov/interstate_water_issues/content/143

Kansas Water Authority Urges Caution with Clean Water Restoration Act

On July 29, 2009 the Kansas Water Authority issued a statement urging Congress to use caution when considering the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2009. The proposed legislation intends to restore Clean Water Act levels that were in place before several judicial opinions limited water bodies

subject to enforcement actions under the Act. KWA believes the proposed federal measure would unnecessarily expand the scope of the Clean Water Act and would override state law to potentially expose more citizens to federal and private legal intervention. KWA notes that because of existing state

regulations, the state of Kansas does not need additional authority should a pollution problem arise. The Clean Water Act will reemerge in the United States Congress when legislators return from summer recess in early September, and its progress can be followed online at www.senate.gov/

KWA Releases FY 2011 State Water Plan Fund Recommendations

The Kansas Water Authority is remaining optimistic regarding the future transfer of state demand funds. For FY2010, \$6 million in state transfer funds to the Kansas Water Plan were held back at the state level to help counteract the massive budget



deficit in the state. Kansas Water Authority officials are building the FY2011 Water Plan budget under the assumption that the \$6 million from the General Fund will be re-instated. At the same time, the Water Authority is taking an in-depth look at how current Water Plan funds are

being spent and will continue to review data at the next two KWA meetings in November and January. Kansas Water Authority Officials are also working with stakeholder groups to identify new potential funding sources for the State Water Plan Fund. Review a memo from the KWA as well as the proposed budget on the WRC website at <http://www.reap-ks.org/water.html>

FREE Disaster Management Workshop, September 30–October 1, 2009 in Wichita

The Kansas Department of Emergency Management is hosting a FREE Disaster Management Workshop for Water and Wastewater Utility Professionals on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2009 at the Wichita Water Center. The course will provide training on preparing for, responding to, and recovering from incidents affecting water and wastewater facilities. Various natural and man-made, accidental



and intentional hazards to which water systems may be vulnerable will be explained, as well as other measures that can mitigate threats. Participants will also hear sessions on major legislative requirements regarding water and wastewater

preparedness and responding to threats. The target audience for this course ranges from water and wastewater utility personnel, lab personnel, inspectors, and elected officials. Interested participants are asked to register online at

<https://ks.train.org/DesktopModules/eLearning/CourseDetails/CourseDetailsForm.aspx?tabid=96&courseid=1018511>

US Senate Approves Water Projects for Three South Central Kansas Reservoirs

In late July Kansas Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback announced the United States Senate passed the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which contains critical investments in Kansas' infrastructure. For the REAP Region, notable inclusions in the bill are \$405,000 for the Wichita Project–Cheney Lake Equus Beds division,



\$786,000 for El Dorado Lake, and \$1.82 million for Marion Lake. While this money is a tremendous help in funding reservoir sustainability, some Kansas officials are concerned that

the portion of operation and maintenance costs paid by the state and assurance district's will rise above manageable levels due to the large influx of funds in one year and the variance in proportional costs between reservoirs. On a broader scale, the bill includes \$60 million to preserve and restore fish habitats in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Montana. After approval from the senate, the bill is now headed for a conference committee with the similar bill that was passed in the House of Representatives to rectify the differences between the two approved bills. Conference committees will resume meeting after Tuesday, September 8, 2009 when Congress returns from summer recess.

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 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 attend our meetings and contact the Committee's Executive Officer, Angela Buzard, at the information below to learn more about the Committee.



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Feedback and topic suggestions are welcome!
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