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EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

GROUNDWATER NEWS

DISTRICT'S AWEP PROPOSAL APPROVED FOR FY 2010

The District submitted a proposal to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in May to receive funding for the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). The District's proposal was approved, in the amount of \$1,135,000 for FY 2010 for the purpose of addressing groundwater resources issues, specifically inefficient water use on irrigated land and aquifer overdraft. The other two approvals in Kansas were Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #4 in Colby, and Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5 in Stafford. Kansas did not have any approved AWEP proposals in 2009.

The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality.

As part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), AWEP operates through program contracts with producers to plan and implement conservation practices in project areas established through partnership agreements. Project proposals are approved based upon an estimated amount of funding requested by the partner. The District requested \$1,135,000 per year for 5 years for a total of \$5,675,000. The actual dollar amount available for each fiscal year will be determined by NRCS.

The AWEP funds available in the District will provide financial assistance for producers to upgrade to more efficient systems (ie. flood irrigation to sub-surface drip irrigation or center pivot, etc.) In addition to system upgrades, producers will be able to receive financial assistance to utilize irrigation water management plans, such as K-State's "KanSched".

If eligible, producers could receive a one-time payment of \$650 per acre to convert to sub-surface drip irrigation, and \$325 per acre to convert to efficient sprinkler (ie. center pivot). Utilizing an irrigation water management plan pays \$10 per acre for 3 years. Additional funding for FY 2010 may be available for underground irrigation water conveyance pipeline installation when converting to a higher efficiency system. A higher per acre payment for using irrigation water management plan may be available if the producer reduces current water use by a minimum of 35%. Funding caps and limitations may apply to any or all of the funding requests.

Program applicants must meet the eligibility requirements of the EQIP program and must apply for assistance through local NRCS field offices. The deadline for all applications to be submitted to local NRCS field offices is August 13, 2010. If EQIP paperwork has previously been submitted, it needs to be updated as soon as possible to meet the requirements of the AWEP program.

If interested, contact your local NRCS office as soon as possible — time is of the essence, as the deadline for all applications is August 13, 2010.

See additional information at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep

AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS ADOPTED

HALSTEAD — Amendments to the District's Safe Yield Regulation K.A.R. 5-22-7 were approved by the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources (DWR), and became effective May 14, 2010. The modifications to the regulation further restrict the "small use" exemption to the safe yield regulation by not allowing a water permit application requesting an exemption to be combined with another water permit, right, or application on a common place of use, or pumped through a common distribution pipe that would then exceed 15 acre-feet per year.

The regulation exemption already prohibits combining with another water permit, right, or application point of diversion (i.e. well) that would then exceed 15 acre-feet per year authorized from the point of diversion. Further restrictions apply and a "small use" application must comply with all other applicable regulations. The District Board of Directors believe that the approved regulation modifications were necessary to meet the intent of the safe yield regulation "small use" exemption and eliminate combining of "small use" water permits with other water permits.

The Chief Engineer, DWR, also adopted statewide regulations and amendments dealing with water flowmeters and due and sufficient cause for nonuse. More information will be provided in a future newsletter.

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH:

- Plugging an abandoned water well?
- Repairing, selecting or installing a water meter?
- Filing a water permit form or use report?
- Checking on available groundwater supply?
- Reviewing your water permit?

Contact the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District at (316) 835-2224.



EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

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Mailing Address Line 1
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Please contact us
with any address
changes!

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST UPDATES

We are in the process of updating our mailing list to stay in compliance with new U.S. Postal Service requirements. Please contact us to update mailing information if:

- You are receiving newsletters or other GMD #2 mailings in error;
- You have moved but still wish to receive District mailings;
- The resident listed on the mailing is no longer at that address;
- The address on the mailing is correct but the name has changed;
- Any other changes need to be made to the mailing list.

By keeping our mailing list up-to-date and current, we can eliminate paper waste and save on the cost of publication and postage.

Contact the District office at (316) 835-2224 with any changes, or e-mail: equusbeds@gmd2.org.

FY 2011 BUDGET SET

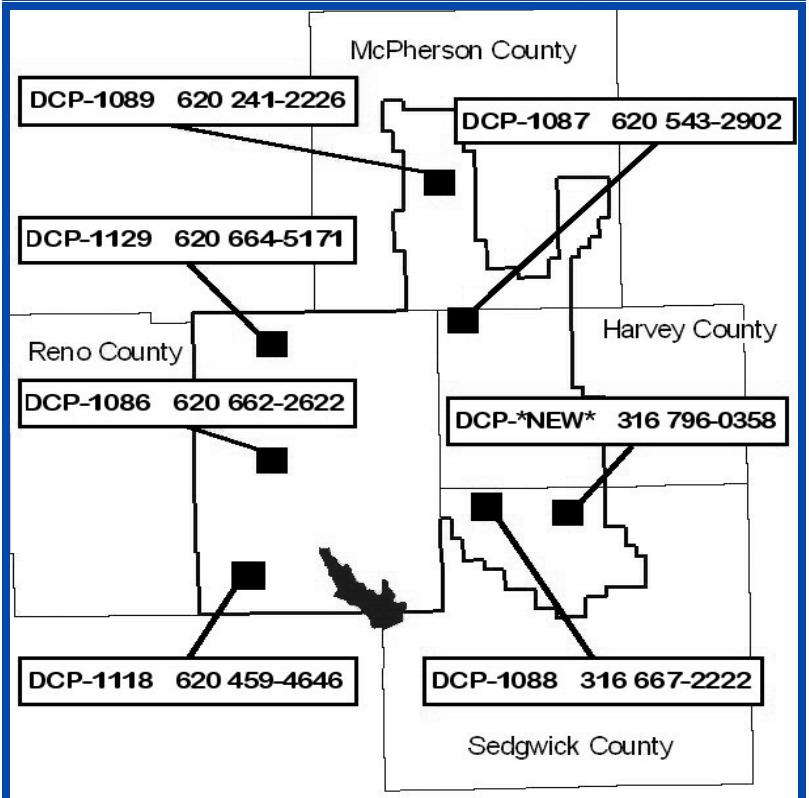
HALSTEAD — At the June 8th budget meeting, the Equus Beds Board of Directors adopted, by resolution, a budget totaling \$383,320 for the next fiscal year, beginning January 1, 2011. The approved expenditures are a less than 1% increase compared to the current FY 2010 budget.

The total value for land and water assessments, based on 2009 values, was \$286,001. Other revenue sources totaled \$32,000 and included reimbursements, grants, and interest. Projected fund balance on December 31, 2011, totaled \$172,394.

The adopted rates to fund the FY 2011 budget are \$0.05 per acre for land, and \$0.75 per acre-foot for water, which is \$0.05 less per acre-foot than the current budget. The land assessment rate is at the maximum limit set by law, and the water assessment charge is below the maximum limit of \$1.00 per acre-foot.

At the adopted assessment rates, a quarter section of land (160 acres) will be assessed \$8.00; and 100 acre-feet of water will be assessed \$75, or \$0.00230 per 1,000 gallons.

Need to know the current rainfall, ET, soil temperature, groundwater level, and current atmospheric conditions in the Equus Beds? Simply call the nearest data station.



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The Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 publishes the *Equus Beds Groundwater News* quarterly. Subscriptions are free of charge.

Address corrections are appreciated and help to reduce publication costs.

Mail, fax or e-mail corrections to the District office at: 313 Spruce Street, Halstead, KS 67056-1924 • Phone: 316-835-2224 • Fax: 316-835-2225 • E-mail: equusbeds@gmd2.org • website: www.gmd2.org

Office hours are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

The Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings.