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EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

GROUNDWATER NEWS

2008-2009 EQUUS BEDS WATER LEVEL CHANGES

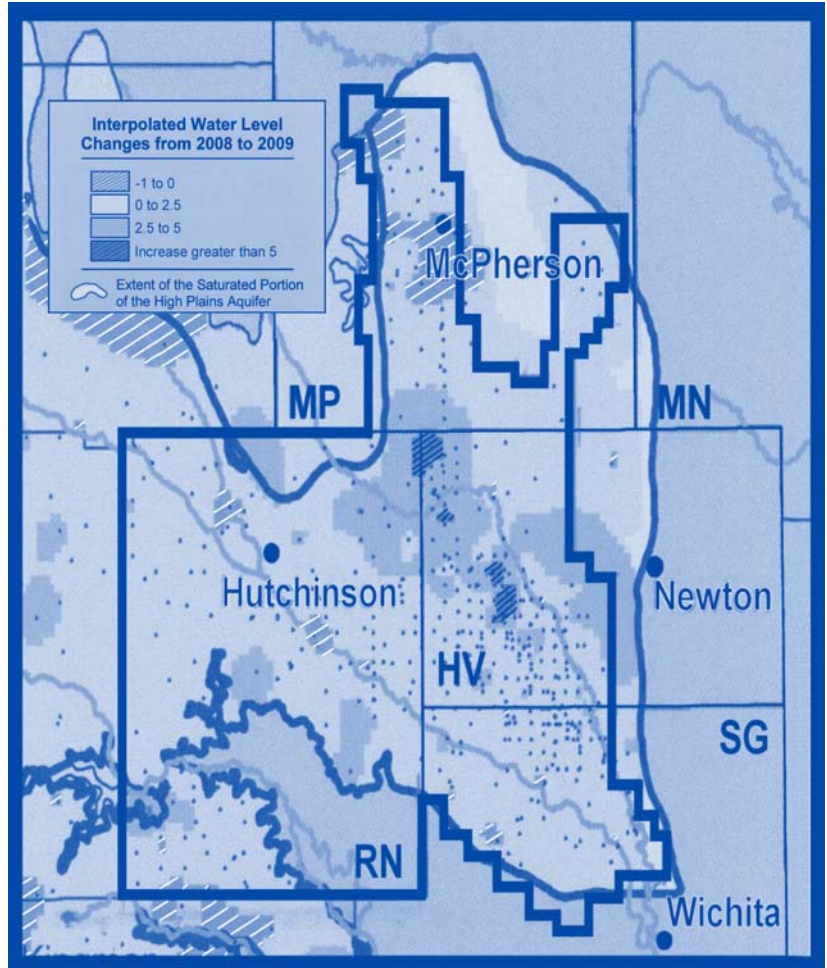
HALSTEAD — Preliminary analysis of January 2008 to 2009 water level data by the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District and the Kansas Geological Survey found water levels increased throughout the 1,400 square mile area underlain by the Equus Beds aquifer.

The water level increase for the District was 0 to 5+ feet. This was similar when compared to the water level increases the previous year. Increases in excess of 5 feet occurred in an area in NW Harvey and NE Reno counties. Declines of less than one foot occurred in McPherson County, in an area near and south of the city of McPherson.

Water level changes are the result of fluctuations in aquifer storage. A water level decline is the result of groundwater withdrawals exceeding recharge. A rise is attributed to an increase in aquifer storage. This condition occurs when groundwater recharge exceeds groundwater discharge.

Rainfall is the chief source of recharge for the Equus Beds aquifer. 2008's average rainfall recorded at U.S. Weather Bureau stations located in Harvey, McPherson, Reno and Sedgwick counties ranged from 111 to 153 percent of the norm.

Map courtesy of the Kansas Geological Survey, 2009



WATER RIGHTS CONSERVATION PROGRAM BEING ELIMINATED

The Kansas Department of Agriculture / Division of Water Resources has submitted amendments to current regulations that will eliminate the Water Rights Conservation Program (WRCP). The proposed regulation amendments will effectively discontinue the program on January 1, 2010, at which point no new contracts or renewals will be accepted. The WRCP contracts or renewals approved *prior* to December 31, 2009, will be honored until the contract expiration date, but will not be allowed to be renewed or extended at that time. The Agency has advised that the main reason for the elimination of the WRCP is due to budget constraints.

The WRCP became effective in 1994 and allows for water rights to not be declared abandoned due to nonuse while the rights are enrolled in the program. WRCP contracts require that the enrolled water rights not be used during the five- to ten- year enrollment period. Additionally, the program benefits include conservation of the State's water resources. Statewide, just under 1,000 water rights, totaling approximately 260,000 acre-feet, are enrolled in the program. There are 23 water rights, totaling approximately 7,000 acre-feet, located in GMD #2. Although the true water savings achieved by the program is difficult to determine, any conservation is essential, especially in areas experiencing water-level declines.

The GMD #2 Board of Directors opposes the elimination of the WRCP, as they believe that the program is an excellent tool for water conservation in the District, and that the program's benefits far outweigh the minimal operating cost. The State's other four groundwater management districts, as well as other stakeholder groups, also oppose elimination of the WRCP, and all parties are exploring ways to maintain this important program.

A public hearing on the regulation amendments is scheduled for November 30, 2009, in Topeka, KS. All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Secretary of Agriculture, 109 SW 9th St., 4th Floor, Topeka, KS 66612, or by email at leslie.garner@kda.ks.gov. Additional information can be found on the KDA/DWR website at <http://www.ksda.gov/appropriation/>.

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?
- Filing a verified water use claim?

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



EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

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Website: www.gmd2.org

Mailing Address Line 1 or Current Resident
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Please contact us
with any address
changes!

FY 2010 BUDGET SET

HALSTEAD — At the June 9th budget meeting, the Equus Beds Board of Directors adopted, by resolution, a budget totaling \$381,904 for the next fiscal year, beginning January 1, 2020. The approved expenditures are a 7.26% increase compared to the current FY 2009 budget.

The total value for land and water assessments, based on 2008 values, was \$287,768. Other revenue sources totaled \$37,000 and included grants, reimbursements, and interest. Carryover funds totaled \$192,264.

The adopted rates to fund the FY 2010 budget are \$0.05 per acre for land, and \$0.80 per acre-foot for water, which is \$0.02 less per acre-foot than the current budget. The land assessment rate is at the maximum limit set by law, and the water assessment 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; and 100 acre-feet of water will be assessed \$80, or \$0.00246 per 1,000 gallons.

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

35TH ANNUAL MEETING

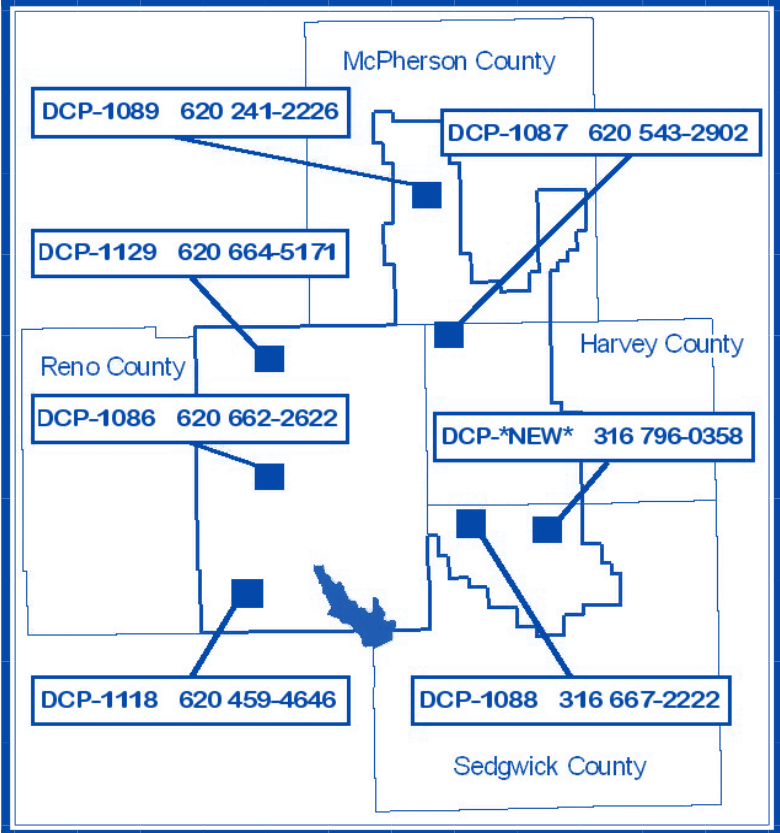
The 35th Annual Meeting of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, in the Halstead High School auditorium, 520 West 6th Street, in Halstead. Voter registration will begin at 6:15 p.m. in the commons area, with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. Further information, as well as maps to the location, will be posted on the website and also in the January '10 newsletter.

2010 BOARD ELECTION INFORMATION

Business to be conducted at the 2010 Annual Meeting will include the election of three director positions to the nine-member Board of Directors. Board terms expiring in 2010 are Bob Seiler, Sedgwick County; David Stroberg, Reno County; and Don Koci, Reno County. All three incumbents will be seeking another three year term.

Persons interested in running for the Equus Beds Board of Directors must file an application and statement of eligibility with the District by December 11, 2009, or seek nomination at the meeting.

Need to know the current rainfall, ET, soil temperature, groundwater-level and current atmospheric conditions in the Equus Beds?



BOARD OFFICERS

Larry Jacob President
David Stroberg Vice President
Fred Seiler Secretary
Don Koci Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Gruenbacher Member
Vin Kissick Member
Mike McGinn Member
Bob Seiler Member
David Warren Member

DISTRICT STAFF

Tim Boese Manager
Dorinda Albrecht Admin.Asst.
Tracey Rockett Hydrologist
David Randolph Technician
Tom Adrian Attorney

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.