

1st Quarter
2022

Volume 44,
No. 1



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GROUNDWATER NEWS

EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

EQUUS BEDS 47TH ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District will be held Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in the Halstead High School auditorium, 520 West 6th Street, in Halstead.

District staff will review the District's programs, projects, and activities for the last year, as well as planned activities for 2023.

Mike McGinn, Treasurer, will report on the District's financial status, and the Board of Directors will review a proposed fiscal year 2023 budget for adoption.

Other business to be conducted at the meeting will include the election of director positions to the Board and proposal of an increase in the number of Directors from nine to eleven.

Voter registration will be conducted just outside the auditorium beginning at 6:15 p.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m.

Not all persons qualify to vote in the Equus Beds Board of Directors election. The Groundwater Management District Act limits voters to specific landowners and water users. Eligibility is based on a person, trust, estate, municipality, or a private or public corporation which:

- Owns 40 or more contiguous acres of land, or
- Annually withdraws or uses at least one acre-foot (325,851 gallons) of water.

Land comprising of 40 or more contiguous acres must be a single tract, located within the District and outside the corporate limits of a municipality. The size of the tract of land is determined by the calculations of the county appraiser and excludes any public right-of-way located within the tract. An eligible voter can cast only one vote for any qualified tracts of land and water permits owned by the voter. Persons duly authorized to act in a representative capacity for estates, trusts, municipalities, public or private corporations may also cast one vote for each entity that they represent. The election law prohibits proxy voting.

Copies of the meeting agenda and candidate application forms are available and may be obtained by contacting the District office.

BOARD REPRESENTATION PROPOSED CHANGE

The Equus Beds GMD No. 2 Board of Directors at the April 12, 2022, Board meeting unanimously approved a draft Board Representation policy that increases the number of directors from nine to eleven and creates positions with certain qualifications. The GMD Act specifies that a proposed change in the number of directors must be voted on at the Annual Meeting. At the April 26, 2022, Annual Meeting, eligible voters will first vote on the proposed increase in the number of directors. If the increase is approved, then the new policy would become effective immediately and the eligible voters would then elect five directors at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

The tentatively approved Board Representation policy would create eleven unique positions with qualifications to be an eligible candidate. The positions include four agriculture irrigation water user positions (one from each county in the District), two municipal water user positions, one industrial water user position, and four at-large water user and/or landowner positions. All terms would remain as three years, except the municipal water user candidate receiving the second most votes at the 2022 Annual Meeting, which would initially serve a two-year term.

If approved, the following positions would be up for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting:

- Sedgwick County Agriculture Irrigation Water User (currently held by Bob Seiler, who is not seeking re-election).
- Reno County Agriculture Irrigation Water User (currently held by David Stroberg, who is seeking re-election).
- Two Municipal Water User Positions, which are currently not filled.
- Industrial Water User (currently held by Alan Burghart, who is seeking re-election)

Should the proposal to increase the number of Directors not be approved, then three directors at-large will be elected as in the past. The purpose of the proposed changes is to meet the current Board Representation policy, which encourages water user and geographic diversity of the District Board.

The deadline to submit Board of Directors applications and Statement of Eligibility forms is April 25, 2022, in order to appear on the printed ballot. However, persons interested in running for the Equus Beds Board of Directors can seek nomination during the meeting.

**EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2**

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Website: www.gmd2.org

**Please contact us with
any address changes!**

CITY OF WICHITA ASR HEARING

On January 14, 2022, the Hearing Officer for the City of Wichita's Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Permit Modification Proposal submitted to the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, a recommendation that the proposal be dismissed and not approved. The City's proposal requested that the City be allowed to accumulate recharge credits without physically injecting treated Little Arkansas River surface water into the aquifer when the groundwater levels were high, and also requested that recharge credits be allowed to be withdrawn when the groundwater levels are lower than currently allowed. The Hearing Officer found that the Kansas Water Appropriation Act does not allow the proposed fundamental changes to the City's existing water permits, nor did the City meet the statutory requirement to properly demonstrate that the proposed changes would not impair existing water rights or prejudicially and unreasonably affect the public interest. The Chief Engineer is now reviewing the recommendation and the extensive hearing transcript and evidence, and will render a decision to either accept, reject, or modify the Hearing Officer's recommendation. The City of Wichita and the Division of Water Resources supported the proposal, while the District and the Intervenors opposed the proposal.

DISTRICT WEATHER STATION UPGRADES

The District's seven weather stations are in the process of being upgraded. The existing weather stations are more than 20 years old and many of the components are failing and obsolete. In cooperation with Kansas State University (KSU), the Mount Hope and Pretty Prairie stations were recently upgraded. The data for these two stations can no longer be accessed by phone, but the daily and hourly data for all of the District's stations, as well as many other stations throughout the state, is available at the KSU Weather Data Library Mesonet at the following link: <https://mesonet.k-state.edu/weather/historical/>

If you have any questions or need assistance with accessing the data, please contact the District office.

NEW DISTRICT HYDROGEOLOGIST

The District is pleased to announce the hiring of Brad Barton as the District's Hydrogeologist on October 18, 2021. Brad grew up in Newton, Kansas and received a Bachelor of Science degree in geology/geophysics and is a licensed professional geologist in the state of Kansas. Brad has 16 years of experience in the private sector as a geologist for consulting firms. Stop by the office or call and introduce yourself and welcome Brad to the District.

BOARD OFFICERS

Jeff Winter President
Vin Kissick Vice President
David Bogner Secretary
Mike McGinn Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Bergkamp Member
Alan Burghart Member
Dale Schmidt Member
Bob Seiler Member
David Stroberg Member
Tom Adrian Attorney

DISTRICT STAFF

Tim Boese Manager
Rebecca Wilson Admin. Asst.
Brad Barton Hydrogeologist
David Randolph Technician

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

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

CORRECTIONS

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

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