

1st Quarter
2024

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EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

GROUNDWATER NEWS

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District will be held Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 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 2024. District staff will also provide a legislative update. Additionally, Connie Owen, Kansas Water Office Director, will be a special speaker.

Mike McGinn, Treasurer, will report on the District's financial status, and the Board of Directors will review a proposed fiscal year 2025 budget for adoption.

Other business to be conducted at the meeting will include the election of four (4) Director positions to the eleven (11) member Board. Board incumbents David Bogner (Position 11: At-Large Water User or Landowner), Vin Kissick (Position 10: At-Large Water User or Landowner), Mike McGinn (Position 2: Harvey County Agriculture Irrigation Water User), and Ethan Reimer (Position 6: Municipal Water User) are each seeking another three-year term. Gary Janzen, City of Wichita, has also applied for Position 6: Municipal Water User. A Water User shall be the definition of "water user" and a Landowner shall be the definition of "landowner" found in D.S.P. 7901.1

Voter registration will be conducted just outside the auditorium beginning at 6:15 p.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m. The deadline to submit Board of Directors applications and Statement of Eligibility forms is March 26, 2024, 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.

ELIGIBLE VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

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.

ANNUAL MEETING SPECIAL SPEAKER

Connie Owen, Director of Kansas Water Office Director, will be the special speaker at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District.

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) was established in 1981 as the water planning, policy, coordination, and marketing agency for the state of Kansas. The primary statutory function of the KWO is the development and implementation of the Kansas Water Plan. State law requires the KWO to "Formulate on a continuing basis a comprehensive State Water Plan for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state". KWO, in coordination with the Kansas Water Authority, also reviews all water laws and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for needed legislation to ensure water policies and programs address the needs of all Kansans. More information can be found on the KWO website at: <https://kwo.ks.gov>.

Director Owen will give an update on the Kansas Water Plan activities and will review new funding opportunities, including those approved by the Kansas Legislature and Governor when Senate Substitute for House Bill 2302 was passed and approved last year.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

WATER USE REPORTS

Due to DWR by March 1, 2023

These reports are required by the Division of Water

GMD2 ANNUAL MEETING

March 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Halstead High School
Halstead, KS

VERIFIED CLAIMS

Due to GMD2 by April 1, 2024

These forms are voluntary by GMD2 and are not required

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

313 Spruce Street
Halstead, KS 67056-1925

Phone: 316-835-2224
Fax: 316-835-2225
Email: equusbeds@gmd2.org
Website: www.gmd2.org

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

2023 VERIFIED CLAIM FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

A water user pumping less water in 2023 than the permitted amount may file a verified claim with the District to limit their annual groundwater assessment to the actual amount used instead of the full permitted amount. Filing the claim is voluntary. The deadline for filing the verified claims forms is April 1, 2024. No late forms will be accepted.

By law, the District determines the water assessment charge by the amount of water authorized by the water permit unless a verified claim is filed demonstrating actual usage.

Verified claims may be filed if the water well is equipped with a water meter for all of 2023; the metered amount is in units of either gallons, acre-feet, acre-inches, or barrels; the water meter installed on the well is registered with the District; and the water meter is in compliance with State regulations. Verified claims may also be submitted for:

- Wells which were not drilled and completed under the original water permit approval;
- Water permits whose place of use is enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program;
- Water permits enrolled in the DWR Water Right Conservation Program.

The color-coded forms are available at the District office. Forms are required to have both front and back printed. Photocopies will not be accepted.

GMD2 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2023, House Bill 2279 was passed by the Kansas Legislature and approved by the Governor. As part of the new law, K.S.A. 82a-1043 requires each Groundwater Management District to submit an Annual Report to the Kansas Legislature regarding their respective financial statements and water management activities. The District's Annual Report has been completed and is published on the District's website at: <http://www.gmd2.org>.

Additionally, the new law created by House Bill 2279 requires each Groundwater Management District to identify priority areas of concern in their district and create action plans to address these areas of concern. The District is currently reviewing data to determine if any additional areas of concern need to be established.

REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR METERS REGULARLY TO ENSURE THEY ARE IN PROPER WORKING CONDITION!

BOARD OFFICERS

Dale Schmidt.....President
Vin Kissick.....Vice President
David BognerSecretary
Mike McGinnTreasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Baalmann.....Member
Joe Bergkamp.....Member
Alan BurghartMember
Rodney Eggleston.....Member
Jake MartinMember
Ethan ReimerMember
David StrobergMember
Tom AdrianAttorney

DISTRICT STAFF

Tim BoeseManager
Rebecca WilsonAdmin. Asst.
Brad BartonHydrogeologist
David Randolph.....Technician

Office hours are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays. The office is closed each day from 12 pm - 1 pm.

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

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

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