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EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

# GROUNDWATER NEWS

## EQUUS BEDS 44TH ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

The 44th Annual Meeting of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District will be held Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the Halstead High School auditorium, 520 West 6th Street, in Halstead. **Newly appointed Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Beam, is scheduled to speak at the meeting.**

District staff will review the District's programs, projects, and activities for the last year, as well as planned activities for 2019. Additionally, information about the City of Wichita Proposed ASR Permit Modifications is planned to be presented by District staff.

Mike McGinn, Treasurer, will report on the District's financial status, and the Board of Directors will review a proposed fiscal year 2020 budget for adoption.

Other business to be conducted at the meeting will include the election of three director positions to the nine member Board. Board incumbents Alan Burghart (McPherson County), Bob Seiler (Sedgwick County), and David Stroberg (Reno County) are each seeking another three-year term.

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 4, 2019, 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.

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

### FORMAL PHASE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CITY OF WICHITA AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY (ASR) PERMIT

The Formal Phase of the Public Hearing before the Hearing Officer (Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources), regarding the City of Wichita's Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Permit Modification Proposal will be held on March 26, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., at ICM, Inc., 125 N. 1st Street, Suites 2 and 3, Colwich, Kansas. Formal parties will provide comments and testimony to the Chief Engineer, and verbal comments from the public shall be accepted at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. If a second day of proceedings is required, the hearing shall resume at 8:30 a.m. on March 27, 2019, at the same location. No additional verbal comments from the public will be accepted on March 27, however, the record shall remain open for written comments until April 26, 2019. Formal parties include the City of Wichita, Division of Water Resources, a group of local water right owners, and the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District.

The City of Wichita is requesting two fundamental changes to the ASR Phase II project and water permit approvals:

Lowering of the minimum index levels that are used to determine when the City can withdraw its recharge credits. The Basing Storage Area (BSA) where the City can inject treated source water from the Little Arkansas River into the aquifer to develop recharge credits and later withdraw the recharge credits is divided into 38 Index Cells and is defined by horizontal and vertical boundaries. Currently, the City is not allowed to withdraw recharge credits when the water-level is below the defined bottom of the BSA, which is based on the January 1993 water-levels when the aquifer was at its historically lowest water levels in the BSA. The City is requesting that the bottom of the BSA be lowered between approximately 9 to 23 feet depending on Index Cell, thereby allowing the City to withdraw recharge credits at lower groundwater levels.

Authorization for a new type of recharge credit: Aquifer Maintenance Credits (AMCs). The City is requesting that under certain conditions they be allowed to accumulate recharge credits without physically injecting source water from the Little Arkansas River into the aquifer. AMCs would be allowed to be accumulated during times of limited aquifer recharge capacity, whereas the City would receive recharge credits for treating surface water diverted from the Little Arkansas River and sent directly to the City for municipal use.

The public and all interested parties are encouraged to submit oral comments at the hearing or submit written comments prior to 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2019. Written testimony may be submitted by mailing a copy to Ronda Hutton, Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502, Attn: Wichita ASR Project Testimony, or an electronic copy may be submitted via email to [ronda.hutton@ks.gov](mailto:ronda.hutton@ks.gov). More information on the proposed changes is available online at DWR's ASR webpage: <http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/WichitaASR>, or by contacting the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District. Please check DWR ASR website or the District's website: [www.gmd2.org](http://www.gmd2.org) for any updates to the hearing schedule.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

#### WATER USE REPORTS

Due to DWR by March 1, 2019

These reports are required by the Division of Water

#### GMD2 ANNUAL

#### MEETING

March 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Halstead High School  
Halstead, KS

#### VERIFIED CLAIMS

Due to GMD2 by April 1, 2019

These forms are voluntary by GMD2 and are not required

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

313 Spruce Street  
Halstead, KS 67056-1925  
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Email: [equusbeds@gmd2.org](mailto:equusbeds@gmd2.org)  
Website: [www.gmd2.org](http://www.gmd2.org)

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

## **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.

## **2018 WATER USE REPORTS**

Annual Water Use Reports are due to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources by March 1, 2019. Submitting the report in paper form will require a \$20 per water right paper filing fee. The \$20 fee can be avoided by reporting water use online. For assistance completing your 2018 Water Use Report online, please contact the DWR Stafford field office at 620-234-5311.

## **2018 VERIFIED CLAIM FORMS - NOW AVAILABLE**

A water user pumping less water in 2018 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, 2019. 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 2018; 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; at the offices of the county clerks and of the treasurer of Harvey, McPherson, Reno and Sedgwick counties; and at the county conservation district offices.

Forms are required to have both front and back printed. Photocopies will not be accepted.

### **BOARD OFFICERS**

Jeff Winter ..... President  
Vin Kissick ..... Vice President  
Alan Burghart ..... Secretary  
Mike McGinn ..... Treasurer

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

David Bogner ..... Member  
Joe Pajor ..... Member  
Dale Schmidt ..... Member  
Bob Seiler ..... Member  
David Stroberg ..... Member  
Tom Adrian ..... Attorney

### **DISTRICT STAFF**

Tim Boese ..... Manager  
Rebecca Wilson ..... Admin. Asst.  
..... Hydrologist  
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 the 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](mailto:equusbeds@gmd2.org)

• Website: [www.gmd2.org](http://www.gmd2.org)

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