

**Cimarron Basin Advisory Committee**  
**9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 1 2005**  
**Ulysses**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:**

Cimarron BAC: Gloria McKinney, Chair; Wanda Adams, Kathy Bloom, Rick Nix, Greg Shelor, Ellen Verell

Members Absent: Darin Heger, Larry Kepley, David Light (ex), Steve Rome, Jeff Sibley

Others in Attendance: Susan Stover (KWO), Susan Lee (KWO), Mark Rude (GMD #3), Al Guernsey (KDHE), Mike Meyer (KDA-DWR), Mindy Sieck (DWR), Adrian Goettemoeller (DWR), Kyle Euler (Ulysses), Ray Fogleman (Ulysses), Dick Verell

1. Gloria McKinney opened the meeting and self introductions were made.
2. Meade Lake State Park Multipurpose Building update. Mark Goldberry, KDWP, was to provide this update, but became ill and was unable to attend. Susan explained the progress in general terms; KDWP is able to match KDOT funds improving the roads at the park with federal dollars that can be used for a building. Mark has met with engineers, and KDWP is scoping out the building plans. Wanda Adams explained that she has been in touch with Laurie Hood, RC&D, about possibly writing a grant to help with the Ogallala educational displays. Meade Lake exists from aquifer water; once it was a natural inflow although now it is pumped. The lake and education displays are an excellent opportunity to provide information to park visitors, which include many school groups. It was asked if the park would rent out the building. Also, it was suggested it might be good to have concessions at the park.
3. Ogallala High Plains Aquifer
  - a. Susan Stover passed out the Cimarron basin issue on Management of the Ogallala High Plains aquifer, and a flow chart of the basin planning process and the Agency management process. The basin planning process identifies important water issues for inclusion in the State Water Plan. The agency management process, which includes the multi-agency water issue strategic plans, was formed in 2003 to help implement the necessary actions to address the priority water issues in the State Water Plan. The Ogallala basin section includes a map of priority aquifer decline areas, that would be updated as the GMDs (and DWR for the fringe area) define aquifer subunits

and prioritize them. And the subunit delineations will likely be refined over the next several years, as more information and understanding of the system occurs as well as socio-political considerations. This map is really part of the implementation of the Ogallala issue in the basin section. The work group for the Ogallala Water Issue Strategic Plan, which includes the three western GMD managers, and KGS, all supported removing the maps from the State Water Plan, to allow more flexibility to improve and update them. There is uniform agreement that maps are needed. They are used to guide the state's cost share efforts for water conservation, and NRCS EQIP ranking for ground water conservation. However, it is recommended that these maps be moved into the basin status report, which is a supporting document that can easily be updated with current information. The committee was asked if they approve of this recommended change to the basin section. There could be an electronic link to the map in the basin water plan. Rick Nix asked if there could also be a hard copy somewhere, so those that don't have access to computers could see the map. Perhaps indicate in the water plan how a copy of the map or entire status report could be obtained.

Motion: The Cimarron Basin Advisory Committee accepts the proposed changes to the basin section, with consideration of indicating how a copy of the map could be obtained. Motion was made by Greg Shelor, Rick Nix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Ogallala fringe area protocols were presented by Mindy Sieck and Adrian Goettemoeller. There were a number of questions and suggestions, including try to measure more windmills in Meade and Clark Counties. They were asked how they are locating wells. Could they use some of the oil & gas water production wells? Many have been kept open by ranchers in case they want to change them to windmill wells. Several members encouraged them to try for more well data in the southeast fringe area. Gloria noted that where she lives in Clark County, it is still open to new appropriations, yet they see the streams are flowing later and later in the season. Although some is climate related, there is also concern that it also reflecting increased pumping. There were also questions about the water quality changes in the fringe area. Al Guernsey said he expects we'll see more water quality problems as the aquifer declines. Mark Rude noted that GMD #3 has about 12 years of water quality data, and will be looking to continue collecting data, but to focus it. Elevated nitrates have been found, but not above the MCL (maximum contaminant level). Rick asked about recharge. They were also asked why the Cimarron River isn't a priority area; it needs to be kept running. In Clark County, where the Cimarron River is located there isn't also Ogallala. Wanda asked if this is an area where monitoring wells would be important in this basin. Mindy said they were primarily focused in the fringe in northwest Kansas, and thought GMD 3 might be addressing the fringe in this area. Mark said they weren't in Clark County, but were in Meade County. There may need to be further discussion so an area isn't overlooked.

4. Salt Cedar Update. Susan Lee explained that this has been a Cimarron Basin priority issue, and as such was identified as needing a WISP. She handed out information on the activities of the Water Issue Strategic Plan (WISP) work group. The Ks Department of Agriculture flew an aerial survey of the Ark River from the stateline until the money ran out which was near Hutchinson. This survey has been added to the GIS coverage. They have applied for another grant, and they will survey either the Cimarron River corridor or tributaries. Wanda Adams announced she and her husband plan to burn about 1 mile of heavy salt cedar and Russian olive infestation along the river around April 1<sup>st</sup>, as does their cousin John Adams on his property that had been chemically treated about 3 years ago. This might be interesting to see if there is a change in the stream flow, at the nearby USGS gage. Susan Lee also announced there will be an insectory around Kirwin and Webster, to try to control salt cedar with the leaf beetle. Ellen asked why nurseries are allowed to continue to sell salt cedars and Russian olives. These are common in wind breaks. It is counter productive to be planting them, and eradicating them at the same time. Rick asked what evidence is available on the water savings from removing them. She explained that the Kansas Geological Survey have monitoring wells at some of the demonstration projects, and will be gaging what changes occur with removal by various means.

5. Agency Updates:

KDHE: Al Guersney announced upcoming meetings. CAFO regulation hearings will be coming up March 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Garden City. We'll hear more on nutrient management. KDHE will hold a recycling and household hazardous waste conference at Bethel College, March 30-31. Gloria has the Contamination/Remediation reports, but forgot to bring them. She'll see about distributing them to those here today.

GMD #3: Mark Rude is the new manager. He discussed ground water declines, and the guidance to DWR that impairment is when it is "beyond a reasonable economic impairment". This may need to be defined for ranchers, when streams become progressively drier. How far can a cow go for water? What is the cost to put in a windmill, instead of using a creek? Mike Meyer is gathering up this type of information, and may be contacting some of the people here for a hearing in April. Gloria noted the water quality concerns for cattle, if the water gets saline. Also, she recommended they consider the differences in the carrying capacity of different grasses, etc.

DWR: Mike Meyers is acting Water Commissioner. He noted that water use reports were due today (postmark). They have been busy with pumping compliance issues, including those that are blatant and recurring overpumpers, those that repeatedly submit water use reports with the exact same quantity, and a random selection.

KWO: Legislative updates were given on ITAP. There was discussion if the BAC wanted to make a motion of support. After discussion, it was agreed that they won't make a committee motion, but allow individuals to support on their own. Now is the time to call their Senator if they want to see it become a program that is funded.

Wanda noted that April 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day to make comments on the Ark River Shiner designated critical habitat to US Fish & Wildlife.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., Stauth Museum, Montezuma.