

**Lower Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee  
Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library  
406 N. Monroe Street  
St. John, KS  
September 24, 2007 at 9:30am**

**Members in Attendance** – Byron Warta (Chairperson), Vaughn Weaver (Vice Chairperson), Brian Meier, Budd Fountain, Dan Filbert, Jay Zimmerman, Larry Mangan, Sharon Falk, Suzanne Loomis, Carolyn McGinn

**Members Absent** – Mike Brothers

**Others in Attendance** – Susan Metzger (KWO), Tom Kneill (Arkansas River Coalition), Bruce Falk (KDA-DWR), Lisa Sader (KDA-DWR), Steve Frost (SCC), David Warren (City of Wichita), Joe Botinelly (City of Wichita), Ron Graber (KSU).

**Welcome and Introductions** – Chairperson, Byron Warta, welcomed those in attendance. Self introductions were made by committee members and members of the public.

**Agency Reports** – No agency reports were provided.

**BAC Business**

A motion was made by Budd Fountain and seconded by Carolyn McGinn to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried without dissent.

Byron Warta reported on the BAC Chairperson meeting at the August 2007 meeting of the Kansas Water Authority.

The committee discussed three items: selection of a Chief Engineer, registration for the upcoming Bioenergy and Water joint BAC meetings, and encouragement of best management practices on land coming out of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

A motion was made and seconded to provide a letter to Secretary Adrian Polanski regarding the selection of a Chief Engineer. The motion carried without dissent.

Susan Metzger, KWO, reported that the Kansas Water Authority approved the recommendations of the Lower Arkansas BAC for the position of Chairperson (Byron Warta) and Vice Chairperson (Vaughn Weaver). Susan updated the committee on the progress with the Strategic Planning effort, as well as, the upcoming Reservoir Summit to be held in October 2007. Susan also reported that the KWA approved the recommendations for the FY09 budget, including a request for an additional \$3.5 million from the State General Fund (SGF) to cover an anticipated shortfall, as well as, \$1 million from SGF for the Wichita Aquifer Recharge Project.

**Basin Activities/Update**

David Warren, Director of Utilities, City of Wichita provided a presentation on the Wichita Aquifer Recharge Project. The project is one alternative to meet future water-supply demands and includes artificial recharge of the Equus Beds aquifer by capturing water during high flow events. David noted that an additional potential benefit of artificial recharge includes preventing degradation of the water quality of the aquifer by saltwater plumes from the Arkansas River to the southwest and the Burrton oil field to the northwest.

Steve Frost, State Conservation Commission (SCC), provided a presentation on the Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WaterTAP). WaterTap is a new water management program being administered by the SCC. The purpose of the program is to reduce consumptive use of water in targeted, high priority area of Kansas by issuing water right transition grants for privately held water rights. The application period for submitting WaterTap applications is September 1 to November 15, 2007.

Steve Frost (SCC) provided a presentation on the Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Steve discussed the priority areas, eligibility criteria, and incentives for the voluntary, water right retirement program.

Sharon Falk, GMD#5 provided a presentation on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Quick Response Areas (QRAs). Sharon reported on the criteria, incentives, and water consumption savings for this 4-year water, targeted, water use reduction program. Sharon noted that the program receives funding under the Ground and Surface Water Conservation program administered by USDA-NRCS and may not be included in the new Farm Bill. As a result, NRCS will not be taking applications for the QRA program in FY2008.

Bruce Falk, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources provided a presentation on Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCAs). Bruce discussed the proceedings process and the intent and corrective controls for the eight IGUCAs in Kansas.

**Public Comments** – There were no public comments.

#### **Other Business**

A motion was made and seconded to forward the following messages to the Kansas Water Authority:

The Lower Arkansas BAC supports each of the water conservation programs and regulatory alternatives discussed during the September 24, 2007 meeting including WaterTAP, CREP, EQIP Quick Response Areas, and IGUCAs.

The Lower Arkansas River BAC will provide a letter for continued support in the Farm Bill for the ground and surface water conservation programs. The committee wishes to provide a copy of the letter to the Kansas Water Authority.

The motion carried without dissent.

Susan Metzger, KWO, reported that the next meeting of the Kansas Water Authority meeting will be held on November 8-9, 2007 in Dodge City.

The next meeting of the BACs will be a joint meeting on the topic of Biofuels and Water. Dates and locations of the meetings are December 5 (Emporia), December 7 (Garden City) and December 11 (Hays). The next regular meeting of the Lower Arkansas BAC will be determined.

A motion was made by Carolyn McGinn and seconded by Sharon Falk to adjourn. The motion carried without dissent.