

**Upper Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee
Barton County Historical Society
85 S. Highway 281
Great Bend, KS
September 26, 2007 at 1:30pm**

Members in Attendance – Clark Rusco (Chairperson), Ron Allen (Vice Chairperson), Beverly Komarek, Jamie Cheatum, Lynn Freese, Randy Hayzlett, Roger Mohr, Steve Cottrell, Steven Hines

Members Absent – Kermit Thompson, Mick MacNair

Others in Attendance – Chuck Schmidt (KDA-DWR), Ciro Chavez (KDA-DWR), Mark Shriwise (Ford County), Ben Rogers (Wet Walnut Watershed), Lisa Sader (KDA-DWR), Bruce Falk (KDA-DWR), DeEtte Huffman (Arkansas River Coalition), Kent Askren (Kansas Farm Bureau),

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

Agency Reports

DeEtte Huffman, Arkansas River Coalition, extended an appreciation to the committee for holding the meeting at the Barton County Historical Society and its proximity to the Arkansas River.

BAC Business

A motion was made by Steve Cottrell and seconded by Steven Hines to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried without dissent.

Vice Chairperson, Ron Allen, reported on the BAC Chairperson meeting held prior to the Kansas Water Authority meeting in August 2007.

The committee members discussed the goals for sustaining the life of the Ogallala Aquifer, how to measure progress in meeting the goals, and how to increase publicity of the committee/public involvement related to these priorities.

Susan Metzger, KWO, reported that the Kansas Water Authority approved the recommendations of the Upper Arkansas BAC for the position of Chairperson (Clark Rusco) and Vice Chairperson (Ron Allen). 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

Randy Hayzlett reported on the status of the Water Conservation Projects Fund. Randy discussed three projects that are currently in the feasibility study phase, including Southern Alternative Delivery System, Lake McKinney, and the Aquifer Recharge project.

Susan Metzger, KWO, reported on the Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Susan discussed the priority areas, eligibility criteria, and incentives for the voluntary, water right retirement program.

Susan Metzger, KWO reported on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Quick Response Areas (QRAs). Susan reported on incentives and priority areas for this 4-year water, targeted, water use reduction program. Susan 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.

Susan Metzger, KWO, reported on the Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCAs). Susan discussed the eight IGUCAs in Kansas, the role of public input, and legislation introduced in 2007 to "sunset" IGUCAs. Susan noted that this topic will be discussed during an Interim Session of the Legislature in October and November.

Susan Metzger, KWO, reported on the status of a Tamarisk Control Project in the basin.

Susan Metzger, KWO, reported on a pilot project to install index wells in Haskell County and in other demonstration areas in GMDs #4 and #1. The purpose of the index wells is to provide more localized groundwater monitoring to support local management decisions and refine aquifer subunits.

Public Comments

There was one public comment requesting information on the safety and necessary precautions for conducting surveys in areas recently sprayed with Habitat for tamarisk control.

Other Business

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 Upper Arkansas BAC will be determined.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion carried without dissent.