



## **KANSAS WATER OFFICE**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2009

Verdigris Basin Advisory Committee Meeting  
1 p.m., Wednesday, October 14, 2009  
First United Methodist Church Basement  
402 North 8th Street  
Fredonia, KS

Members of the Verdigris Basin Advisory Committee (BAC) will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009 at the First United Methodist Church, 402 North Eighth in Fredonia, Kansas.

The importance of federal reservoirs and multipurpose small lakes to water supply in the Verdigris basin will be emphasized as the members discuss the Kansas Water Authority initiated Reservoir Sustainability Initiative and the related Reservoir Roadmap. The Initiative provides the broad framework for securing, protecting and restoring the reservoirs that are losing water storage capacity due to sedimentation. The Roadmap, developed to complement the Initiative at the request of the Kansas House of Representative's Vision 2020 Committee, offers potential solutions and budgetary and statutory needs. The committee will be asked to comment on the Roadmap. Volumes I and II of the Reservoir Roadmap are available on the Kansas Water Office's webpage at <http://www.kwo.org/ReservoirRoadmap.htm>.

The meeting will also include reports on the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' biological sampling in the basin, the cooperative water quality work underway with Oklahoma and proposed boundaries for a new Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) group. WRAPS membership includes stakeholders committed to making a difference in all aspects of watersheds. Special emphasis is placed on watersheds above public water supply sources.

The Verdigris committee and other BACs in the state will co-host the Climate and Water forums to be held December 9, 2009 in Wichita and December 10, 2009 in Hays. The meetings are designed to increase awareness of the possible effects of a changing climate on water resources and the state's economy. Co-hosts are the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE). The public is encouraged to participate.

For additional information about the October 14, 2009 meeting or an electronic registration form for the Climate and Water Forum, please go to the Kansas Water Office web site [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).

**Note to media:** The Kansas Water Office coordinates the Kansas water planning process in concert with the Kansas Water Authority. The Authority's 24 members include representatives from diverse water use interest groups and leaders of the state's natural resource agencies.

Advice on policy development comes from Basin Advisory Committees in each of the state's 12 river basins and other local stakeholders. The Authority, in turn, advises the Governor and Legislature on water issues to be considered for policy enactment. Water planning in Kansas is an open process.

**Note to Editor:** The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101), requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations message.

If accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 901 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least two days prior to the meeting.