



KANSAS WATER OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2010

Kansas-Lower Republican Basin Advisory Committee

10:00am, Thursday, March 11, 2010

Kite's Restaurant

8330 East Highway 24

Manhattan, KS

Members of the Kansas-Lower Republican Basin Advisory Committee will address water quality conditions in the basin when they meet on Thursday, March 11, 2010 in Manhattan. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. at Kite's Restaurant, 8330 Highway 24 in Manhattan.

Members will learn more about two Community Development Block Grants awarded to the cities of Belleville and Muscotah for water and sewer system improvements. The Community Development Block Grant Program is federally funded and provides funding to small cities and counties looking to improve their communities.

An update on the water quality conditions, including the status of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), in the basin will be provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

In addition, Kansas-Lower Republican BAC committee members will be updated on legislative issues and changes to the Kansas Water Appropriation Act proposed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources. The changes include adding water conservation as a beneficial use for holders of a water right and removal of water diversion as a necessary requirement to secure and retain a water right. The Water Appropriation Act provides the basic framework for water law in Kansas.

The Kansas-Lower Republican BAC is one of 12 such river basin advisory groups in Kansas. They serve as a forum for water resource issues and provide advice to the Kansas Water Authority. The 24-member Kansas Water Authority and the Kansas Water Office work in concert to advise the Governor and the Kansas Legislature on water resource policy. Authority members include citizens who represent the state's diverse water resource interests and representatives of the state's water resource agencies who serve as ex officio members.

For complete meeting information, please refer to the Kansas Water Office web page www.kwo.org or call (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283). 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 the numbers listed at least two days prior to the meeting.