

**Ogallala Aquifer Advisory Committee (OAAC) Meeting Minutes  
Garden City, October 13, 2011**

**OAAC Committee Members:** Gary Harshberger, Mike Ramsey, Connie Kuhlman, Larry Maxwell, Brian Vulgamore, Kim Goodnight, Gary Baker, Greg Graff, Curtis Tobias, Rock Ormiston, Toby Dougherty, Bert Stramel, Carolyn Armstrong, Matt Lee, Scott Maurath, Mitch Baalman, Mike McNiece

**Others:** Tracy Streeter, Earl Lewis, Susan Stover, Scott Ross, Phil Sloderbeck, Mike Meyer, Jeff Lanterman, Tim Boese, Wes Essmiller, Mark Rude, Jan King, Kyle Spencer,

**Introductions:** Gary Harshberger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and self introductions were made by the committee and the audience.

**Meeting Notes:** The OAAC took action to approve the meeting notes from the September 21, 2011 meeting in Colby.

**Motions: The OAAC made the following motions:**

Motion to recommend the Local Enhancement Management Area (LEMA) draft legislation for support by the Kansas Water Authority. (Moved by Greg Graff, seconded by Clay Scott; motion passed without dissent.)

Motion to recommend the Kansas Water Authority support a Water Bank legislation amendment that removes the limitation on the number of water banks that can be established. (Moved by Curtis Tobias, seconded by Gary Baker; motion passed without dissent.)

**Discussion:**

Mike Meyer, KDA-DWDR, presented an update on the proposed changes to the Multiyear Flex Accounts (K.S.A. 82a-736). The changes would remove the required 10% conservation, provide three options for determining the quantity of water in the flex account ( 2000-2009 historic average use; 50% of NIR with 90% efficiency times; or a GMD designed program). The result is to be an aquifer-neutral program that provides increased flexibility for producers to manage their crop water.

The OAAC didn't make a motion, but did express general support for the proposed changes to the program.

The OAAC made a motion at an earlier meeting to support changes to the abandonment statute within the Kansas Water Appropriation Act (K.S.A. 82a-718), such that a groundwater right in an aquifer that is closed to new appropriations by rule, regulation or order of the chief engineer is not at risk of unintentional forfeiture due to nonuse.

**Next Meeting:** Plans are to meet again in early 2012.