

What is the Individual's Role?

Category: Education, communication, cooperation*

Water right priority does preserve rights; will take education.
All of the conversations have been around agriculture, but municipal and industrial uses need to get involved also. Is there anything that can be done, especially in larger cities, to capture surface water and reuse it to help conserve the groundwater? I'm on an EPA panel dealing with CWA, there has to be cooperative between states. Suing Colorado won't solve anything. It's important for the Governors to communicate. The Administration needs to be more active in getting rural and large municipalities talk to each other and solve problems. It's relatively clean water, coming out of the aquifer, going to evaporation and part to recharge, but if my neighbors can capture it and use it for irrigation, why not – 70,000 gallons per day.
Put a face on public opinion: If we're saving it, for who?
Maurice – Lane Co: We have extremely small wells and haven't grown corn for 30 years, so we grow sorghum, native grasses with smaller amounts of water. Last year we didn't use half our allocation, this year we'll use our allocation. I don't want to see an automatic reduction for those who conserve. Local control is the only way you can respond to these factors. Favor the 5 year flex. It would be stupid to borrow from next year.
Make sure you involve the municipalities on conservation and educate people in the cities. Farmers all get it, but city residents need education.
Will take a lot of understanding, cooperation and knowing this is for everyone, not just yourself.
We have to be willing to sacrifice and conserve. We need to be willing to change our cropping practices.
The irrigators have changed their practices for conservation measures. More can be done. Better tech leads to more efficient use. Use of more drought tolerant crops.
Don't wait for the government to force changes on you. Be productive.
We need to get on the same page. Potential landowners allot the limits to water supply. Internal determination. The value of the water is opposed to what it produces today.
Get educated on factual information.
Pay attention to the issues as they develop.
Don't stick your head in the sand and wait for someone to save you.
We must be good stewards of the resource.
We need to understand how we got to where we are and clearly think through the changes that need to be made.
Local users have a clear stake in the future of the resource.
We need to use the science to make better decisions than we have in the past.
We need to work together to find a solution that best fits the region's needs. Support and improve local and individuals use of technology.
Stakeholders should determine what they're willing to buy into, what are willing to do to help save the aquifer.
They should be communicating with agencies, legislators and other members of the community.
Look at other high value uses of water.
If you discontinue irrigation here, you're discontinuing the economy of Kansas.
Become more educated about these issues.
He has been experimenting with irrigation timing and amounts since 2008 and has been reasonably successful curtailing usage while maintaining yield. He said we [all Ogallala

What is the Individual's Role?

<p>“users”] need to curtail usage ASAP. Not clear whether he was advocating stronger regulation by state or just general awareness and self-regulation. Said he will not be running out of water himself any time soon, but he is concerned about his grandchildren.</p>
<p>Someone pointed out that education is vital. Someone else responded that education – making sure everyone understood the issues – was a vital component of the successful implementation of the Walnut Creek IGUCA.</p>
<p>With careful management of a 300 gpm well and subsidies to implement drip irrigation, you could do as well as if you had 24 inches of rain a year.</p>
<p>Another person said they keep hearing about management discussed in terms of a 50-year time frame, but asked what happens after that.</p>
<p>Dryland farmers need to transfer more of their knowledge to irrigators.</p>
<p>Somebody suggested using social media to communicate ideas and raise awareness of Ogallala aquifer issues.</p>
<p>Defend agriculture: EG beef, P.R.</p>
<p>Everybody knows it been depleted and my hope was that I could extend that resource.</p>
<p>How did you deal with the landlord? Told them water was going to run out and they agreed.</p>
<p>The longer we go, the worse it gets.</p>
<p>Some people have tried but it didn't particularly work.</p>
<p>If you're in a landlord relationship this is a very hard thing to do.</p>
<p>What do we want this to look like at the end?</p>
<p>TX has been asked what do we want to be in 2060? Stockholders decide then to come up with a plan to achieve it. Driver: I want my grandson to farm.</p>
<p>GMD4 Vision 2000 task force</p>
<p>Fishing in the ocean and can't leave the fish because neighbor will get it. So what is the value of the last fish?</p>
<p>Educate, Inform, Conserve</p>
<p>Utilize any available technologies and advances in efficiency</p>
<p>Pay attention to what's going on, get information about aquifer</p>
<p>Look at processes regarding how long in use to see if they can be updated</p>

Category: Enforcement of laws, regulations, or enforcement activities and needs *

<p>Should there be tough regulation over irrigators?</p>
<p>Across the state lines, there's no meter required – Administration could get more cooperation across state lines. Governor Brownback could work with other states. It's not all just Colorado.</p>
<p>All uses count, including consummation in all of it's uses. Government role in enforcement, penalizing violations of rules.</p>
<p>Farmers will need to learn self control. State will have to be the enforcer. Time of day of irrigation (evaporation peak levels) is an important consideration.</p>
<p>Wants to do an area. Comment support on an individual. Take 10% off of a water waste. Pumping is \$2000 a day. Hold accountable, worth 10% with incentives.</p>
<p>Penalize (...) Water use should crop needs used to alert the water as a guideline.</p>
<p>We can't deplete the Ogallala to zero, we will need additional regulation to make sure everyone is being treated fairly and legally.</p>

What is the Individual's Role?

One large-scale irrigator with acreage in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado said that Colorado is holding up water in the west, keeping it from eastern Colorado. He also suggested artificially recharging the aquifer from a lake in North or South Dakota. A couple of other people made similar suggestions, based on the misconception that the aquifer acts like a pipe conducting water from distant sources to Kansas. I tried, probably unsuccessfully, to explain that natural rates of water movement in the aquifer are very slow and that artificially recharging the aquifer in other states would make no practical difference in Kansas.

The only way out is bigger government and that's not good.

Is the state willing to cut off irrigation?

Get other states involved

Category: Intensive Groundwater Control Act (IGUCA) comments*

Administration can support the proposed changes to the IGUCA law – support local control IGUCA.

Category: Law, legal needs, review of current law, etc.*

Possible problems if open up change in water law too much.

Support 5 year flex

I'd go with the 5 year plan.

Five year plan based off the total appropriation. Wouldn't change it for the smaller wells.

Water in eastern Kansas is completely different from water out here. One size doesn't fit. Water law should reflect those differences. Use it or lose it needs to go.

Maybe also look at how water is used.

Also bothered by the fact that I can only move a well a certain distance. There should be some flexibility.

Initiate ideas for policies, regulations for use

Be in touch with legislators regarding new laws, repeal of old laws

Category: Limits or limiting use*

The idea of cutting water rather acreage may be valuable.

Need to slow withdrawal.

If we have these rights and we take 20% off, you reach a point where you can no longer sustain a crop. Taking 20% off 600-700 gallon well, you might not save anything. Want economist to say where is the most economic value to be gained in restrictions. Can take half a circle and 300 will turn into 600. Have wells less than 300 to up to 1000, not a huge increase in yields. If we had a number that was set, this many gallons to pump off our acre feet, as opposed to reducing everyone 20%. Know the lower limits for wells.

More is coming out than going back in and it will take a combination of reductions and amplify areas that are actually recharging that are cost-effective. Save or sustain are not options until there's more water in the aquifer.

Need to do something to prolong; sustain is not feasible. Sherman County – economic impact

What is the Individual's Role?

of taking a million bushels out – is \$5-7 million out of our economy. What sustains the farmer and community and prolongs the life of the aquifer? Going off 13-15" might be the best way.
I have a crop rotation. I want to see an average of how much I can pump over a set period of time. Coming to this meeting, I was hearing stories I was going to be reduced 20%. I want to make decisions economically based on what the crop needs, not being forced into a decision that I'm going to pump more than I need because I'm afraid of the future.
Way over budget. Use cut amount.
Not everyone uses their cut amount.
Finalize-restrict a volume
We need to develop programs that effectively limit irrigation water use and promote the highest economic use of water.
The aquifer is complex, but the solution is simple: use less water.
A few years back, only 60% of allocated water rights were actually being pumped. He advocated restrictions with flexibility, allowing irrigators to "overuse" one year if they compensate by cutting back more in another year, for example. He also said any new restrictions or regulations need to be introduced early enough to allow time for change (e.g., irrigators would have so many years to cut back by a certain amount).
Started to conserve 5 or 6 years ago by pumping less than authorized. Neighbor pumped the same. Both suffered the same. Role is to keep your family afloat.
Best idea was a user per inch.
Long term objective was no depletion.
Shut off 7 of 8 wells to reach this goal.

Category: Local control and influence*

District wide options have worked – carry forward allocations
It's going to affect whether our kids want to come back or whether it's Buffalo Commons in the future – need more local control, but I don't know how you're going to put teeth into it.
More local control and not a percentage reduction so everyone is on the same level. Keep every well the same as far as inches.
Pass legislation to get more local control.
Closer relationship with GMD
Board membership
Individual must take responsibility. You can't water your way out of a drought.
GMD problem.
Local population must make those decisions.
All would be willing to do something if all will be involved. (Comments from IT irrigators by a state legislator, from experience)
It is the individual's responsibility to know their own property rights.

What is the Individual's Role?

Category: Programs, current Programs or Program needs*

Set aside areas of playas for recharging.
Improving technology will improve water quality.
More incentive to push people to conserve. Right now it's all penalties. No incentive to conserve with use it or lose it.
Need more incentives, government support for research and government technologies, new technologies in seed, higher efficient irrigation systems.
Weather modification program – No way to seed, we're missing the boat. I've farmed for a hell of a long time and 11" won't save or extend the life of anything. You'd have to go lower than 11 to extend it and it would have to be over a larger area than a township. There are crops we can grow with pre-water and be profitable and use less water.
Water assets for non-use
Crop insurance
A lawyer who mainly works on water rights cases recommended reading the book Ogallala Blue. He said he just found out that corn is a tropical plant and that we need to raise crops that we can maximize using available resources.
The '96 farm bill helped save our farm.
We would need the mechanism to sell the fish, ie. would need to change the point of diversion provision
Importance of technology to serve water rather than praying to take well out of production money should be used to improve technology.

Category: Other comments*

Optimistic vs. Pessimistic- leave the Ogallala half full, not half empty
Economics related to energy costs as part of importance of conserving/optimizing use
Explore other options – Wallace Co.
A lot of irrigation wells are being taken out of production. City of Tribune is bringing water in from 5 miles.
Conserve and extend – technologies are coming – hope it gets there in time.
Draw the fewest lives-worse than national debt.
The drought has focused things.
Maybe we should be talking about other sources of water.
The big concern for small municipalities is securing affordable sources of quality water. Ogallala water is too expensive. Small communities can't afford \$6000 per acre-foot.
The aquifer is an asset that you own and control but is of benefit to others.
Why does the return have to be maximized at the cost of others?
Western KS is irrigated and that's it.
Who owns the water? People of KS.
Assets are transferred to neighbors.
Re-examine run-off water over sediment ponds
Why does the return on this type of investment have to be maximized to the detriment of current and future users? Not all investments reap boundless rewards, so why do we have to

think that water should be maximized profit wise?

*** Comments may fit into more than one category. However, they are categorized in only one place in this summary.**