

What is the State's role?

Category: Education, communication, cooperation*

Why not include more damming of stream flow to retain higher flows in areas where rain falls?	
Bring water down from the north.	
Individual conservation efforts don't work. Only the collective group - change regulations to promote sale of water (eg. point of division)	Lagoons, playas, run water down dry creeks.
Involve municipalities and industry and educate them.	
Educate city folks on irrigated agriculture and agricultural economy.	
There needs to be more information about the aquifer and how it operates. The state could be the keeper and distributor of knowledge about the aquifer.	
People have to have a common understanding of where they want to go, before they ask for regulation.	
A generation of people out here don't have common sense.	
Ag technology serves provisions, but it is expensive, but remediation is always more expensive than being proactive.	
Education	
Participate/communicate with legislation	
Technology and education are related.	

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

Need better enforcement of existing water management and regulations.
What about interstate water resource issues?
Must have state mandates in order for it to work. May need to look at drip system irrigation.
Need more interstate discussion.
If we save our Ogallala, Oklahoma and Texas will pump it out from under us.
The state has to be involved. Somebody has to be the referee.
Sometimes Topeka gets too rigid. Buying water rights was a nightmare because it was hard to get Topeka to move.
Everybody wants the state to decide, but the first time they lose a water right, they'd be mad.
I hate regulation, but we are not self-regulating very well. Hate to say it, but I'm ready for regulation.
Already have regulation in place in terms of water rights and seniority.
We're not going to save much until someone makes some hard choices. Also, just making the resource last longer [just extending time to depletion] isn't enough.
Is anyone not for regulation? [Response: No one indicated opposition to regulation.]
Ogallala has to be regulated, and the regulation has to be uniform and fair.
Kansas can't be doing this alone. Needs to be a multi-state effort.
What can we do to recharge?
Need enforcement mechanisms

What is the State's role?

Category: Intensive Groundwater Control Act comments*

Need better definition of water rights and water use that helps state and localities manage and facilitate formation of IGUCAs through GMDs.
Encourage change in law to facilitate local IGUCA to address local problems.
Current administration needs to support a locally defined and controlled IGUCA.
If local group requests IGUCA, there can be concerns for local loss of control, decisions of engineers may be deal breakers.
Need to have more local control over IGUCAs.
Locally initiated IGUCAs, rather than state-imposed.

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

Provide producers for exhibit in a 5 year account that was, (for example) four years of authorized appropriation over 5 years.
We need flexibility, but cooperation in GMDs is critical.
Use it or lose it needs to be gone.
Flexibility will be key so that regulations don't get stuck in ruts.
Promote more flexibility in water use.
Replace use it or lose it.
Develop a better multi-year use of water.
Shouldn't add to the levels of legislation, go back and make laws modern. Not just use it or lose it, but maybe even first in time, first in right. Maybe do something more equitable. The state could also help us address federal farm policies and how they affect water use by individuals.
The water agencies need to work together. Water is not an area where the country needs to be polarized.
Not everyone has a 24" water right.
At state level get rid of use or lose and RMA provisions that promote unnecessary water use.
What about the idea of taxing Ogallala users to finance solutions for themselves?
Look at water laws
Need to do something with "use it or lose it" and RMA insurance

Category: Limits or limiting use*

Should include consideration of productivity.
Mandate uniform reduction in water use: include not just irrigators but allow other water uses including also reduction to all permitted, but include flexibility for over-gaging water use over a few years, than keeping with water rights priority approach.
Restrict water but allow flexibility.
Prevent maximum use every year.
Curtail usage
Incremental decrease in level of water rights
Back to uniform reductions

What is the State's role?

Would it apply to all water right holders across the state: Vested? Juniors?
What about the variability across the aquifer? How do we account for that with uniform reductions?
Won't this really just matter to the small farmer? Big farmers can compensate for it.
Needs to be a graduated change; work in slowly
Reducing each year incrementally until sustainability in GMD or IGUCA
Some severely crippled water rights. This incremental approach will adversely affect some and might not achieve goals that people have in mind.
Dry up is inevitable but we won't dry up if we are smart.
Uniform reductions, or IGUCA, or whatever

Category: Local control and influence*

Example of Sunflower power vs. agricultural economic value. How many people know about that? Balance the economic impact
Is the concern that other states are getting more Ogallala resources than KS?
Common sense is gone in the younger generations.
More local control and help will define a public interest.
Work on empowering the GMDs to manage the problem.
Respect the farmers/ranchers the capture.
Listen to the locals; develop more effective communication with locals. State should support local incentives.
The state should delegate more authority to locals.
We must all work together. Local control is essential to success. GMDs need more control. Locals need more voice.
Would like the state to give GMDs more authority in dealing with local issues. I sometimes think Topeka has no idea what it's like out here. More local authority. Sheridan 6 approach made sense, but the state couldn't guarantee that the rules wouldn't change down the road.
The state has to have a role, but I wouldn't want it to make the final decision. I don't trust the legislature to make those decisions because it's a political animal.
Expand Authority of GMDs. Dissent: NO! They already have enough.
Collaboration
GMDs and IGUCAs need to be used more as the admin units die to local and variable considerations.

Category: Programs, current Programs or Program needs*

Need more incentives, less penalties to get more conversation.
The State might need to spend money to make it work.
Control the salt cedar.
The State should fund more reservoirs and recharge projects for the Ogallala.
Revisit old recharge projects.
KSU modeling of recharge and reservoir sites could help.
Brownback administration could invest in technological development to help small municipalities obtain affordable, quality water.

What is the State's role?

Younger farmers are more inclined to move toward dry-land farming, not as heavily invested in irrigation. This will lead to reduction in income, but is kind of a natural transition, since rural population is also declining.
Administration should incentivize reduced usage per acre (as opposed to retirement of acreage). Also, need to consider conversion to higher value usage (e.g., industry).
Lift sales tax exemptions to raise income. Groups who use water (farmers, livestock, manufacturing) have sales tax exemptions. Remove these to raise revenue for aquifer management, incentives.
Incentivize, rather than regulate.
Need partial buyouts of water rights to reduce usage per acre rather than retire acreage.
Change cropping plans and crop varieties
Security has to be addressed because of land prices and potentially losing land prices.
Time sensitive because population changes trends in western KS. 20% of state's population is in Jo. Co.
Government and producer partnership for uniform reduction.
Pay farmer for asset or it won't work. Local decision. GMDS must be in control.
Someone mentioned a new thing RMA is doing with limited ag coming out this year.

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