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EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

# GROUNDWATER NEWS

## 2013-2014 EQUUS BEDS WATER LEVEL CHANGES

**HALSTEAD** — Preliminary analysis of January 2013 and 2014 water level data by the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District found average water levels increased throughout most of the 1,400 square mile area underlain by the Equus Beds aquifer.

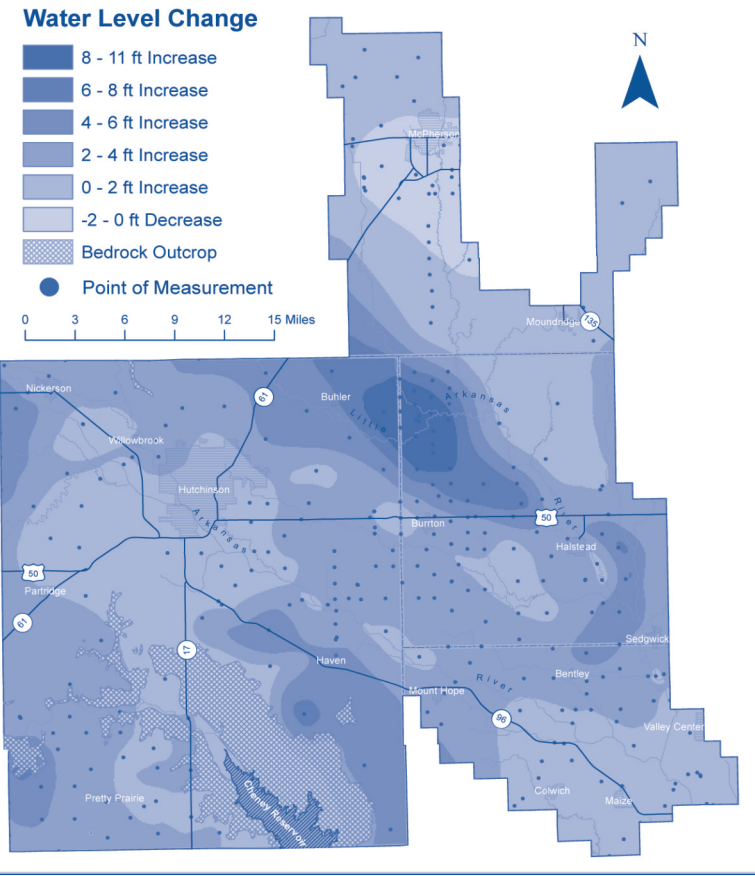
The water level for the District increased as much as 11 feet in an area in NW Harvey and NE Reno counties. A decrease of up to 2 feet occurred in an area in McPherson County. The average of all water level measurements taken in the District was a 3.1 feet increase.

Water level changes are the result of fluctuations in aquifer storage. A water level decline is the result of groundwater withdrawals exceeding recharge. A rise is attributed to an increase in aquifer storage. This condition occurs when groundwater recharge exceeds groundwater discharge.

Rainfall is the chief source of recharge for the Equus Beds aquifer. 2013's average rainfall recorded at weather stations located in Harvey, McPherson, Reno, and Sedgwick Counties ranged from 110 to 125 percent of the norm.

*Map courtesy of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District, 2014*

### January 2013 to 2014 Depth to Groundwater Change Map



## WASTE OF WATER

Waste of water is a violation of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 Waste of Water Rule & Regulation K.A.R. 5-22-3, and the Kansas Water Appropriation Act. Additionally, the conditions and limitations of approved water permits specifically prohibit wasting water. "Waste of Water", as defined by the District's Rule & Regulation K.A.R. 5-22-1(II), includes:

1. The diversion of water from a source of supply that is not used or reapplied to beneficial use on an authorized place of use;
2. The deterioration of the quality of water that causes impairment of a person's right to use the water;
3. The escaping or draining of water intended for irrigation use from the authorized place of use; and
4. Applying water to an authorized place of use in excess of the needs for the use.

In addition to being a violation, the watering of public roads creates a nuisance and a driving hazard and can result in a civil penalty. Legislation introduced last year (House Bill 2695) proposed changing the watering of public roads from a civil penalty to a criminal penalty. The bill was not voted on and, therefore, was not passed. The District's Board of Directors feels that any waste of water problems in the District would be better dealt with locally and instructed District staff to develop and implement a plan for enhanced waste of water field inspections and enforcement, starting with the 2014 irrigation season. District staff will be conducting additional inspections and issuing violations if waste of water is observed and issuing informational/warning letters where evidence indicates waste of water previously occurred.

The District encourages and appreciates all water users' efforts to prevent waste of water and strongly recommends that water users check their systems frequently to insure proper operation, especially that center pivot endguns are not spraying public roads. Doing so not only saves water and energy, and reduces driving hazards and the potential liability if the wetted road causes an accident, but it also reduces the chances that efforts to make watering a public road a criminal offense will resurface next legislative season.

## NEED ASSISTANCE WITH:

- Plugging an abandoned water well?
- Repairing, selecting or installing a water meter?
- Filing a water permit form or use report?
- Checking on available groundwater supply?
- Reviewing your water permit?

Contact the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District at (316) 835-2224.



### EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

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Halstead, KS 67056-1924

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Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**Please contact us with any address changes!**

## FY 2015 BUDGET SET

**HALSTEAD** — At the June 10th budget meeting, the Equus Beds Board of Directors adopted, by resolution, a budget totaling \$564,776 for the next fiscal year, beginning January 1, 2015. The approved expenditures are a 3% increase compared to the current FY 2014 budget.

The total value for land and water assessments, based on 2013 values, was \$325,920. Other revenue sources totaled \$92,000 and included reimbursements, and interest. Projected fund balance on December 31, 2014, totaled \$223,479.

The adopted rates to fund the FY 2015 budget are \$0.05 per acre for land, and \$0.85 per acre-foot for water, which is \$0.05 more per acre-foot than the current budget. The land assessment rate is at the maximum limit set by law, and the water assessment charge is below the maximum limit of \$1.00 per acre-foot.

At the adopted assessment rates, a quarter section of land (160 acres) will be assessed \$8.00; and 100 acre-feet of water will be assessed \$85, or \$0.00261 per 1,000 gallons.

## MAILING LIST UPDATES

We are in the process of updating our mailing list to stay in compliance with new U.S. Postal Service requirements. Please contact us to update mailing information if:

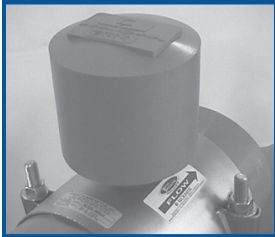
- You are receiving newsletters or other GMD #2 mailings in error;
- You have moved but still wish to receive District mailings;
- The resident listed on the mailing is no longer at that address;
- The address on the mailing is correct but the name has changed;
- Any other changes need to be made to the mailing list.

By keeping our mailing list up-to-date and current, we can eliminate paper waste and save on the cost of publication and postage.

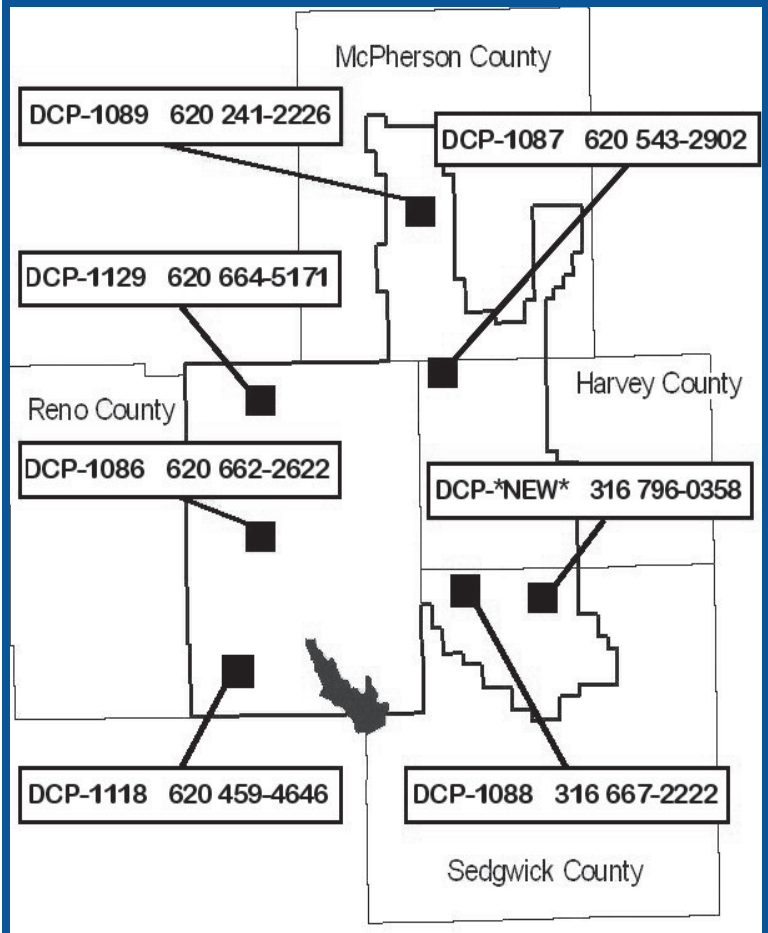
Contact the District office with any changes at: (316) 835-2224, or email: [equusbeds@gmd2.org](mailto:equusbeds@gmd2.org).

## PROTECT YOUR WATER METERS FROM DAMAGE

McCrometer water meters can be protected by installing a protective canopy boot over the meter register canopy. The boot protects the register canopy from water and sunlight damage and can be purchased at the District office for approximately \$25.00.



**Need to know the current rainfall, ET, soil temperature, groundwater level, and current atmospheric conditions in the Equus Beds? Simply call the nearest data station.**



### BOARD OFFICERS

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The Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 publishes the *Equus Beds Groundwater News* quarterly. Subscriptions are free of charge.

**Address corrections are appreciated and help to reduce publication costs.**

Mail, fax or e-mail corrections to the District office at: 313 Spruce Street, Halstead, KS 67056-1924 • Phone: 316-835-2224 • Fax: 316-835-2225 • E-mail: [equusbeds@gmd2.org](mailto:equusbeds@gmd2.org) • website: [www.gmd2.org](http://www.gmd2.org)

Office hours are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

The Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings.