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EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

GROUNDWATER NEWS

EQUUS BEDS 40TH ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District will be held Thursday, March 12, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in the Halstead High School auditorium, 520 West 6th Street, in Halstead.

District staff will review the District's programs, projects, and activities for the last year. Included in the review will be a report on the status or progress of:

- Aquifer management and protection activities for 2014;
- Update on the Reno County water permit application processing suspension area; and
- Planned activities for 2015.

Mike McGinn, Treasurer, will report on the District's financial status, and the Board of Directors will review a proposed fiscal year 2016 budget for adoption. Representatives from DWR will be in attendance and presenting information to the audience.

Other business to be conducted at the meeting will include the election of three director positions to the nine member Board. Board incumbents Vin Kissick (Agriculture - Sedgwick County), Ray Flickner (Agriculture - McPherson County), and Mike McGinn (Agriculture - Harvey County) are seeking another three-year term.

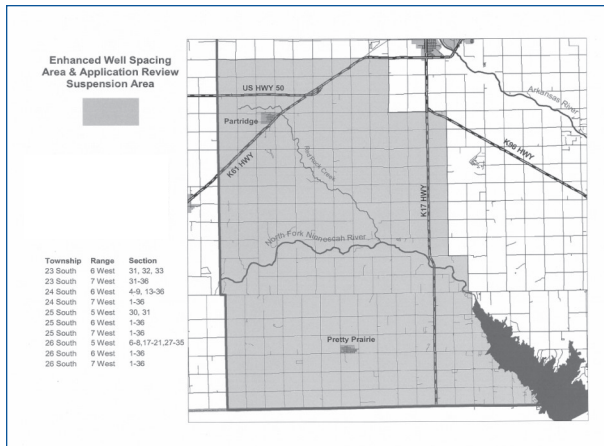
Voter registration will be conducted just outside the auditorium beginning at 6:15 p.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m. The deadline to submit Board of Directors applications and Statement of Eligibility forms is March 6, 2015, in order to appear on the printed ballot. However, persons interested in running for the Equus Beds Board of Directors can seek nomination during the meeting.

Copies of the meeting agenda, candidate application forms, and the proposed FY 2016 budget will soon be available and may be obtained by contacting the District office. A map of the Annual Meeting location can be found on our website at: www.gmd2.org

RENO COUNTY ENHANCED WELL SPACING AREA

The District Board of Directors at the February 10, 2015 meeting, passed a motion to modify the District's Safe-Yield Regulation K.A.R. 5-22-7 in the Enhanced Well Spacing (EWS) Area in Reno County.

The District has been evaluating the area since 2012, and the processing of new water permit applications filed on or after October 10, 2012 were suspended by the Chief Engineer, DWR. The District's review found that groundwater levels were declining since approximately 2000 in areas that have been developed in the EWS area. To prevent further over-appropriation of the area, the Board approved:



- Reducing the recharge rate from 6" to 2" for safe-yield calculations in the Partridge area, north of the North Fork Ninnescah River;
- Reducing the recharge rate from 6" to 3" for safe-yield calculations in the Pretty Prairie area, south of the North Fork Ninnescah River;
- Requiring any change in point of diversion application proposing to move a permitted well more than 300' to comply with the safe-yield regulation modification;
- Requiring any change in point of diversion application proposing to increase the number of wells comprising the point of diversion to comply with the safe-yield regulation modification.

The District will be forwarding the changes to the District's Safe-Yield Regulation K.A.R. 5-22-7 to the Chief Engineer, DWR, for processing. The proposed regulation change does not reduce existing water rights' authorized quantities.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE DISTRICT'S SAFE-YIELD REGULATION K.A.R. 5-22-7

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will be conducting a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2015 in Room 115 of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the adoption of a modification to the District's Safe-Yield Regulation K.A.R. 5-22-7 "Small Use" exemption criteria. Specifically, the District has requested that "small use" applications be limited to a maximum of 50 gallons per minute. This would affect only those "small use" applications filed on or after March 26, 2014.

Individuals wishing to provide comments may do so at the public hearing, or may participate via teleconference on the date and time of the public hearing at the Equus Beds GMD2 office at 313 Spruce Street, Halstead.

Copies of the regulation and economic impact statement may be obtained by contacting the Kansas Department of Agriculture or the GMD2 office. Comments may also be made through the Kansas Department of Agriculture's website at: <http://agriculture.ks.gov>

We're on the web! Visit us at: www.gmd2.org



EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Please contact us with any address changes!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

WATER USE REPORTS
Due to DWR by March 1, 2015

These forms are required by the Division of Water Resources.

GMD2 ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, March 12, 2015

Three Directors will be elected, the Division of Water Resources will present information, and District staff will give an update on the GMD2's previous and current activities.

VERIFIED CLAIMS

Due to GMD2 by April 1, 2015

These forms are voluntary by GMD2 and are not required to be completed.

ELIGIBLE VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Not all persons qualify to vote in the Equus Beds Board of Directors election. The Groundwater Management District Act limits voters to specific landowners and water users. Eligibility is based on a person, trust, estate, municipality, or a private or public corporation which:

- Owns 40 or more contiguous acres of land, or
- Annually withdraws or uses at least one acre-foot (325,851 gallons) of water.

Land comprising of 40 or more contiguous acres must be a single tract, located within the District and outside the corporate limits of a municipality. The size of the tract of land is determined by the calculations of the county appraiser and excludes any public right-of-way located within the tract.

An eligible voter can cast only one vote for any qualified tracts of land and water permits owned by the voter. Persons duly authorized to act in a representative capacity for estates, trusts, municipalities, public or private corporations may also cast one vote for each entity that they represent. The election law prohibits proxy voting.

2014 VERIFIED CLAIMS FORMS - NOW AVAILABLE

A water user pumping less water in 2014 than his/her permitted amount may file a verified claim with the District to limit their annual groundwater assessment to the actual amount used instead of the full permitted amount. Filing the claim is voluntary. The deadline for filing the verified claims forms is April 1, 2015. No late forms will be accepted.

By law, the District determines the water assessment charge by the amount of water authorized by the water permit unless a verified claim is filed demonstrating actual usage.

Verified claims may be filed if the water well is equipped with a water meter for all of 2014; the metered amount is in units of either gallons, acre-feet, acre-inches, or barrels; the water meter installed on the well is registered with the District; and the water meter is in compliance with State regulations. Verified claims may also be submitted for:

- Wells which were not drilled and completed under the original water permit approval;
- Water permits enrolled in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve Program; or
- The Division of Water Resources Water Right Conservation Program.

The color-coded forms are available at the District office; at the offices of the county clerks and of the treasurer of Harvey, McPherson, Reno and Sedgwick counties; and at the county conservation district offices.

Forms are required to have both front and back printed. Photocopies will not be accepted.

<p><u>BOARD OFFICERS</u> David Stroberg President Fred Seiler Vice President Vin Kissick Secretary Mike McGinn Treasurer</p>	<p><u>DISTRICT STAFF</u> Tim Boese Manager Dorinda Benton Admin.Asst. Steve Flaherty Hydrogeologist David Randolph Technician</p>	<p>Mail, fax or e-mail corrections to the District office at: 313 Spruce Street, Halstead, KS 67056-1925 • Phone: 316-835-2224 • Fax: 316-835-2225 • E-mail: equusbeds@gmd2.org • website: www.gmd2.org</p>
<p><u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u> Alan Burghart Member Ray Flickner Member Joe Pajor Member Bob Seiler Member Jeff Winter Member</p> <p>Tom Adrian Attorney</p>	<p>..... The Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 publishes the <i>Equus Beds Groundwater News</i> quarterly. Subscriptions are free of charge.</p> <p><i>Address corrections are appreciated and help to reduce publication costs.</i></p>	<p>Office hours are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays.</p> <p>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.</p>