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2016

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EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

GROUNDWATER NEWS

## EQUUS BEDS 41ST ANNUAL MEETING

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District will be held Thursday, March 10, 2016, 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 2015;
- Update on Rules and Regulations proposed; and
- Planned activities for 2016.

Mike McGinn, Treasurer, will report on the District's financial status, and the Board of Directors will review a proposed fiscal year 2017 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 Bob Seiler (Sedgwick County), Alan Burghart (McPherson County), and David Stroberg (Reno 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 7, 2016, 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.

## PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

### DWR WILL BE PRESENTING INFORMATION AT THE MARCH 10TH, 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The Kansas Department of Agriculture / Division of Water Resources are proposing legislation and changes to the Rules and Regulations for the following:

- Limiting the distance a point of diversion (well) can be moved to 300 feet from the currently authorized location in certain areas, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the move will not impair existing water rights. The acceptable demonstration method(s) is still being developed. This proposed regulation would apply to areas that have experienced significant groundwater declines (depleted by 20 percent or more since 1950) and the McPherson, Walnut Creek, Pawnee Valley, and Arkansas River Valley ICUGAs.
- Increased civil and other penalties for over-pumping and other violations of the Kansas Water Appropriation Act. The proposed regulation change would result in a tiered system for over-pumping a water right's authorized quantity, with increasing penalties based on the amount of time over-pumped and number of repeat violation. Penalties for other types of violations (unauthorized diversion, water meter tampering, falsification, etc) would also be increased and/or clarified.
- Civil and other penalties for failure to submit a water use report. Legislation is proposed to increase the maximum civil penalty for not timely submitting a required water use report and authorizing the Chief Engineer to suspend the water use until the water use report is submitted.
- Authority to seal water meters. Proposed revision to current regulations to allow the Chief Engineer or representatives to place a seal on water meters (bolt, chain, lock or any combination thereof) to prevent removal of water meter and access to internal working parts.

## KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP) ADVANCED IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT

Applications are currently being accepted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for financial assistance for irrigation producers to apply advanced irrigation water management in the five Kansas Groundwater Management Districts. This project will provide producers and crop consultants with telemetry-enabled soil moisture probes, water metering, and evapotranspiration measurement for near real-time monitoring. Implementation of this practice through RCPP will bring conservation and economic gains to producers in Kansas Groundwater Management Districts. Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 is the lead partner, but producers in all five groundwater management districts are eligible to submit applications. Contact your local NRCS office in the county where the irrigated land is located for additional information and to complete an application.

*We're on the web! Visit us at: [www.gmd2.org](http://www.gmd2.org)*



**EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2**

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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!**

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**WATER USE REPORTS**

Due to DWR by March 1, 2016

These forms are required by the Division of Water Resources.

**GMD2 ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, March 10, 2016

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, 2016

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.

**2015 VERIFIED CLAIMS FORMS - NOW AVAILABLE**

A water user pumping less water in 2015 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, 2016. 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 2015; 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><b><u>BOARD OFFICERS</u></b></p> <p>Fred Seiler ..... President          Vin Kissick..... Vice President          Jeff Winter..... Secretary          Mike McGinn..... Treasurer</p>	<p><b><u>DISTRICT STAFF</u></b></p> <p>Tim Boese ..... Manager          Shelly Watkins..... 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: <a href="mailto:equusbeds@gmd2.org">equusbeds@gmd2.org</a> • website: <a href="http://www.gmd2.org">www.gmd2.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u></b></p> <p>Alan Burghart ..... Member          David Stroberg ..... Member          Joe Pajor ..... Member          Bob Seiler ..... Member          David Bogner ..... Member</p>	<p>.....</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>Office hours are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays.</p>
<p>Tom Adrian ..... Attorney</p>	<p><b><i>Address corrections are appreciated and help to reduce publication costs.</i></b></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>