

**Pawnee-Buckner Subbasin Management
Meeting Summary Overview
June 1996 to July 27, 2006**

June 11, 1996 (Rozel High School, Rozel, KS)

Meeting overview: Overview of the BMT process, project goals, five-phase procedures, hydrographs, map of monitoring sites, staff answered questions regarding the project areas, encouraged those present to inform those irrigators not in attendance about the project. A presentation was given how studies conducted in the subbasin and what is foreseen to be completed. Staff provided participants a pamphlet on the project area, Kansas Handbook of Water Rights and pumping record books.

The public meeting was sponsored by the Pawnee-Hodgeman-Ness Counties Irrigation Association and was intended to provide an overview of the BMT and form a working group of interested stakeholders to work through the process. A Q & A session was held. The Association was a newly formed group of interested irrigators and was only a committee of four individuals at the time. More than 25 individuals and representatives from interested groups were present.

June 12, 1997 (Pawnee Watershed District, Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update of the BMT process. The group made significant progress for its first meeting and the members agreed to come to the August meeting with a list of issues that they felt needed to be addressed. Staff provided a summary of the Kansas Water Appropriation Act and the process involved in obtaining a water right, a presentation on water rights, and streamflow and precipitation data for the subbasin. A Q & A session was held and outline of the participants role in the working group and preliminary goals of the project.

Staff provided handouts of the Kansas Water Plan, Pawnee River Valley subsection, the draft work proposal and copies of the data presented on the overhead. The working group agreed to come to August meeting with a list of issues. The next meeting will focus on updates to working group members, who missed first meeting, review history of the subbasin and prioritize water related issues.

August 5, 1997 (Hodgeman County Court House, Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: Review of BMT process and the work proposal, staff explained differences between the working group and the first advisory committee. The Advisory Committee report which outlined major issues in the subbasin as abandoned wells, streamflow, funding, and updating of the water quality treatment proposals in Jetmore, Hanston, and Larned were reviewed. A presentation was given by staff on the existing data and presentation by George Elmore a historian for Fort Larned Nationals Historic Site, on the history of the Pawnee-Buckner subbasin. Existing data, maps, and hydrographs were given to the committee. The working group identified 45 issues in the subbasin.

November 6, 1997 (Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: Agency legal staff presented on Kansas Water Law and program staff presented on data collection and analysis activities. Five more issues were added to the list:

- Effects of CRP on streamflow, water quality, and runoff
- Effects of phreatophytes on streamflow and groundwater levels

- Maintain streamflow
- Maintain groundwater levels
- The direct discharge of gray (sewage) water into the stream

January 29, 1998 (Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: Staff outlined educational opportunities through K-State Extension Service was having a one day seminar on irrigation scheduling, reviewed average precipitation and baseflow data, alluvial groundwater level data, updated the time table and discussed the listed water resource issues identified by the working. Agency staff gave a presentation on hydrogeologic concepts, geology of the state and an in depth review of the hydrogeology of the subbasin.

February 20, 1998 (Hanston, KS)

Meeting overview: The meeting was coordinated with assistance from Senator Salmans. Discussions on desired outcomes of the project and what was expected of the program staff, the agency and the working group.

- The local stake holders were expected to establish the priorities of the program
- The government employees should not vote at the subbasin meetings
- The base of participants was broadened to include more segments of the affected stakeholders
- The BMT organized another local meeting and involved Allie Devine, David Pope, or Mary Jane Stattelma
- The BMT ensured that all interested people were notified of any and all meetings
- Any problems were promptly relayed to Allie Devine and David Pope
- The BMT would sunset in one year if progress was not made toward having a meaningful and workable subbasin project in the Pawnee-Buckner subbasin

March 27, 1998 (Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: David Pope, Chief Engineer attended to address the working group. He provide a description of the Subbasin Water Resource Program. In addition, Mary Jane Stattelma, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, provided comments about the program. Deborah Zarta Gier, Basin Team Supervisor provided an overview of the project area. Morris Korphage, Kansas Corporation Commission spoke to the group on oil and gas wells and contamination issues.

May 28, 1998 (Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: Introduction of new program staff assigned to the subbasin project area, presentations on plugging of Cedar Hills wells (proper construction and well plugging by KCC), Hodgeman/Ness Advisory committee report, and the water planning process and how it's utilized by the state of Kansas, roles of the Kansas Water Authority, Basin Advisory Committees and the Kansas Water Office. Staff provided the working group with a timeline of significant events leading up to the establishment of this working group, summary of meetings and final report of the Hodgeman/Ness Advisory Committee, listing of the Upper Arkansas BAC members, map of major river basins in Kansas and a coy of "How a water related issue is addressed in the state water planning process".

KCC investigated a well with high sodium, due to surface water quality problems at the request of a working group member. The working group was interested in learning about other activities that were

being done in other areas of the state, specifically the Upper Arkansas River basin. Staff provided a map showing the active BMT project areas. Streamflow was discussed but the group questioned why it was an issue. It was tabled for a future meeting.

August 6, 1998 (Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: BMT staff described the desired format for future working group meetings and a reminder was given that group participation is needed. Staff provided a methodology to measure water use and its importance in accurate reporting and discussed the historical groundwater data available through the Co-op well program. Sharon Falk, GMD 5, provide a description of meter requirements in the District. Concerns were addressed about the reliability of flow meters. Richard Antonio, Water PACK addressed the committee and invited them to become involved in the organization. Staff provided the working group with a description of the co-op wells, listing of common methods of calculating water use, partial listing of approved flow meters and examples of why accurate measurements in water use are important.

November 5, 1998 (Burdett, KS)

Meeting overview: Staff provided and discussed with the working group, instructions on water use report forms, copies of the co-op well hydrographs with legal descriptions, general participation guidelines, water level contour map, proposed studies on methods to measure water use, historical groundwater data, updated work proposal and brainstorming guidelines. Staff announced they would be conducting field work to determine the backwater condition for the Pawnee River from Larned to Rozel. Staff explained the process of establishing a well monitoring network

December 2, 1998 (Hanston, KS)

Meeting overview: Discussed proposed sites for the water use measurement study, revisions to the work proposal, reviewed groundwater and streamflow data, presented contour maps of saturated thickness and depth to bedrock taken from KGS Bulletin 94, and updated the list of water resource issues identified by the group one year ago. The working group will bring to the next meeting the top five issues and staff will contact USGS regarding the accuracy of low flow measurements.

January 13, 1999 (Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: Discussed the influence of the working group in the decision making process and reaching a consensus. Reviewed process used in the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin, explained the irrigation well reports provided by each irrigator, groundwater contour maps showed a decline in groundwater in the subbasin, and the need to manage the subbasin as a whole with input from all water users. Staff outlined the issues and water resource problems and that the primary purpose of the working group is to address water quantity issues and that other issues can be addressed at a later time. The working group was asked to list the top five issues and mail the forms back to BMT staff. Staff explained permitting requirements and when dated permits were first required. Announcement was made that there was a vacancy on the Upper Arkansas BAC. Presentations were given by Bill Hayden, Midwest Energy, "Electric Meters 101" and Dean Beason, Pawnee Watershed District Manager, on watershed dams in operation. Staff provided the working group with handouts of maps of alluvial well locations, groundwater contour maps, map of permitted structures, and updated list of water issues.

February 24, 1999 (Burdett, KS)

Meeting overview: The main focus of the meeting centered around a discussion and decision process by the working group on the topic of whether or not the Pawnee-Buckner subbasin program has made progress during the last year and if it should continue. This activity was completed according to the one year review agreed upon by KDA-DWR and residents of the Pawnee-Buckner subbasin in February 1998. The working group decided that the BMT should continue on schedule to have a proposal for the Chief Engineer in July 2000. The top five priority issues were identified.

The working group decided a smaller committee would work better to develop the long-term program and would report back to the larger working group periodically. This is the first meeting of the smaller group. Reviewed the top five priorities of water resource issues:

- Water quantity
- Education
- Water quality
- Rules, regulations, and enforcement
- Economics

The committee discussed eight recommendations

- Recommendation 1: new applications be allowed on existing and new wells covered by prior appropriations, that a request an increase in the rate of diversion only; this develops the ability to utilize sprinklers at maximum efficiency
- Recommendation 2: An advisory group should continue to exist with meetings to be held in the first week of March each year; water levels of wells now measured in the area should be measured in December or January, with the information being presented to the working group
- Recommendation 3: Develop a Pawnee Water Resource Management District for the length of the Pawnee Valley Watershed District, in Hodgeman/Ness counties; Pawnee-Buckner would need separate management guidelines; a conclusion was drawn from the data that had been presented to the group (Buckner recharges faster than the Pawnee)
- Recommendation 4: The use of electrical metering or other devices to determine hours of operation along with the certified rate of diversion or a rate of diversion determined by the state approved contractor be allowed instead of requiring water meters; this recommendation would apply even on new wells or redrilled wells
- Recommendation 5: New watershed dams should be built in the subbasin; the data that was presented showed that these structures contribute significantly to the recharge of groundwater levels
- Recommendation 6: The encouragement of conserving water, through the use of call up weather stations, center pivot sprinklers, drip irrigation, surge valves, water shed dams, terraces, and any new irrigation technology; the advisory group should sponsor irrigation seminars in the Pawnee-Buckner subbasin
- Recommendation 7: The advisory group should meet in March every year to evaluate groundwater data that depletion of the groundwater would occur as it had in the past; when the groundwater levels are low, everyone has less water; the group also knows that the groundwater would recharge as soon as we get back into a wet cycle; the advisory group should meet in

March every year to evaluate the data

- Recommendation 8: All Cedar Hills salt water disposal wells plugged as soon as possible; Fertilizer tax dollars are currently being used for this purpose

March 25, 1999 (Hanston, KS)

Meeting overview:

This meeting was the first Pawnee-Buckner subbasin committee meeting. The Committee agreed an alternate attendee to represent a committee member was acceptable. The role of the committee was discussed with a goal to have a management proposal to the chief engineer July 2000. A reference manual was provided to all committee members. Discussed goals and objectives, a couple of the eight recommendations, recharge and information provided on the Pawnee Watershed District activities. Staff provided the committee GMD #3 well spacing regulations and data from stream flow measurements they were taking

April 12, 1999 (Burdett, KS)

Meeting overview: Discussions continued on the management recommendations, reviewed and discussed the Pawnee Watershed Districts general plan and tables on each dam, discussed the K-State/KGS Wet Walnut Creek model, and discussed the geology/aquifer connection with the Dakota, Alluvium and Ogallala aquifer systems. Staff provided the committee an updated summary of proposed management alternatives, subbasin statistics, maps, and goal from the March 25, 1999 meeting. The committee modified the original eight recommendations and added some new ones to consider.

June 2, 1999 (Burdett, KS)

Meeting overview: Discussions continued on the eight management recommendations, SB 287 (policies and procedures needed to become rules and regulations), water use field study and Senator Salmans provided information on upcoming subcommittee activities associated with rule and regulations process. Staff provided the committee with information on the thickness of the Dakota Aquifer in Hodgeman County. Staff provided information on discussions with consultants regarding the completion of a water budget analysis for the subbasin and how the activity would be coordinated with the committee.

July 13, 1999 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Discussed water use measurement field study, continued discussions on eight management recommendations, update on the water budget in which the committee decided not to accept the analysis due primarily to accuracy, but did decide to utilize the recharge values from USGS 86-4230 report. Final report for the Wet Walnut study was discussed and the water use information handed out at the June meeting. The committee discussed the ramifications of HB 2950 (lining of lagoons) and alternative methods of coming to a consensus. Senator Salmans requested input to changes in laws regarding rules and regulations and changes to the KWAA. Staff provided the committee with updated precipitation charts for nearby weather stations, summary of potential management alternatives, consensus sheet, and water use tables to supplement information handed out at the last meeting.

September 10, 1999 (Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: Senator Salmans asked the committee if they had any legislative issues they wanted pursued, in which they did not. Update was provided on the water use measurement field study and changing administrative policy 89-2 (Moratorium in Hodgeman and Ness Counties) to rule and regulations. Committee discussed a water management proposal brought by BMT for committee consideration. The proposal was to set three trigger levels to determine when water use reductions would occur. Proposal included several options. The committee continued discussions on management recommendations and decided not to spend money on computer modeling and make the money available for installation of monitoring wells. The committee wanted to request state water plan funds for installation of weather stations by KWO or a GMD. Staff provided proposed changes to meter regulations to the committee.

November 10, 1999 (Hanston, KS)

Meetings overview: Review of the recharge data based on USGS document and how the data should help the committee determine level of over-appropriation. Input requested for the Pawnee Watershed District to maintain weather stations in Hodgeman/Ness Counties, the district primary objective is related to watershed dams, but Hodgeman and Ness counties could join a GMD and get weather stations. The committee agreed to remove the inclusion of weather stations. KWO briefed the committee on new EPA requirements for TMDL and the committee discussed the time period of no stream flow to set uppermost trigger level. Committee provided input to the BMT management alternatives proposal and continued discussions on eight recommendations. Committee recommended that KGS complete a study of impact of Cedar Hills disposal wells in the subbasin.

December 15, 1999 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Committee reviewed the water rights purchase program and continued discussion on funding the weather stations. Committee reviewed watershed based recharge data and compared to water use. In all cases recharge was less than the average water use. Wells drilled in the Dakota Aquifer were discussed and how should it be managed. Committee continued discussions of the eight recommendations and the alternative management proposal.

February 2, 2000 (Jetmore, KS)

Meeting overview: Discussion on moratorium in Hodgeman and Ness Counties, percent of depletion acceptable, recharge information from GMD #5, continued discussions of management recommendations, and a presentation by KGS on the Dakota Aquifer

March 1, 2000 (Hanston, KS)

Meeting overview: Discussion on bids for meter installations, recommendations to Upper Ark BAC, continued review of the management recommendations, presentation on potential saturated thickness of the alluvial aquifer during pre-development and Smith-Wasko site showing the unconfined/confined Dakota aquifer.

April 11, 2000 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Update recommendation to Upper Ark BAC, written comments and continued

discussion on the management proposal, updates from KCC and a presentation from KGS on the results of sampling at Smith-Wasko site. Staff provided a map of recommended subbasin boundaries, copy of a letter submitted to KDA-DWR, and other maps and data.

May 23, 2000 (Hanston, KS)

Meeting overview: Overview of the BMT, brief review of the aquifers in the subbasin, comments and input from attendees. Committee member Jim Cure, presented the Pawnee Buckner Subbasin Committee Water Proposal. Staff provided chart comparing water use for irrigation by flood and sprinkler systems. The meeting was held for the committee to receive input from the public on the management proposal.

August 9, 2000 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: The committee members from each county meet prior to the meeting to discuss appropriate modification to the current management proposal. Management guidelines recommended to committee and then the committee met with David Pope, chief engineer, to hear his comments on the proposal. Depletion level was unacceptable, establishing a local entity is beyond the regulatory responsibilities of the chief engineer, he encouraged water conservation, he does not have regulatory authority for the operation of disposal wells and he provided general comments on each of the eight recommendations. The Pawnee-Buckner subbasin project was at its end, KDA-DWR would not write a proposal that would be forced on the subbasin. Chief Engineer stated that the “The proposed Plan is not acceptable”. The committee members of each county would meet prior to the November 1, 2000 to discuss appropriate modification to the management proposal

November 1, 2000 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview:

Submission of two management proposals for the Pawnee-Buckner subbasin to the chief engineer

July 16, 2002 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Senator Salmans requested information that KDA-DWR was using to base the proposed rules and regulations. The information would include recharge, safe yield analysis, and references for the recharge values. A public hearing was to be held on the proposed rules and regulations to close the subbasin to future appropriations. Review of management proposal which included adding language to extend the boundaries of the existing Pawnee Valley IGUCA to include Hodgeman and Ness Counties. Staff provide information packet on the proposed rule and regulation to close the subbasin to future appropriations.

October 22, 2002 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Continued discussion on rules and regulations, specific water well detail, review of the updated management proposal. Sharon Falk presented a comparison of the two drought management concepts.

December 9, 2002 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Management proposal objectives reviewed and recommendations made. Hodgeman

county members presented a map with subunit boundaries to manage the subbasin for the drought contingency plan. Pawnee County requested that BMT review and determine if both proposals could be implemented for management. Working group reached a consensus on the implementation of meters in Hodgeman and Ness Counties.

January 27, 2003 (Hanston, KS)

Meeting overview: Tina Alder provided feedback to the working group from the Chief Engineer on the proposed management objectives which included meter order exemptions, subunit boundaries, trigger levels of 60%, and proposed water use reductions. Committee decided to allow BMT staff to review potential trigger levels for the 7 subunits, and Pawnee County members would review and determine if subunits would work for their area. A revised management proposal was handed out for review and discussion.

February 25, 2003 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Reviewed management proposal, discussed trigger levels and identified subunits. Committee requested that observation wells be used for trigger level analysis and that additional analysis be conducted and brought to the next meeting.

March 18, 2003 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Review of management proposal, proposed trigger levels and annual water use from 1981-2000 for all subunit areas. The working group agreed on the subunit boundary map to be used as the basis for management. It was recommended that the group look at the Sawlog area again and propose 50% depletion level to the chief engineer. The annual water use data was used to determine if the proposed management reductions would be appropriate.

April 14, 2003 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Reviewed the management proposal with a number of edits made.

May 29, 2003 (Jetmore, KS) Committee Meeting

Meeting overview: Reviewed management proposal and water use reductions. The results of the evaluation that GMD #5 conducted on the 40% trigger level to the 1992 water levels in Pawnee County indicated in some areas the 40% depletion and the 1992 water levels correspond; in other areas the 40% trigger level was approximately 6-10ft below the 1992 water level. The group had requested additional data to be provided on the Larned and Dodge City precipitation stations to better evaluate if the NIR values were an appropriated means for reduction in water use. The committee decided to split into sub-committees to review the draft management proposal. The committee would reconvene, without KDA-DWR present, to finalize recommendations and submit a final document to KDA-DWR by June 30, 2003

Public Meetings

January 28, 2004 (Jetmore, KS) and

January 29, 2004 (Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: Two public meetings were held to present the two proposed management proposals

drafted for the Pawnee Buckner subbasin by the committee to address water issues during drought conditions. The meetings provided the committee feedback on their proposals. Hodgeman representatives requested a working group meeting be held to discuss public comments and to make necessary adjustments to the proposals. Pawnee representatives felt another meeting would not produce any difference in the proposals. Therefore, the Division of Water Resources requested that the working group representatives review the last draft of proposals and submit recommended changes by March 19, 2004 for the final draft.

1) Jetmore Meeting Feedback:

The need to maintain a minimum streamflow in the subbasin

Do not allow the screening of wells in both the alluvial and Dakota aquifer systems

Larned Meeting Feedback:

Preference of NIR to be used over the percent reduction from authorized quantities

Feedback indicated that percent reductions would not provide the necessary results during drought conditions

Public Informational Meetings

July 27, 2006 (Jetmore, KS and Larned, KS)

Meeting overview: IGUCA proceedings, how can the public participate, what is an IGUCA, water right information, management proposals, and a draft report by BMT. Presentations by Barbara Hodgson, attorney for KDA-DWR presented on what is an IGUCA, how can you participate and how does an IGUCA process work, Tina Alder, BMT supervisor, presented the two management proposals and a report being draft by the BMT for the IGUCA proceedings and Bruce Falk, Water Commissioner Stafford Field Office, presented water right information.

These informational meetings were held to share and explain the data collected by BMT and the two management proposals submitted to KDA-DWR by the two committees. In addition, the public was informed on the different ways they can participate in an IGUCA proceeding. The two informational meetings were preceded by an informal open house to answer questions and address concerns with individual stakeholders.