

**Sheridan HPA SD-6
February 17, 2010
Participant Comments (C), Questions (Q) and District Responses (R)**

The meeting began with an intro by Mitchell Baalman who indicated that there were two meeting items to discuss: 1) Participation in the developing AWEP proposal; and 2) continued discussion on the selection of a goal statement for the HPA.

Q: In regard to the AWEP proposal, why are we expecting a payment to stop irrigating when we have gained from it? Shouldn't we be solving these problems by ourselves?

Q: Are we trying to form some entity so that we can qualify for AWEP?

R: No. The entity (SD-6 HPA) was formed several years ago and AWEP has come along since that time.

Q: What if the federal funding does not get completed?

R: The GMD is working with DWR to conditionally forfeit water rights pending the final federal payment. DWR has already indicated agreement with the concept.

Q: Will the irrigated acres approved for conversion be ranked? By whom? How?

R: NRCS will be ranking producer applications, but we don't know on what specific basis. NRCS has indicated a willingness to accept recommendations from the GMD regarding ranking, but these would be recommendations only.

C: I believe we should agree to be included in the AWEP proposal. The opportunity could help the area achieve any goal that may be set.

Q: What is an IGUCA? How does it differ from other possible approaches of reaching a goal?

R: An IGUCA (Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area) is a formal approach to solving a water supply or water quality problem. It also allows the problem to be solved with other than priority administration actions. Once requested, the process is largely in the hands of the chief engineer – including the choice of any corrective control measures. There are other ways to solve a water supply problem without formally establishing an IGUCA. One such approach is a local GMD regulation implementing an allocation schedule annual or multi-year.

Q: How can a potential goal statement be framed?

R: There are many ways to express or frame a goal statement. Examples are: 1) every water right reduces its current use by "X" percent; 2) Total HPA pumpage be reduced by "X" percent; 3) the average decline rate be reduced by "X" percent; 4) the average HPA decline rate be reduced to 150% of the overall GMD average decline rate; 5) each water right be converted to its average acre-inches per acre use based on the past 10 years of reported use and reduced "X" percent if it exceeds a nominal 11 acre-inches per acre; 6)

C: I think we should contact every water right owner and tenant with a ballot question to solicit their preference for one of three possible water right reduction levels restricting all water rights to: a) 13 acre-inches per acre; b) 11 acre-inches per acre; or c) 10 acre-inches per acre.

C: Things need to be simpler – there are too many alternatives being considered all at the same time.

Directions:

1. GMD4 staff prepare a data set of a 25% reduction in total water use from current usage applied to all water rights in the HPA giving deference to those water rights that have already reduced their water use to below the HPA average of 14 inches per acre. This application is to be a trial run to look at both the quantity and method of reductions for further discussion. When completed, schedule another meeting to present it and discuss it further.