

**Thomas HPA TH-5
November 10, 2008 Meeting
Participant Comments (C) / Questions (Q) and District Responses (R)**

Q: What is meant by enforce current laws?

R: Control tailwater and focusing on illegal water use are two examples.

Q: How is the 2-mile water use density determined?

R: Every well location is a data point with its 1990-2000 reported water use averaged. A ½ mile grid is laid over the district and every well within a 2-mile area is summed and then divided by the area.

Q: Who are the stakeholders?

R: For these meetings, they are the landowners, water right owners and the designated water use correspondents owning land or water rights within the HPA.

C: We seem to be assuming that reported usage equals actual usage – while this may be getting closer to true with meters, it may not be true for every year.

R: The comment will be provided to the GMD board.

Q: Is acreage reported indicative of consumptive use?

R: While the two are generally related, they are not expressly indicative. Cropping choices make consumptive use on any set of acres variable.

Q: What kind of changes in pumpage will be needed to achieve goals?

R: It depends on the goals being considered. The more aggressive the goal, the more pumpage will need to be reduced. The developing model should be able to answer this question for any goal considered.

C: There is a need for hydrologic, legal and water rights education. How this should be done needs to be decided.

R: Staff will support any educational needs that are desired – if requested.

Q: Have input costs been considered?

R: No.

Q: What is the state water plan's timeline for this process?

R: We need to be making progress, but GMD staff doesn't believe there is a hard and fast timeline.

C: GMD's have a lot of risk in this process.

R: Duly noted.

C: There is a difference between a decision to “do nothing” that is based on an inability to understand the problem, and a decision to “do nothing” because the locals believe this is the best approach (i.e. letting market and economic forces solve the problem).

R: Duly noted.

C: The education prerequisite to further decisions needs to be kept as simple as possible.

R: Duly noted.

(NOTE: The above items were merely captured as comments/questions/discussion points. No final decisions or recommendations were made by the meeting participants regarding any of them. If any participant feels these notes are in error or need more clarification, GMD staff should be contacted about those concerns.)

C: The system must think about raising crops with less water.

R: This is one approach to any reduced water use goal – as long as it achieves less water use.

C: Any water use reduction incentives will be gladly welcomed (i.e. WTAP; EQIP, Etc.)

R: GMD board will forward your message to the state and the Legislature. You should do the same.

C: More participation should be here. Another meeting should include education on at least hydrology and water rights.

R: Staff will try to oblige.

Q: How confidential are our discussions?

R: While these are meetings focused on and for the stakeholders in these areas, they are public meetings. Present at some or all the meetings have been representatives of at least the Kansas Water Office, the Division of Water Resources and Kansas Farm Bureau. The GMD cannot be involved in closed meetings. Moreover, the district has been posting the discussion points of each meeting on their website for others to consider. Does this group want to NOT post the discussion points from this meeting?

In response, it was suggested that the discussion points be posted, but with a clear notice that no decisions by the stakeholder group have been made on any discussion issues to date.

C: We have a good opportunity here to tell the state what we need to achieve any reduction goal we feel is reasonable.

R: GMD staff would agree.

C: Specific agendas should be set for future meetings.

R: Staff will accommodate this suggestion as best we can.

C: HPA members should be able to vote on issues as they are considered.

R: If the group wants to organize thus, you can do so. Such formality will not be without its disadvantages.

(NOTE: The above items were merely captured as comments/questions/discussion points. No final decisions or recommendations were made by the meeting participants regarding any of them. If any participant feels these notes are in error or need more clarification, GMD staff should be contacted about those concerns.)