



## TRACKING LEGISLATION ON WATER ISSUES

There are a number of water related legislative bills already introduced or in process to be introduced in 2008. Of particular interest is House Bill 2625. This is an act concerning Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCA); relating to mandatory review and advisory committees relative to the determination and implementation of the IGUCA process. If you are interested in tracking information on water related legislation in the 2008 session, you can contact the District office or go to [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org) and click on KWO Legislative Update. This site is regularly updated and provides history, detail and current status of legislation.

## KANSAS WATER CONGRESS HAS WINTER MEETING

The Kansas Water Congress Winter Meeting was held on January 14, 2008 in Topeka, Kansas. There was significant discussion by membership and stakeholders in regards to the IGUCA legislation. Included in the discussion was the Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas Division of Water Resources. Updates were also provided in regards to the Water Right Transition Program, the CREP program in the Upper Ark, the Kansas vs. Colorado damage funds project as well as the sedimentation issue in Kansas reservoirs. A number of area and state wide legislators were present and participated in the program. Greg Graff, pictured here, is the President of the GMD1 Board and the District's representative on the Kansas Water Congress.



## FLOW TESTING HOUR METERED WELLS

If you were scheduled to flow test your hour metered well(s) in 2007 but were unable to get this done or if it has been more than 5 years since your last flow test on your hour metered well(s) and you plan to operate the well(s) in 2008, contact the District office to get this done in 2008. The wells should only be tested after they have run for at least a few days in order to get a representative test. If you have recently installed a flow meter or made changes in your diversion works, please notify the District office.

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTION

*Could I lose my water right if I don't exercise my water right every 3 years?*

**NO.** The law has been changed so that abandonment of a water right is now considered only after 5 years of nonuse and then only if there is no sufficient cause for the nonuse. If you are closing in on 5 consecutive years of nonuse without due and sufficient cause and wish to protect your water right consider the WRCP program. Contact our office for details.



**WESTERN KS GMD1**

**P.O. BOX 604**

**SCOTT CITY, KS 67871**



# THE WATERLINE

Executive Director

Dave Brenn  
wkgmd1@wbsnet.org

Administrative Assistant

Janet L. King  
jking@wbsnet.org

Technician

Pat Ryan  
wkgmd1@wbsnet.org

Chief Pilot

Kyle Spencer  
hangar@wbsnet.org

Meteorologist

Walt Geiger  
hailman@pld.com

Board President

Greg Graff, Wichita County

Vice President

Arla Peter, Greeley County

Secretary / Treasurer

Robert Hoeme, Jr., Scott County

Member

Alan James, Lane County

Member

Danny Welsh, Wallace County

District Information:

**Address:**

906 W. 5th, P.O. Box 604  
Scott City, KS 67871

**Web site:**

<http://www.gmd1.org>

**Telephone:**

(620) 872-5563

**Fax:**

(620) 872-7315

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## NEW CHIEF ENGINEER VISITS GMD1

Pictured here are from left to right, Executive Director Dave Brenn, Chief Engineer KDWR David Barfield, and Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner Garden City. Mr Barfield's visit was an opportunity to discuss general water issues relevant to the District and the State.



## AT A GLANCE

- Note that Verified Claims are due in the District Office by April 1, 2008
- Central Plains Irrigation Conference Feb. 19-20, 2008 in Greeley, Colorado. Contact Donna Lamm 785-462-7574 [donnalamm@yahoo.com](mailto:donnalamm@yahoo.com)
- For Detailed information on the District - visit our web site: <http://www.gmd1.org>

## ANNUAL MEETING IN DIGHTON

The 35h Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 Annual Meeting will be held in Dighton on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at the Fairgrounds in the 4-H Building, beginning at 1:30 CST. Chief Engineer David Barfield will be our guest speaker as well as a program on current status of the District.

## 2008 EQIP QUICK RESPONSE AREAS (QRA) PROGRAM

Because of uncertainty on federal funding the announcement of the 2008 QRA Program was delayed. We recently were notified that the funding would be available for 2008 but there is a sign up deadline at your local NRCS Office of Friday, **February 8, 2008**. This part of the ground and surface water program within EQIP has provided significant funding in this District as incentive to voluntarily set-aside water right(s), within a 2 mile radius of public water supplies, for a period from 4-10 years. Participation in 2006 and 2007 was at high levels with a combined total of 3402 irrigated acres and their appurtenant active water rights temporarily retired. This participation has resulted in significant reductions of water use in the target areas around Public Water Supplies. If you have interest in this program contact your local NRCS Office as soon as possible.

## 2007 WATER USE REPORTS DUE MARCH 1, 2008

The 2007 Annual Water Use Reports are due **March 1, 2008** to the KDWR. Failure to do so can be subject to penalties and fines. You must file the report even if you did not exercise (pump) your water right during 2007. If your water right is enrolled in a federal or state conservation program you **still** need to file a report. If you have questions on filling out your water use report or justifiable use or nonuse, contact our office.

