



VISIONEERING  
WICHITA

**Visioneering Wichita  
Environmental Sustainability Alliance  
November 18, 2010  
Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Bob Calvert, Karma Mason, Jerry Blain, Debra Ary, Jim Guy, Judy Morris, John Goetz, Denice Bruce, Sharon Fearey, Patty Stuever, Scott Dunakey, Kay Drennen, Don Henry, Yegana Jafarova, Kay Johnson, Natalie Snyder, Don Blasi, Pam Reiz, James Roseboro, Joseph Pajor, Bruce Allman, Scott Schulte, Paula Heinz, RG Brown, Lindsey Mahoney, Lavonta Williams, Collette Burk, Herb Llewellyn, Kurt Bookout, Jeff Usher, Jacque Schwartz, Jim Armour, Betty Ladwig, Marissa Neises, Bill Plucker, Gene Sharp, Jeff Dexter, Moji Fanimokun, Michelle Stroot, Brian Meier, Dane Baxa, Clay Randel, Ron Graber, Candace Wilson, Caroline Hosford, Dale Goter, Nancy Larsen, Mary Faulkner, Angela Buzard, Rich Basore, Whitney Neely, Tonya Bronleewe, Toni Jackman, John Bailey, Janet Miller, Peggy Elliott, Darren Brown, Teresa Burk, Tom Kneil, Jack Brown, Greg Allison, Tim Austin, Daniel Traster, Hoyt Hillman, Tom Stiles, Scott Lindebak, Ron Garber, Tami Bradley, Suzie Ahlstrand, Diane Longfellow

**Water Panel Presentations**

*“Water Quality & Supply Economic Concerns for the Local Business Community,” Karma Mason, President of ISI Environmental Services*

- We need to ensure we have a good water supply
- Water is the potential driver for the next world conflict
- Must be sure resources are in place to satisfy water needs
- Trends – our nation is growing in population and is seeing a decrease in precipitation
- 85% of water usage in the state of Kansas is irrigation
- State is spending more in regions other than south central Kansas
- We must have a unified voice
- Someone who knows and understands our issues needs to sit on the Water Authority Board
- Water = Economic Development

*“Regulatory Drivers,” Tom Gross, KDHE Bureau of Water Watershed Planning Section Chief*

- Clean Water Act – set the National course for clean water
  - Standards
  - Watershed planning
  - Permitting
- Wichita water sources
  - Ark River, Cowskin Creek, Big Slough, Chisholm Creek and lakes
- Issues from a perspective of the Clean Water Act
  - Nutrients
  - Bacteria
  - Sediment

- Emerging issue is storm water
- Driving the Clean Water Act toward clean water
  - Takes time – there is a learning curve before buy-in
  - Takes money
  - Takes participation

*“Public Water Supply & Demand Issues/Wichita Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project,” Deb Ary, Superintendent of Wichita Public Works & Utilities Water Production & Pumping Division*

- Wichita area has 2 main water sources – Equus Beds and Cheney Reservoir
- Average usage is 58 million gallons a day
- Aquifer Storage & Recovery
  - Implemented in 1993
  - Recharges 10 million gallons a day
  - 2 purposes
    - Water rights
    - Help keep chloride contamination out of water supply
  - Phase II – complete by 2012
    - 30 million gallons a day project
- Other projects
  - Cheney watershed
  - Fund best management practices & conservation efforts
- Important to extend the life of the Equus Beds & Cheney Reservoir
- Important to continue seeking state funding to recharge ASR

*“Urban Stormwater Management Practices,” Scott Lindebak, Wichita Public Works & Utilities Stormwater Engineer*

- There are new rules on storm water management
  - Dec 7-9 Quality Design Workshop
  - Details on the City of Wichita website
- There are a lot of challenges ahead for us
- More watershed specific plans

*“Agricultural Best Management Practices for the Rural Community,” Ron Graber, KSU Watershed Specialist*

- Little Ark Watershed
  - 900,000 acres
  - Contains a lot of diversity
  - Anything that goes into this watershed effects Wichita
  - 80% is cropland
  - Drinking water source for Wichita and surrounding communities
  - Source for aquifer recharge
- Water quality concerns
  - Bacteria
  - Nutrients
  - Sediments
  - Pesticides

- Working with farmers on best practices
- NRCS report can be requested from Ron

*“Making a Difference – Local Water Quality Project Opportunities,” Hoyt Hillman, Streambank Restoration Project Volunteer*

- There is a huge lack of knowledge for the average citizen
- Goal is to reduce flooding & increase water quality
- Public doesn’t understand what and where about the watershed
- Citizens need to plant rain gardens and use rain barrels
- There are volunteer opportunities for citizens

### Group Discussion

Each participant was encouraged to complete the discussion worksheet. Input from these worksheets is in a separate document. Group discussion recorded on flipchart:

#### **Barriers**

- Money
  - Individual cost
- Awareness & Knowledge
  - Lack of at citizen/small business level

#### **Quantity – One Thing**

- Ban fescue
- Design homes to collect water
  - Greensburg
- Composting toilets, reusing water

#### **Quality – One Thing**

- Illegal dumping
- Enforce policies
- Pesticides
- Sweeping into gutters
- Improve public access to rivers
- New construction/renovation – collecting water
- Sprinklers during rain – moisture content gauge

#### **Resources**

- Collaboration
- Public input/education
- Positive activities – reward
- Educate media

### Upcoming Meetings

**Alliance:** Next alliance meeting will focus on energy. Date/Location to be determined

**Leadership:** December 6, 8 – 10 am, Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce