

**Visioneering
Unified Legislative Alliance
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL - 2007**

Instructions: Complete the following information provided below. Proposals should be no longer than two pages total in length (not including any drafts of proposed legislation). Proposals must be received by the Center for Community Support & Research (Wichita State University, Box 201, Wichita, KS 67260-0201 or e-mail at scott.wituk@wichita.edu) by 3 pm on November 1, 2007 for consideration.

Proposal: It is requested that the Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance include in its list of priorities for the 2008 legislative session the following proposal by the City of Wichita:

Visioneering Wichita endorses the Kansas Water Authority's 2009 budget recommendation of \$1 million in annual state general fund support for the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project.

Background of issue (i.e., relevant data, history):

The City of Wichita, in partnership with area municipalities, ground water districts and other interested parties, is entering the second phase of a far-sighted and innovative project aimed at protecting a major source of quality water for much of south-central Kansas. The basic concept is to pump excess river flow back into the 70 billion gallon underground reservoir of the Equus Beds Aquifer. The water is treated to drinking-water quality before being pumped into the aquifer. The first phase, financed entirely by Wichita water customer revenue, is complete, and the City now is entering the second phase. The aquifer spans about 900,000 acres, serving irrigators (55 percent of usage), municipalities such as Wichita, Halstead, Newton, Hutchinson, McPherson, Valley Center and others (39 percent), and industry (6 percent).

The project accomplishes multiple major objectives with broad impact across the region:

- Reverses the decline of the aquifer water level and avoids its eventual depletion
- Assures a stable supply of quality drinking water for 550,000 water customers
- Creates a hydraulic barrier that protects the aquifer from the otherwise inevitable encroachment of salt water pollution from man-made and natural sources
- Sustains an affordable supply of irrigation water for agricultural interests across the area
- Creates a partnership with the State of Kansas that recognizes underground reservoirs as a key component of the state water plan.

Completion of the project is expected in about eight years, and state funding would be requested through the duration of the project.

Describe the regional impact or significance to South Central Kansas:

The ASR project has broad-based benefits for a variety of end users. Municipalities such as Wichita and numerous others in this region will be able to meet consumer demand for quality drinking water.

Irrigators will have a cheaper and more accessible supply of water to maintain our agricultural economic base.

Additionally, restricting the intrusion of salt-water pollution and enhancing base flow in the Little Arkansas River will protect the quality of one of Kansas' most important water supplies and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

Finally, ASR is a new water resource development technology to Kansas. Its successful implementation will provide the entire state with another option for development of future water supplies, which are essential to the state's economic well-being.

Describe the relationship of the proposal to job growth, per capita income and/or education:

A dependable supply of affordable, sustainable water is essential to any plans for economic development in this area. Virtually every industry requires a dependable supply of water to meet its objectives. Among those industries is agriculture, one of the three pillars of the Kansas economy. Irrigation is vital to the production of commodity grains that represent the bulk of agricultural income. By helping to sustain and grow the region's economic base, this project also has a direct impact on the collection of property, income and sales taxes that provide annual support for public education.

Persons/Organizations/Groups with primary responsibility for advancing proposed legislation (please provide contact information, including telephone and e-mail):

Dale Goter, City of Wichita Government Relations Manager, 316-268-4351
dgoter@wichita.gov

David Warren, Wichita Water Utilities Director, 361-268-4504 dwarren@wichita.gov

Jerry Blain, Wichita Water Utilities Superintendent, 316-269-4764 jblain@wichita.gov

Draft of proposed legislation: (if applicable)

N/A (request is a line item in Kansas Water Authority 2008 budget recommendation)

Preparing for Submission:
Questions to Consider
Please send responses to
Self-Help Network by **3 PM October 5, 2007**
Visioneering Wichita
Unified Legislative Agenda



Please use as much room needed to answer the following questions.

Background Information:

Name of group/ organization: **City of Wichita**

Name of your principal ULA item(s):

Water for the Future: Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project

The request is for \$1 million in State General Fund support (renewable annually through the duration of the project, an estimated eight years). The request is contained in the Kansas Water Authority's proposed 2009 budget request submitted to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Does the ULA item relate to Job Growth or Education? If YES, please explain.
Yes:

A dependable and adequate supply of quality water is an absolute essential for the economic growth and development of South-Central Kansas.

The ASR project has broad based benefits for a variety of end users. Municipalities such as Wichita and numerous others in this region will be able to meet consumer demand for quality drinking water.

Irrigators will have a cheaper and more accessible supply of water to maintain our agricultural economic base.

Additionally, restricting the intrusion of salt-water pollution and enhancing base flow in the Little Arkansas River will protect the quality of one of Kansas' most important water supplies and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

Finally, ASR is a new water resource development technology to Kansas. Its successful implementation will provide the entire state with another option for development of future water supplies, which are essential to the state's economic well-being.

All of those elements are essential for the creation and retention of jobs in this area.

Name of person(s) who will organize effort for legislative item(s):

Dale Goter, Government Relations Manager, City of Wichita

Additional resources to organize effort for legislative item(s):

**City of Wichita Water Utilities
Kansas Water Authority and Kansas Water Office
City of Wichita Communications Team
Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) of South-Central Kansas**

Describe any previous efforts regarding the legislative item(s) during previous legislative sessions:

This issue previously has not been presented to the Kansas Legislature.

Planned Session Activities:

Describe plans to communicate legislative item(s) during legislative session, including ways to engage legislators & public:

Individual presentations to key legislators (Senate Ways and Means Committee, House Appropriations Committee)

DVD video presentation (brief overview available for individual and group presentations)

Legislative committee presentations, using information compiled by City of Wichita Water Utilities

Media coverage of proposal

Amount of time planned to develop and deliver communication plan for legislative item(s) during legislative session:

Full-time availability of City of Wichita Government Relations Manager

Periodic staff assistance from Wichita City Manager's office

Periodic staff assistance from Wichita Water Utilities

Person(s) who will be involved in developing and delivering communication plan for legislative item(s) during legislative session:

Dale Goter, City of Wichita Government Relations Manager

Jerry Blain, City of Wichita Production & Pumping Division Superintendent

Describe recruitment of local officials or other representatives to participate in committee testimony or in meeting with state legislators:

Support will be solicited from members of the South-Central Kansas legislative delegation. Additionally, special emphasis will be given to members who serve on key budget committees.

Support will also be solicited from other municipalities, industries and agri-business water users who will benefit from the successful completion of this project.

Identify any legislators who will carry the bill or be key players in advancing the legislative item(s):

**Sen. Carolyn McGinn, R-Sedgwick
Rep. Jason Watkins, R-Wichita**

What challenges do you expect during the legislative session and what plans do you have to address them?

The key challenge will be to convince legislators from outside the South-Central Kansas area that the project has regional and statewide benefits.

The arguments presented in favor of the project will emphasize the importance of a stable, quality water supply as the foundation for the area's economy.

Additionally, emphasis will be placed on the necessity of recognizing aquifer storage as a newly emerging water resource that previously was not described in state water policy.

Please send to Self-Help Network: Center for Community Support & Research,
Wichita State University Box 201, Wichita, KS 67260-0201 or Fax (316) 978- 3593.
E-mail to scott.wituk@wichita.edu

