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Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Hutton, Ronda [KDA] <Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov>
Cc: Citizens for Conservation of the Equus Beds <ccequusbeds@gmail.com>
Subject: Allocating Equus Beds Aquifer Water

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Good Day Ronda,

I live at 11918 North 279th Street West, just 1/4 mile north of the Arkansas River, on 160 acres with about half of that ground irrigated and the other half in pasture. It seems obvious to me that land owners or leasers should be able to take water from the Equus Beds Aquifer in direct proportion to the amount of land owned or leased, taking into account how much water can be withdrawn while maintaining the required quality of the water. That means that the City of Wichita should have to pay for the water it removes to landowners or leasers that do not withdraw water from the Aquifer.

This necessarily means that your office needs to monitor and stipulate the amount of water that will be allowed to be pumped out of the Equus Beds on a yearly basis with allocation on a per acre basis. Let landowners or leasers negotiate water rights with the City of Wichita for its removal of water. I guarantee that the fair market value of the water will be developed over time and the City of Wichita will always be able to take as much water as they want provided they pay adequately for it.

For awhile I lived in San Antonio, Texas which relies entirely on the Edwards Aquifer for water and about 20 years ago they started paying farmers not to irrigate their farms. The same thing will eventually happen here so you need to resolve this issue equitably so that all landowners or leasers are compensated for water that they should be able to access.

In the mean time, you must not allow the City of Wichita to remove any more water from the Equus Beds than is currently authorized. And please do not allow the City of Wichita to allow water taken from the Little Arkansas River to be credited as reinserted into the Equus Beds if it is taken directly to the city.

By treating the Equus Beds Aquifer water as a resource owned by the landowners and leasers above it will be able to be used by those willing to pay a reasonable price for it to those who own the water beneath their feet.

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