

David Barfield, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
Division of Water Resources – KDA  
1320 Research Park Drive  
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June 9, 2018

Water Resources  
Received  
JUL 12 2018  
KS Dept Of Agriculture

Dear Chief Engineer Barfield,

RE: Comments responding to the Hays/Russell Water Transfer meeting in Greensburg, KS, May 21, 2018

Dear Chief Engineer Barfield,

My comments are an attempt at summarizing questions from residents in the Edwards County community. Questions that people would like to ask but are afraid they won't sound knowledgeable enough but have concerns. At the end I will add a few of my own comments. Thank you.

1. Will the existing water law be enforced?
2. Will R9 be allowed to combine all their well locations and produce them from their Rattlesnake acres? In open session at the GMD #5 meeting, David said, "not to worry about the above issue since the Ark and Rattle snake are a common source of supply". Please clarify.
3. Will Edwards County lose the irrigated tax base?
4. What will R9 do with waste water from their treatment facility? Hays/Russell mentioned at the Greensburg meeting they would treat the water in Hays.....does that mean they will build new pipe lines to sell water to LaCrosse and other small towns south of Hays? Assume they will use heavy Plastic pipe.... as the water is corrosive.....as evidences by decay of the pivots pipe in the area.
5. There was a plan presented by the Div. of Water Resources at the Greensburg presentation.....where the wells would be developed.....covering the whole Ranch. What will be the time line for development.....in that the wells on the SE corner of the Ranch are better than those of the North and West side? Please describe how will this work/develop.
6. Will R9 be required to develop additional monitoring wells for contamination and draw down caused by 24/7 pumping? Who will verify the data? It looks like there should be more data collected from more spots on the Ranch .....due to this being uncharted territory.
7. The Chief Engineer has described the impact of R9 pumping as causing " acceptable depletion" ....how does this compare to what is occurring district wide? And over the next 10-20 years.
8. Does Balleau Ground Water agree with the "answer" provided by Burns and McDonald using the Balleau Ground Water model? Do you think that it could be possible that the Balleau Ground Water model is better suited to looking at large areas and not so good as looking a small parcel of land? When will the Balleau Ground Water model information on the R9 Ranch be available?
9. Are you considering the problems that arise to the west of the R9 Ranch affecting the water in the Ark River?
10. Have you talked to LeRoy Wetzel (farms west of the R9 Ranch and who is also an engineer), Greg Ebert (also an engineer who has farmed for R9 Ranch for Hays/Russell) and Randy Arderly (Greensburg) who also farmed the R9 Ranch back in the 1980's? Note: There is one other person, Cecil Offerle, who just passed away but farmed the R9 Ranch when Arderly was farming on the Ranch. All of these men have/had an incredible data bank of information.....and could

tell you what it's like to farm on the R9Ranch with available water, the geology and hydrology of the R9 Ranch.

11. Also, are you aware of the zoning laws in Edwards County that deal with water?

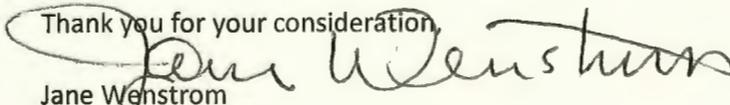
I agree with the letter that WaterPack has written to you.....especially the part about solving this transfer issue scientifically. But how does your office, Burns/McDonald and the state engineers know for sure their data is correct? Because you haven't considered Keller Bliesner Engineering's data..... It has only been recently that geologists/hydrologists are beginning to understand what happens below the earth's surface.

Water in the GMD 5 was over appropriated along the Arkansas River and still is.....it was simply because people who were issuing water rights didn't truly understand the science of ground water.....not realizing ground water is finite and must be sustainable. Are the powers that be going to make the same mistake here with this precedent setting case? If an unsustainable amount of water is allowed to transfer.....there will be law suits galore.

And do you really think that growth and development in the middle of "anywhere USA" away from a sustainable river or ground water source will support future industrial growth? Hays is a city that was not founded on a river or lake due to decisions made by their founding Fathers. I don't deny that Hays has done a great job managing their present water issue. My Great Grandfather purchased land in Edwards County over 100 years ago over sustainable ground water, that is, if I take care of it.....I would like some guarantee that impairment will not take place if I am doing my part to maintain sustainability. Something more than just an older water right and filing an impairment.

I know there are solutions but are you willing to discuss those? Ft. Hays University (one of the major employers in Hays) will need fewer buildings in the future and there will be more online students.....this will be the case for all Universities in Kansas.....thus fewer residents. Things are changing.....like it or not. One of these days the huge majority of the U.S. population will be on the ocean shores.....there just isn't enough water inland to sustain growing cities/population. Again, I understand that this is a water transfer issue not a water right issue.....and urge you to invite Dr. Keller to your office with all contributing parties, so discussion can lead to better understanding and decision making of the issue: sustainability and water transfer to the Hays/Russell area.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
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