

Madame Chairperson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proceedings.

My name is Michael Koehn and I have taken off of work this week to attend these hearings because of their importance to my family, the community of Halstead and Harvey County. I live and farm in Lakin Township Southwest of Halstead.

I am also a member of the Harvey County Planning and Zoning Commission so you can certainly see I have a vested interest in these hearings and what happens to Harvey County.

My family arrived in the Halstead area over 130 years ago when things on the prairie were a little different.

They lived and worked in the area Southwest of Halstead. In good years they celebrated the harvest and in bad years they nearly starved to death.

My family members are listed in Cutler's History of Kansas as pioneers. One, Kate Hess, my great great grandfather's sister, lived and raised her family with her husband Adam

directly across the road from where I live now Southwest of Halstead and the other, Kathryn Frey, my Great Great Grandmother's sister, was the first non Native American woman to live in Barton County in the Great Bend area with her husband Lewis.

These pioneers knew that there would be years when they fought Drought, Floods and Mother Nature but these pioneers could NEVER have imagined that one day they would be fighting with their neighbors to the South in Sedgwick County for their very existence in using the water which is every communities' life blood.

The incredible part of this dynamic is that the City of Wichita wants to withdraw even more water than the original agreement that they agreed to states, not to sustain their own citizens, but to SELL it to other communities!!

According to the High Plains Journal article of July 17th, 2018 by Amy Bickel the City of Wichita was SELLING water to 11 other communities of 77,000 people!!

This is incredible to me as it is well known that the Burrton Salt Plume is approaching from the West and there is migration of chloride from the Big Arkansas River toward Halstead from the South.

According to the article published by the Kansas Geological Society Open File Report 2012 Water Quality Data was assembled for Groundwater Management District 2 using its monitoring wells, irrigation wells and municipal wells of the City of Wichita. According to this data it was determined that the Burrton Salt Plume has migrated eastward and into the deeper part of the aquifer with time. The front of the plume, as indicated by the 500 mg/Litre chloride isosurface is only ONE MILE from the nearest municipal supply well in the Wichita well field.

According to the United States Geological Society article of August 7, 2014 artificial recharge by actually injecting water into the aquifer from the Little Arkansas River WILL raise groundwater levels, increase storage volume in the aquifer, and deter or slow down the plume of chloride brine approaching the Wichita well field from the Burrton, Kansas area caused by oil production activities in the 1930's. They also note the approaching high chloride water from the South by the Arkansas River has the same requirements of the need for actual INJECTION of water NOT simply not taking water or earning credits for not using the water from the aquifer.

Even though the City of Wichita has submitted numerous models and tables at these hearings it is still

evident that they are not sure what they are doing 100% of the time as evidenced by the large ASR water reclamation pit on S.W. 36th Street which is a total failure and has trees growing up inside the concrete pit because it cannot be used. They have abandoned the pit and left it as an eyesore to our community. It serves as a testimony that all things cannot be modeled or tabled.

Madame Chairperson, part of my family came West on the Oregon Trail to a little town just South of the Trail in Webster County, Nebraska called Blue Hill in the 1800's. His name was Henry Wagener Sr. and he was my great - great - great - grandfather. He was the father of my great - great - grandfather Henry Wagener Jr. He began farming and was successful until 3 years of sustained drought destroyed the land and the wells ran dry which prompted a mass exodus from that area. Henry Wagener Jr. heard of the plentiful water in the Halstead area and decided to bring his family to Halstead by wagon. They loaded everything they owned into the wagon and started out for Halstead from the Nebraska border. His wife Theresa, my great grandmother Anna, who was 4 years old, and her twin sister Carrie accompanied him. There was no room in the wagon for Theresa and the two 4 year old twins so they WALKED alongside the wagon. It took them nearly a

MONTH to walk from Blue Hill to Halstead. By that time they were down to one set of clothes each which they washed every night and hung up to dry for the next day. Anna married my Great Grandfather David Lentz and they raised their children, one of whom was my grandmother Marie, on a farm Southwest of Halstead.

In the 1930's my mother was born into the Dust Bowl days to Anna's grand daughter Marie and her husband Clarence Farber. They farmed near my other relatives on a farm Southwest of Halstead. My grandparents, my mother and her little brother nearly starved to death after three years of Drought and three crop failures due to lack of water. They lost their farm due to the lack of water that they had worked so hard for and had to move to town or starve. This affected my Mother to the point where she would buy hundreds of cans of food and hide them throughout the house I grew up in. I guess starvation will do that to you.

Madame Chairperson, My family really doesn't want to be forced off of our land again and have to move which very well could happen if our wells go dry or the migration of salt from the Burrton area isn't stopped by enforcement of the original water rights agreement which the City of Wichita agreed to and called for actual injection of water into the aquifer NOT simply getting credits for not taking

water. The City of Wichita has voiced no explanation of what they would do or if there would be compensation if the wells DO go dry and cannot be redrilled or the Burrton Salt Plume continues it's inevitable march and contaminates domestic water wells.

Madame Chairperson, The citizens of Harvey County aren't asking for anything extra or any special treatment, just that the City of Wichita be expected to honor the agreement that was agreed upon.