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Good morning,

My name is Frank Harper. I live approximately 1 mile north of the town of Sedgwick in Harvey County. I am a farmer and rancher. I served on the GMD 2 Board from 2000 thru 2009.

My comments this morning are primarily based on my time on the GMD 2 Board during approval and implementation of Phase 1 of the City of Wichita's Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project as well as learning information more recently regarding Wichita's current proposal.

My guess would be that there is no one in this room today that doesn't respect the City of Wichita's responsibility to provide a safe drinking water supply to the citizens of Wichita as well as other uses of water within the City. We understand that the City has approximately 40,000 acre-feet of water within the Equus Beds aquifer to complement the supply of water they have access to from Cheney Reservoir. But what *does* concern many of us is what seems to be Wichita's constant strategy to redefine water and its methods of capture and storage. Their effort in doing this seems to be to gain increasingly more and more of the precious resource in ways that are allowed only by them and not other water users. Their process for doing this seems to be to continue to hire large engineering firms like Burns & McDonnell to attempt to legitimize these strategies and tactics.

When Phase 1 of the ASR project was approved, GMD 2 and the City of Wichita agreed to several key factors that would set the parameters for not only Phase 1, but also for subsequent phases. The Board and the other stakeholders of the District felt that the MOU that was created was entered into in good faith by all parties. Now it seems that the City has decided to take a different approach and go against the MOU they entered into with GMD 2. This abandonment of the MOU has resulted in their attempt change the rules and regulations to better suit their objectives and ultimately change the permit conditions as set forth in Phase 1 of the ASR Project.

Countless hours were spent by the GMD 2 Board, GMD 2 Staff, and numerous other stakeholders during Phase 1 permitting to arrive at key points of agreement such as: (1) Using the 1993 aquifer levels for baseline storage capacity; (2) Not allowing passive recharge credits; and (3) The establishment of a hydraulic barrier to slow salt movement from the Burrton brine contamination area. To my understanding, all three of these key points have simply been abandoned by the City in their current proposal. Perhaps the City forgot somewhere along the way that mother nature is far superior in replenishing a shallow aquifer than multimillion dollar infrastructures paid for with taxpayer money.

So why wouldn't the citizens and stakeholders of the District feel betrayed and upset by Wichita's recent approach? It seems as though when the City's so called "engineered" methods of capture and storage don't work, they simply abandon their agreements. In addition to this, an increasingly frustrating part is what seems to be DWR's assistance and support for the City of Wichita doing such. There is reason for concern when citizens lose faith in their government entities to be unbiased and fair to all parties. This recent approach by the City of Wichita with what appears to be the assistance of DWR, to ignore legitimate questions and concerns from the citizens and stakeholders in GMD 2, gives legitimate reason for Kansan's to lose faith in their State and its agencies. I certainly hope this is not the result of this hearing process.

Respectfully,

Frank Harper