

JUN 23 2023

KS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

RE: Public Comment for the Hays/Russell Water Transfer Application
OAH No. 23AG0023 AG

Water Transfer Hearing Panel
c/o Chief Engineer – Division of Water
Resources Kansas Department of Agriculture
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502

Dear Panel:

I moved to Hays 38 years ago and the one of the first things my father-in-law said to me was how vital water was to Hays and to always hang on to your water rights. As a City Commissioner in the late 1960's through 1978, he proudly drove me around town and explain the where the wells were and how much research the City of Hays has been doing to find a long-term water source.

I was a Hays City Commissioner from 2005 to 2012 and while the R-9 ranch had already purchased with the City of Russell, the work was far from over. I know that the City of Hays has been looking into every direction to find a long-term water source. In the end, the decision was to buy the ranch and start the water transfer process.

During all of this time the City of Hays has worked to make all citizens realize the value of conserving water with low flow toilets, low flow shower heads, giving rebates for high efficiency washing machines and rebates for planting low water grasses. In the 1980's, the City of Hays used 1.076 billion gallons of water. And in 2022, that amount is only 637 million Gallons of water. And it continues today due to the education of our citizenry and the buy in by them. If only the rest of the State followed its lead.

I am aware of everything that has been done to make sure the use of the R-9 is minimal and I know you have been given the statistics.

I am incredibly proud to be a citizen and representative from Hays. We conserve water. We act with the knowledge that we need to make sure future generations will have the resources to not only live here, but to thrive. This process has been arduous and made more difficult by people who do not know the journey like I do and like many City of Hays citizens do. This water transfer is crucial to the economic health of Western Kansas.

Please understand this and go forward with the Water Transfer.

Barb Wasinger
State Representative District 111
Barb.wasinger@house.ks.gov