

EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

313 Spruce Street

Halstead, Kansas 67056-1925

Phone - 316 835-2224 Fax - 316 835-2225

Email - equusbeds@gmd2.org

**Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2
Testimony Before the
Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Concerning the McPherson Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area
Tim Boese, Manager
October 4, 2016**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 (District), I wish to thank the Chief Engineer for the opportunity to provide information regarding the McPherson Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA).

The McPherson IGUCA was established on March 28, 1980, by order of the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources. As background, on February 13, 1979, the Chief Engineer received from the District Board of Directors a request to initiate proceeding for the establishment of an IGUCA near McPherson, Kansas, due to declining groundwater levels caused by groundwater withdrawals exceeding the aquifer's recharge rate. An initial public hearing on September 18, 1979 was held and then continued to allow the District to submit a final recommendation concerning proposed corrective control provisions for the area. On October 20, 1979, the IGUCA hearing was reconvened by the Chief Engineer. Upon review of the information provided at the hearing, including the recommendations by the District, the Chief Engineer approved the establishment of the McPherson IGUCA.

The McPherson IGUCA has been instrumental in managing the groundwater supplies in the area. Pursuant to the IGUCA order, the area is closed to new water appropriation permits, except domestic, temporary, and short-term water permits. This resulted in no new long term additional groundwater withdrawals. This, in conjunction with mandatory water meter installations on all non-domestic wells required by the IGUCA order, assisted in decreasing the rate of groundwater declines in the IGUCA.

The District assisted in the review and formation of the McPherson IGUCA review report. The District Board has reviewed and accepted the draft report. The District agrees with the report conclusion that the IGUCA is necessary and with the recommendation that the McPherson IGUCA continues with the current corrective control provisions. Additionally, the District staff and Board of Directors will review and make recommendations regarding the additional recommendations included in the report, including expansion of the IGUCA boundaries to the south.