

Water sub committee mtg public comment 8-18-2021

My name is Titus Jaeger, [REDACTED]. I am a member of the Upper Ark Regional Advisory Committee representing ground water irrigation. I represent 4 generations of our family who have actively been part of agriculture in Western Kansas for a 100 years. Today my wife and I are raising the 5th generation on my side and the 7th generation on my wife's side to be involved in agriculture production pursuits in Western Kansas. Agriculture is our LIFE and our LIVELIHOOD, our family has pursued stewardship through conservation from time we arrived in Wichita County in 1921. Our ancestors persevered through the 'Dirty Thirties' and it was the development of our water resources which was credited with reducing the effects of the drought in the 50s and the prolonged drought of the early 2000s, which recorded less precipitation than the drought of the 30s. Our water resources have fueled the lifeblood of the Western Kansas economy since their development.

Some Regional Advisory Committees have set a goal of having 10% or more supply than usage.

UPPER ARK Regional Advisory Committee

GOAL: Establish a diversified, usable water supply by 2030, to motivate a vibrant growing economy with conservation-minded stewardship focused on increasing the life of the aquifer, reestablishing streamflow in the Arkansas River, and accelerating recharge; benefiting: economic prosperity, wildlife, habitat, recreation, and all water users while protecting property rights and providing safe drinking water.

The Arkansas River has completely lost streamflow from Garden City to Dodge City in my lifetime. As a result we have lost an entire ecosystem.

There are 3 ways to address that tragedy and create an abundant future for this part of our state.

- 1- conservation-minded stewardship
- 2- a complete rewrite of our state water laws with neighboring states
- 3- a new source of supply.

Not just one of these, but all 3 will be necessary.

Our BELIEFS shape our reality. Do we have limiting BELIEFS? If we do... we must move from a SCARCITY mentality to an ABUNDANCE mentality. CHANGE is inevitable! Growth is Optional. Progress is Optional. Adaptation is Optional. Survival is Optional. What will we choose?

Conservation is great!... something we all support!! Conservation can be achieved and our local economy can be sustained with an augmentation plan. It is imperative we have an augmentation plan to achieve conservation. New sources of SUPPLY exist! Some say a water transfer is not possible.

Usually by the time you realize you need INNOVATION it's already too late! Now is the time to act! In every place in this country where we have an abundant resource, we move it to a place where that resource is scarce! And that resource is put to a more beneficial, value added use.... lumber, oil, gas, and even our crops get moved across our country! Why don't we do the same

with our WATER RESOURCES? A large scale water transfer is not only possible, it is inevitable! It will happen! The question is: Will we be part of it? or Will it go around or through our State without our participation?

Let's be part of the CHANGE! Let's choose PROGRESS GROWTH ADAPTATION and SURVIVAL!

Thanks

Titus Jaeger

