Priority Goal #1: Reduce the rate of decline of the Ogallala Aquifer in the region through voluntary, incentive-based conservation as assessed every five years.

Priority Goal #2: Extend the usable lifetime of the Ogallala Aquifer in the region through technology adoption (irrigation, industrial, municipal, etc.), new crop varieties and conservation for all uses and for many generations.

Goals 1 and 2 seek to reduce water use in the region therefore the following actions apply to both Goals. Goals 3 and 4 are strategies to address Goals 1 and 2.

Action Steps

- ❖ Define and quantify the regional aquifer decline, establishing a baseline for comparison
- ❖ Promote steps/programs to ensure water quality. (Mention this mainly for the Chloride area in the east part of region and also from past concerns of injection wells leaks and oil/gas drilling in the west)
- ❖ Monitor/promote/protect water coming into or protect water leaving the area (kind of goes in with the talks in past of meeting with water users from neighboring states and also the RACs past support for the monitoring well in Morton county that was denied)
- ❖ Work with partners, including KDA and NRCS, to develop baseline of water saving technologies in use and voluntary incentive based conservation occurring and a method to track participation. Consider using the annual water reporting system, producer surveys and other means to identify water saving efforts if needed.
- ❖ Secure funding, including statutory SGF transfer to SWPF, to support water conservation programs and evaluation of technologies, crop varieties and water management to save water.
- ❖ Provide water users with information on available tools and programs, including but not limited to; LEMAS, WCAs, Multi-Year Flex Accounts, Water Banks, Irrigation Scheduling, RCPP-Soil Probe program through GMDs, K-State Extension tools, K-State Research/farms and additional tools and programs as made available.
- ❖ Change producer perception from a "use it or lose it" mentality.
- ❖ Use demonstration projects to educate producers to economically reduce water used. (Water technology farms, LEMAS, WCAs, K-State Research and Extension farm projects and other water management and water efficiency projects can provide valuable examples and information to producers to encourage their participation in water saving efforts.)
- ❖ GMD3 and DWR work with producers to establish LEMAs and WCAs.
- ❖ Build a network of agencies, organizations, researchers, industry and producers to disseminate credible, accurate information on water use, conservation and technology, programs and tools to reduce water use.
    - ◇ Utilize K-State and others to develop technologies and crop varieties to enhance water savings methodologies and deliver information.
    - ◇ Work with producer and farm groups to reach other producers.
    - ◇ Include municipal and industrial users in outreach.
- ❖ Evaluate the effectiveness of technologies and crop varieties to develop voluntary incentives and tools to economically reduce water usage.
    - ◇ Support water technology farms (WTF) in the region for evaluation of technologies and management methods to reduce the current level of water use with a goal of at least one WTF in a water stressed area and one in a non-stressed area.
    - ◇ Develop mobile drip irrigation (MDI) statistics so funds could become available for technology upgrades through state and federal programs.
    - ◇ Work with federal partners to make additional water saving technologies eligible for federal programs.
    - ◇ Disseminate scientific and economic information on technology efficiencies and crop varieties as well as other relevant information from pilot studies, research and water technology farms.
- ❖ Use positive press releases to spread the word as WCAs are developed.
- ❖ Public water suppliers and industrial users should consider alternative uses of non-potable water and existing water supplies before developing any new water supplies.
- ❖ Public water suppliers should consider water rate structures to promote water conservation.

Priority Goal #3: Encourage all water users to conserve and make the best beneficial use of water

- ❖ Increase adoption of water conservation through education by those who are currently using the technology and adaption of a Master Water Manager program
- ❖ Identify existing conservation success stories and share with area producers, industry or municipalities as applicable.
- ❖ Initiate demonstration projects with willing producers in the region (technologies, crop varieties and management techniques) to reduce water use.
- ❖ Develop format/program to allow water users to document current water savings, if not in an approved program.
- ❖ Work with municipalities to educate customers on beneficial water use

Priority Goal #4: As measured through increase in adoption by 50% as assessed each five years, promote the adoption of irrigation efficient technology and invest in university research to evaluate the effectiveness of such technology and crop varieties to develop voluntary incentives and tools to economically reduce water usage. Recommended strategy to achieve Goal - Increase adoption through education by those who are currently using the technology.

- ❖ Educate water users on new technologies through local papers, extension, meetings of producer groups, irrigation organizations, conservation districts, GMD3 and other means.
- ❖ Develop and disseminate results from the use of water saving tools by those who have adopted technology and management tools to economically reduce water usage.
- ❖ Use local demonstrations of technology/demo farms in region to share techniques.
- ❖ Provide Water Conservation Area (WCA) information, including dissemination with water use reports.
- ❖ Develop widespread awareness of EQIP, CRP, RCPP, CIG and other program availability and increase participation.
- ❖ Encourage improvement of municipal conservation plans, municipal rate structures and other means to encourage water use reductions.