

Legislature to look at water questions

TOPEKA (AP) — There's no question that clean water is vital to Kansas, and there's no question steps must be taken to preserve it for the future.

The only question is how best to do that, and legislative leaders say it's a question that can't be answered quickly. They're hoping a course can be charted after lawmakers convene Jan. 8.

"Future generations are going to judge us pretty harshly if we don't figure out a strategy where they have clean water," said Senate President-elect Dave Kerri.

Kerri said lawmakers ought to move cautiously to find solutions satisfactory to varied interests.

"I hope we don't act precipitously when we don't have adequate information or an adequate plan of action," said Kerr, R-Hutchinson.

House Speaker Kent Glasscock agreed, saying a first step is "an honest give and take" among interests, including agriculture, business and environmental groups.

"You have to have a comprehensive approach to environmental issues that is focused," said Glasscock, R-Manhattan. "The Legislature isn't educated

enough on the issue, and there is not enough of a consensus to pass a bill."

Lawmakers, however, won't have to grope in the dark for solutions. At least two sources of ideas will be at their disposal.

This month, the Kansas Water Authority plans to issue a report that will include recommendations for dealing with conservation of surface water and the all-important Ogallala aquifer.

The Ogallala is beneath the western third of Kansas, its 160,000 square miles running north to Nebraska, south to Texas and west to Colorado and New Mexico.

Aquifers are vast underground water-bearing sediments and bedrock — not unlike a giant sponge holding water. Wells are sunk to collect water seepage and it's pumped to the surface.

The more wells sunk, the more water is used. In some areas more water is being used than is being put back into the aquifers.

Kerri notes depletion of the Ogallala and other aquifers isn't caused by Kansas alone.

"We have a problem over usage. Part of that problem is our neighbors to the north continue to put in wells," Kerr

said. Kansas already has sued Nebraska over low Republican River levels.

Another resource for lawmakers is a report from Gov. Bill Graves' task force on water issues.

Among other things, it said the state should set a deadline for achieving "zero depletion" of its groundwater — when consumption is no more than the amount replenished each year.

The panel considered setting a 2020 deadline but didn't include a specific date. Graves supports a deadline, but says he doesn't have a date in mind.

Sen. Steve Morris, whose southwest district is dotted with irrigation wells, doesn't think zero depletion is realistic.

"To have zero depletion, you are going to have to stop irrigation because the recharge in the Ogallala is slower," said Morris, R-Hugoton. "If you take away irrigation, you are going to take away the livelihood of many in western Kansas."

Morris is quick to defend the need to preserve water. He's just not sure a government mandate is the answer.

"Nobody wants to run out of water, but you have to use common sense. One size doesn't fit all," he said. "You can't say you have to save water for future generations and deny economic opportunity now."

He said water usage already can be reduced through technology. It also can be reduced because of higher costs for irrigation and lower market prices for crops and cattle.

Another issue that has received lots of attention is the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to issue stricter water quality standards for Kansas.

In July, EPA proposed regulations requiring reclassifying of 164 lakes and 1,292 streams and stricter state regulation of pollutants that can't be traced to a specific source.

At public hearings in September, the EPA got an earful from irate Kansans in Topeka and Dodge City who thought some of the ideas went too far.

EPA hasn't decided what it will do, but if the standards are imposed, lawmakers will have to decide what to do — spend more money for enforcement or battle the federal government.

Colby High School graduate promoted with highway patrol

A graduate of Colby High School was recently promoted in the Kansas Highway Patrol.

According to information from Colonel Don Brownlee, superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, Master Trooper William A. Poland was promoted to sergeant.



W. Poland

Poland joined the Patrol on June 18, 1988, and was assigned road patrol duties in Ellis County. In addition to his regular patrol duties, Poland served as a coach at the Patrol's Academy and served as a part-time instructor for the Patrol's Breath Alcohol Unit.

In June, he was promoted to Master Trooper.

In September he transferred to the Breath Alcohol Unit where he continues to serve. The Breath Alcohol Unit is responsible for training law enforcement officers to detect and

remove impaired drivers from Kansas highways. In addition, this unit oversees the Kansas Drug Recognition Expert program that trains officers to evaluate suspects that are suspected of being under the influence of illegal substances.

In addition to attending school locally, Poland also attended Barton County Community College where he received an associate of arts degree in criminal justice.

In 1992, Poland received a certificate of recognition from Governor Finney for his outstanding efforts in DUI enforcement.

In May of 2000, he received the Directors Award from the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for his assistance in the criminal investigation of a bombing in Rooks County.

From The Nursery

Tresta Marie Zerr

Roger and Kristi Zerr announce the birth of Tresta Marie on Monday, Dec. 11, 2000, at the Lincoln General Hospital, Lincoln, Neb.

She weighed 7 lbs. Grandparents are Daniel and Kathleen Zerr, Colby, and Bud and Marlene Whitaker, Auburn, Neb., and Mina Nelson, Raymond, Neb.

Bruen Nicholas Roulier

Cody and Amanda Roulier of Orange, Calif., announce the birth of their son, Bruen Nicholas, on Dec. 22, 2000. He weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Grandparents are Steve and Becky Lampe, Colby, and Leon and Barbara Roulier, Ramona, Calif. Great-grandmothers are Helen Williams, Colby, Violet Lampe, St. Francis, and Marge Roulier, Colby.

Connor Joseph Keller

Clay and Dana Keller, St. Francis, announce the birth of Connor Joseph on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2000, at Citizens Medical Center, Colby. He weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz.

Brothers Darris and Casey welcome the baby home.

Chance Lane Turner

Charles and Crystal Turner, Brewster, announce the birth of Chance Lane on Dec. 25, 2000, at Citizens Medical Center, Colby. He weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz.

Brothers Charlie and Kenny welcome the baby home.



Foundation seeks members; free trees offered

Ten free flowering trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during January 2001.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign, officials said.

The ten trees are two White Flowering Dogwoods, two Flowering Crabapples, two Flowering Pears, two Washington Hawthorns, and two American Redbuds.

"These compact trees were selected

for planting in large or small spaces," John Rosenow, the Foundation's president, said.

"They will give your home the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers — and also provide winter berries and nesting sites for songbirds."

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between Feb. 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they

will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, National Arbor Day

Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Neb. 68410, by Jan. 31, 2001.

The Colby Free Press

Please recycle this newspaper

DO YOU HAVE EPILEPSY? Or love someone who does?

If so, you are invited to participate in a **FREE EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

for people with epilepsy and their families.

Come learn about the FDA-approved, non-pharmacological therapy, Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS), for the treatment of partial onset seizures.

Wednesday, January 10th 12:00 noon

CITIZENS MEDICAL CENTER
Education Room • 100 E. College Drive - Colby

Please call to reserve your space.

Shannon Ross - 1-800-332-1375, Ext. 248

Let us help you make the most of your financial future.

Whenever you need...

- ▲ Mutual Funds
- ▲ IRAs and Roth IRAs
- ▲ IRA Rollovers
- ▲ Investments for Retirement Income
- ▲ Savings Plans for College
- ▲ Tax Planning Strategies
- ▲ Retirement Plans for Business



waddell.com
Member SIPC

Investing. With a plan.SM



DONNA K. BENNETT
Financial Advisor

120 W. 3rd
Colby, KS
67701
462-9823



LINDA L. VAUGHN
Financial Advisor

POP CORN

DEC. 29 - JAN. 4

COLBY TWIN THEATRES

TICKET PRICES: \$6.00, 13 & up \$4.00, 12 & under

Friday thru Thursday: 7:15

Vertical Limit

Friday thru Thursday: 9:15

DRACULA 2000

PG-13

THIS SUBSCRIBER RECEIVES 2 FREE PASSES (must be used within 15 days).....

EARL YARNELL

Cellular One New Years

100% @ GDN - ran last week

6x9