



Nonpublic Household Water Well Recommendation #5:

Create a Statewide Group Focused on Advancing Nonpublic Water Well Quality

Proposed Action

1. Form a statewide group to address groundwater and nonpublic water well issues in Kansas. The group will include (but not be limited to) representatives from KDHE, KGS, local environmental health, KEHA, KDHE-certified labs, Kansas Groundwater Association, licensed water well contractors, Groundwater Management District Association, and agricultural groups such as Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas Farmers' Union, among other potential partners. This group will sunset in five years. This group could be formally established through executive order of the governor, or by legislative action of the Kansas Legislature. The Kansas Water Office or KDHE could serve as the facilitator for this group.
2. Projects for the group will include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Identifying funding for nonpublic water well initiatives;
 - b. Workforce development for nonpublic water well experts;
 - c. Feasibility of private or public entities providing subscription-type services and maintenance for nonpublic wells;
 - d. Groundwater quality protection activities;
 - e. Assessing the feasibility of using existing groundwater monitoring and observation wells to monitor groundwater quality; and
 - f. Developing statewide databases, including:
 - i. Enhancing the electronic statewide database to include additional nonpublic water well quality information on the WWC-5.
 - ii. Developing a list and maps of active, abandoned, and inactive nonpublic water wells with addresses and property owner contact information.
 - iii. Compiling groundwater quality information from monitoring wells.
 - iv. Maintaining records of likely/probable (not known) sources of groundwater/aquifer contamination. Information about the potential sources of groundwater/aquifer contamination impacting the water quality

of nonpublic water wells will include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) private wastewater systems (abandoned and active)
- b) active and former dry cleaners
- c) feedlots (CAFOs)
- d) underground storage tanks
- e) active and inactive mining operations
- f) hazardous waste sites
- g) oil wells and other industrial sites
- h) petroleum exploration and fracking
- i) grain elevators
- j) fertilizer plants
- k) chemical activities/facilities
- l) other local and regional vulnerabilities

Potential Funding

Funding to support this recommendation would most likely come from a combination of sources, including state funding through different funding streams and from nonpublic water well users.

Background Information

Nonpublic household water well owners and users, local and state environmental health professionals, and other community members relying on groundwater for household consumption do not have access to accurate, updated information about the groundwater quality or emerging groundwater quality trends that could impact public health. Some of this information exists in an unorganized, dispersed manner.

A number of groundwater monitoring wells exist across Kansas to monitor groundwater quantity. Many of these groundwater monitoring wells are developed and maintained by public/state entities, including KDHE and KDA. Some of these groundwater monitoring wells could be used to collect groundwater for water quality testing and analysis and monitor groundwater quality across the state.

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Maintaining information about groundwater quality testing and any emerging trends in a systematic, statewide database would allow nonpublic water well users and state and local environmental health professionals to identify any groundwater quality concerns and take proactive measures to protect public health.

Why This Action Is Needed

There are many public and environmental health issues relating to groundwater in Kansas. To address these issues adequately, it is necessary for organizations across Kansas to collaborate.

Consolidating information about groundwater quality and making it publicly accessible to those impacted by groundwater quality or those responsible for regulating this resource will better protect and manage groundwater resources and public health.

