

City Council Workshop

South Central Kansas Water
Coalition Proposal

October 24, 2006

South Central Water Coalition Proposal

- The South Central Water Coalition is proposing to further its development by seeking membership approval for additional funding for dedicated resources, including paid staff.
- Wichita is a charter member of the South Central Water Coalition and is important to its further development.

History of Coalition

- January 2004 the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Executive Committee invited member jurisdictions to participate in discussions to develop a strategy for joint actions by local governments on regional water issues.
- On October 11, 2004 REAP voted to approve the formation of South Central Kansas Water Coalition.

Goals of the Coalition

- Establish a regional voice on water resource issues before state and national authorities.
- Reduce the fragmentation that exists because multiple state agencies have water resource responsibilities.

Goals of the Coalition (cont.)

- Assure that the quantity and quality of the region's water resources is protected.
- Provide a regional voice on water resource issues to local planning and zoning authorities.

Goals of the Coalition (cont.)

- Increase the number of projects in the area funded by the State Water Plan Fund.
- Identify and help obtain grant funding and facilitate regional water planning initiatives for water supply development projects.

Goals of the Coalition (cont.)

- Pursue a regional coordination role in the state funded initiative called WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy).
- Help the region to meet quality standards for surface water resources and assist water suppliers to meet safe drinking water standards.

Structure of Coalition

- Governing body is the Board of Delegates, members appointed from governing bodies of member entities.
- Board of Directors formed from appointed members of the professional/administrative staffs of member entities.










Coalition Members

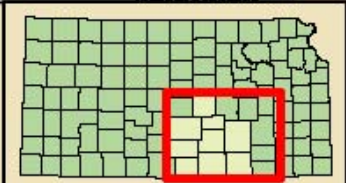
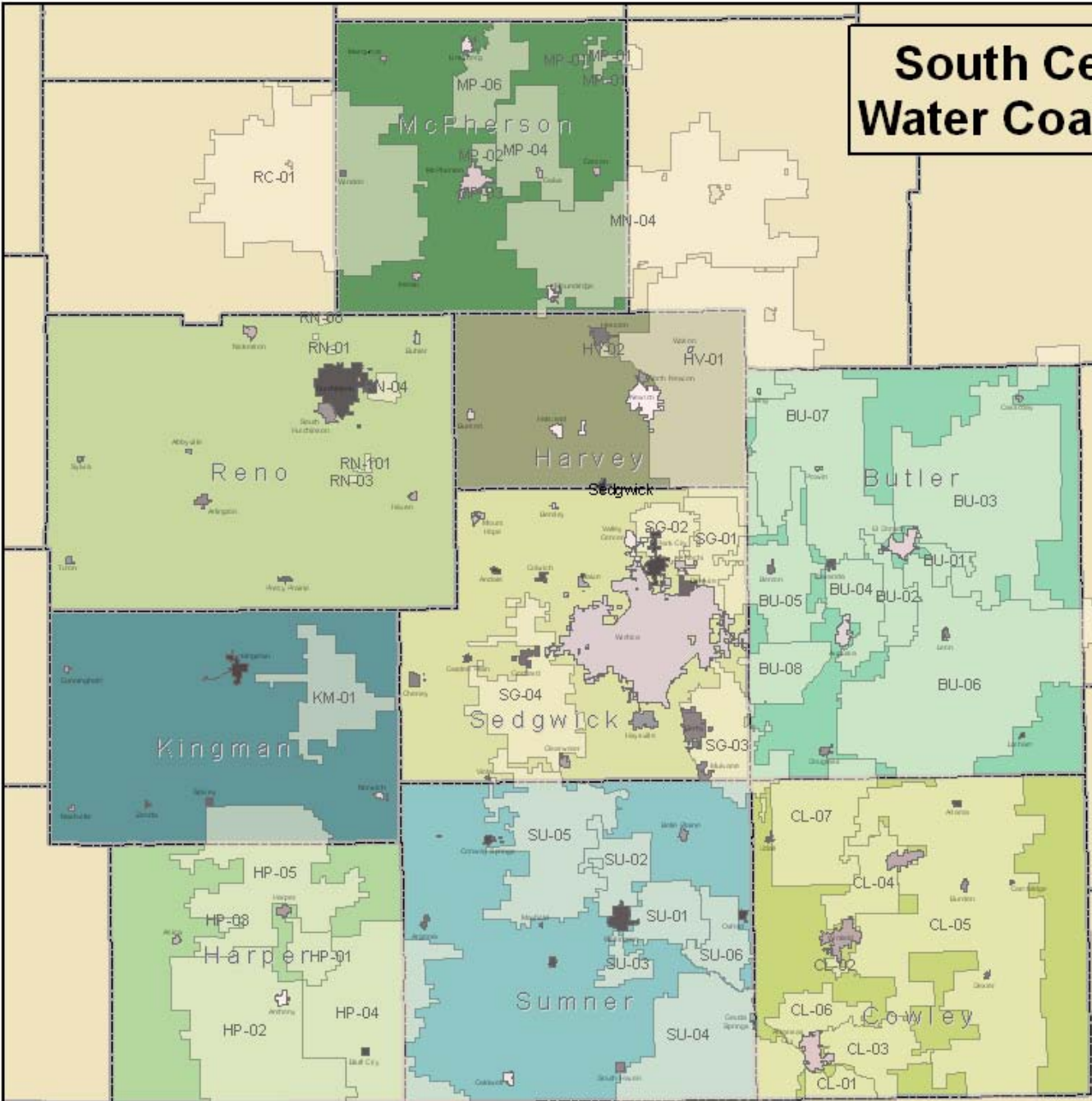
- Members were solicited from regional counties and cities
- On February 1, 2005 the Wichita City Council approved participation in the Coalition and an interlocal agreement to spend \$2,500 for a charter membership.

South Central Kansas Water Coalition Counties

Legend

Coalition Counties

-  Butler
-  Cowley
-  Harper
-  Harvey
-  Kingman
-  McPherson
-  Reno
-  Sedgwick
-  Sumner



Kansas Water Office September 2006

Wichita Delegates and Directors

- Wichita's representatives on Board of Delegates are Bob Martz and Paul Gray.
- Wichita's representatives on Board of Directors are Kay Johnson, Environmental Services, and Jerry Blain, Water and Sewer Department.

Coalition Accomplishments

- Sponsored a conference to provide elected officials information on water resources.
- Recognized by State agencies as an important asset to the region.
- Already obtained one grant - Kansas Water Office and Bureau of Reclamation on a regional water planning project – \$298,000.

Need for Regional Planning

- Regional planning will occur on a Federal and State level even without local input.
- Coalition will assure local involvement during regional planning efforts.

Coalition Issue

- From time of formation it was understood that dedicated resources would likely be needed to fully meet the goals and expectations.
- The time has come to provide for the resources needed to achieve the goals of the Coalition.
 - State and federal water funding cuts are being contemplated.
 - Coalition projects need additional resources for timely completion.

Coalition Board of Directors Recommendations

- Establish a budget of \$120,000 for 2006-2007 that would be adequate to fund dedicated resources, including staff.
- An assessment structure that shows Wichita as a member/partner, but not as the leader of the Coalition, with assessment less than 50% of the proposed budget.

Coalition Board of Directors Recommendations

- Current proposed assessment plan for Wichita would be 41% of budget and other members would pay remaining 59% of budget.

(Based on either population or water use, natural assessment for Wichita would be over 70% of budget.)

Recommendations to Council

- Water issues extend beyond the Wichita city limits, and there is significant value in having local governments sharing information and jointly speaking on water issues before state and other governmental agencies.
- The goals of the Coalition are consistent with the needs of the City of Wichita.

Recommendations to Council

- Continue participation in the Coalition
- Authorize representatives on Board of Delegates to:
 - Approve a budget that includes the use of dedicated resources.
 - Approve an assessment plan that places the City's assessment at no more than \$50,000.