

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District NO. 3

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**FEBRUARY,
2010**

Water Use Report Deadline Fast Approaching

Water Use Reports must be fully completed and submitted to the
State by

March 1st, 2010

A DATE TO REMEMBER.....

**GMD3 will hold their Annual Meeting at
10:00 a.m. on Wednesday March 10th at
Gray County 4-H Building 17002 W.
Highway 50, Cimmaron, Ks.**



**Come and talk water with Guest Speakers
and GMD3 Staff.**

Quick Links

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Kansas Department of
Agriculture
Kansas Water Office

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if your email address
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like to receive the
newsletter in another
form. You may contact

GMD3 Staff

**Mark Rude, Executive
Director**

**Jason Norquest, Assistant
Manager**

**Patty Stapleton, Office
Administrator**

**Chris Law, Resource
Technician**

Trevor Ahring, EIT/GIS Technician

Sharolyn Leis, Office Assistant



any of the staff above for further communication on newsletter ideas or changes.

(click on a staff member to send them an email)



Topeka, Kansas

GMD3 Board & Staff stay ahead of the cold at the GMDA Conference

While the District was hit with single digit temperatures, Board members Steve Stone and Mike McNeice, along with Mark Rude and Jason Norquest, enjoyed 30 degree weather at the annual Groundwater Management District Association's (GMDA) winter conference in Charleston, South Carolina. The conference, held this year January 6-8, brings board members and staff of groundwater management districts from all across the United States.

A highlight Thursday morning was hearing about the water issues and programs being implemented in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. In the last couple of years, Georgia has implemented a state wide metering program on all wells. During the presentation and throughout the day we were able to hear the process they went through and were able to give them our perspective of how we implemented the program and the troubles we have encountered over the years. The afternoon sessions turned more to the new technology being used to monitor water use. We heard from representatives of companies about variable rate irrigation and the latest in monitoring water through telemetry. Colorado is in a pilot program of implementing telemetry reading to monitor well activity and stream flows. A real positive has been the ability to get real time data on a lot of wells with less staff time. The up to date measurements allows them to better manage the offsets needed to ensure compliance with streamflows.

Friday morning our attention was turned to the importance of communication. It wasn't just about communicating with individuals, but the how the board communicates with managers and staff. With all of the projects that all districts have, it is essential that there is clear and open communication on all levels of our district. Discussion tables were broken out for board presidents and members, district managers and then staff. Different exercises were done to illustrate how one or two people may be thinking the same thing, but at times the communication to others is misinterpreted. It really brought home the point that in order for a program in any district to work smoothly, there has to be a clear line of communication on all levels. Meetings like the GMDA conference is a perfect example of how even communicating on a national level can be beneficial at the

district level.

Everyone in attendance capped off the meeting with a wonderful tour of historic Fort Sumter. It was great to have the opportunity to mix some pleasure in with a very productive meeting. The summer conference is scheduled for June 6-8th, 2010 at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Going with the Flow

When an installed flowmeter has either quit working or is showing signs of failure, a water user should immediately take action to correct this. You don't need anyone to tell you that. What you may not be aware of is the ramifications of your choice between repairing a flowmeter and replacing a flowmeter.

Currently an existing flowmeter installed to meet past regulation but not meeting today's installation requirements can usually be repaired and reinstalled. If you were to replace the failed flowmeter with a different flowmeter (new or used) then the installation would have to meet current installation requirements as set forth in K.A.R. 5-1-4 & 5-1-6. These include at least 5 and up to 10 pipe diameters of upstream spacing, 2 pipe diameters of downstream spacing (both measured from the sensor portion of the flowmeter), a manufacturer-approved measuring chamber and flow-straightening vanes. An example of pipe diameter is: 8 inch pipe needing 5 pipe diameters of upstream spacing would require a minimum of 40 inches of upstream spacing from the sensor portion of the flowmeter.

Repairing some flowmeters in use today is difficult and sometimes not possible. In those cases a different flowmeter is the only choice and meeting current installation requirements can be a challenge. GMD3 recommends using the resources of DWR staff, GMD3 staff and the flowmeter vendor to insure an installation that allows the flowmeter to perform as intended while meeting these and other state requirements. Accurate measurement of the water used is the ultimate goal of a flowmeter. This allows you to use water in an efficient and economic manner while staying within the authorized limits of the water right.

At GMD3 we are committed to assisting water users with beneficial use and conservation of this most vital resource. If you have any questions, topics you would like to see covered or would like to discuss flowmeters or other water issues please don't hesitate to contact us.