

WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FORMERLY KNOWN AS
"the Pipeline"

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (GMD3)
A GOVERNING BODY CONTROLLED BY LOCAL PEOPLE

Volume 2, Issue 2

April, 2002

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BOARD PRESIDENT

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Stanton County

VICE PRESIDENT

KENT DUNN

Seward County

SECRETARY

THOMAS O. MILLER

Gray County

TREASURER

MIKE O'BRATE

Industrial

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ARLEN EATON Ford

WARREN FOX Meade

MARLIN HEGER Stevens

JAY HOUTSMA Hamilton

DAVID LIGHT Morton

KIRK A. MADDUX Kearny

ALAN SCHWEITZER Municipal

CLAY SCOTT Grant

STEVE STONE Finney

PETER YORK Haskell

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MEETINGS:

2ND WED. EACH MONTH

9:00 A.M. - DISTRICT OFFICE

409 CAMPUS DR., SUITE 106

GARDEN CITY, KS 67846

<http://www.gmd3.org>

DISTRICT RETREAT IN TOPEKA

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District Board of Directors (also referred to as "GMD3" or "District") met in Topeka on February 14, 2002 to discuss management strategies. Meeting with them were **Secretary of Agriculture Jamie Clover Adams**, **Chief Engineer David Pope**, **Kansas Water Office Director Al LeDoux**, **Kansas Water Office Staff Susan Stover**, and **District Legislative Liaison Chris Wilson**. **Representative Bill Light from the 124th District** stopped by prior to the meeting to address issues and to answer questions. Secretary Adams gave a status report on her department's budgetary concerns and recent fee proposals. Chief Engineer Pope reported on the status of the Blatant Reoccurring Overpumping (BRO) project. Mr. LeDoux requested that the District submit a sub-unit strategy by November of this year. He also felt that a protocol and timeline for parameters of site-specific pilot programs and definition of sub-units and a pilot study should be submitted to be included in the 2005 Water Plan. Executive Director Hank Hansen stated that the District had adopted a protocol on October 10, 2001 in an effort to accommodate the recommendations of the Ogallala Aquifer Management Advisory Committee of the Kansas Water Authority. Other items discussed included the District's initiative to identify irrigation that has occurred without a permit, and if the District could determine what constitutes or defines whether an application is in the public interest.

DIRECTORS ELECTED DURING 27TH ANNUAL MEETING

5 District Director positions were voted on during the 27th Annual Meeting held on February 27, 2002 at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses, KS. Nominations for District Director positions included Clay Scott and Dale Stevenson for Grant County, Jay Houtsma for Hamilton County, Peter York and Jay Garetson for Haskell County, Brant Peterson and Ed R. Parks for Stanton County, and Alan Thomas and Alan Schweitzer for the Municipal (At Large) position. Elected as District Directors for the following positions were: **Clay Scott for Grant County, Jay Houtsma (incumbent) for Hamilton County, Peter York for Haskell County, Brant Peterson (incumbent) for Stanton County and Alan Schweitzer for the Municipal (At Large)**. Their terms will expire in 2005.

2003 BUDGET DECREASE PRESENTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Proposed 2003 Budget showed a decrease in assessment and other revenue and expenditures. For the last couple of years the budget has been increased in order to rebuild the annual budget carryover. This was successfully achieved last year and is no longer required at this time. District goals have actually been elevated, rather than decreased simply to cut taxes. The District has undergone staffing reductions and other process changes which will enable more to be accomplished without increasing revenue.

ELECTION OF GMD3 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

During their meeting on March 13, 2002, the GMD3 Board of Directors elected the following officers: **Brant Peterson as President, Kent Dunn as Vice President, Tom Miller as Secretary**, and **Mike O'Brate as Treasurer**. President Peterson made the following Committee Assignments: **Executive Committee**—Chairman Brant Peterson, Kent Dunn, Mike O'Brate, Tom Miller; **Policy Committee**—Chairman Kent Dunn, Clay Scott, Marlin Heger, David Light; **Finance Committee**—Chairman Mike O'Brate, Jay Houtsma, Steve Stone, Alan Schweitzer; **Annual Meeting Committee**—Chairman Tom Miller, Arlen Eaton, Kirk Maddux; **Research & Development Committee**—Chairman Warren Fox, Dave Brenn, and Peter York.

"UNAUTHORIZED PLACE OF USE" PROJECT

Field inspections for possible "Unauthorized Place of Use" were completed on February 22, 2002. Of the original 153, 70 were determined not to need action at this time. Following title searches, 83 notice letters involving 81 parcels of land were sent out by certified mail on March 8, 2002. Of these, 13 were easily resolved due to errors on the state's database, water sources being determined not to be groundwater, or the owners agreed to cease irrigation. 12 responses are pending being resolved as the owners have an application currently filed that is not approved or they are currently filing the change in place of use.

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3

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Garden City KS 67846

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- District Hydrogeologist Diane Coe has resigned to become a Basin Planner for the Kansas Water Office. She was also the Local Environmental Planning Group (LEPG) Director. After 10 years, the LEPG Board has decided to separate ties with GMD3 and proceed on their own.
- The 2001 Annual Financial Audit has been completed by Lewis, Hooper, and Dick of Garden City. There were no budget law violations for the District and all funds were found to be adequately secured throughout the year.
- Dana Woodbury is the new Director of the Ogallala Aquifer Institute Steering Committee. GMD3 Executive Director Hank Hansen will be serving on the Steering Committee.
- The GMD3 Board has accepted a contract with Servi-Tech (Dodge City) to do sampling and analysis work for the District's 2002 Water Quality Monitoring Network. Approval was also given to contract with a geologist on water quality issues.
- \$10,000 was pledged by the GMD3 Board in support of the K-State Dept. of Civil Engineering's grant proposal to create a Center for Research on Groundwater Based Economies.
- The District is currently seeking a full time employee to help with the ever mounting clerical work and other general office duties. Letters of interest and resumes are being accepted until 04-26-02.

FLOW METER INSPECTION CONTRACT FORMS FOR CONTRACTORS - NOW AVAILABLE

The District is currently advertising for bids for contracting the labor necessary to perform inspections of existing water flow meter installations. Bids are due in the District office no later than **April 30, 2002**. Such inspections will be conducted from **June 15, 2002** until **September 30, 2002**. The contractors selected will wear highly visible vests and their inspection vehicles will clearly display a highly visible flashing light on top that will run constantly during the field inspection work (vests and lights provided by the District). Each contractor will carry a letter or card of identification. A "Meter Inspection Tag" will be left near each meter inspected.

SPECIAL THANKS

Considerable appreciation and special thanks go out to our "retiring" Directors **Floyd Frank, Donnie Young, and Wayne West**, for all of their endeavors and commitment to the District. Mr. Frank has served as the Haskell County representative since 2-24-93, Mr. Young has served as the Grant County representative since 2-28-96, and Mr. West has served as the Municipal (At-Large) representative since 5-8-91.

Also, the District would like to thank the following sponsors for helping make the 27th Annual Meeting such a success: **First National Bank of Elkhart, Syracuse, & Liberal; Crop Quest of Dodge City; American Irrigation of Garden City; Ford County Equipment Co. of Dodge City; Unruh-Foster Inc. of Montzuma; Dodge City Cooperative Exchange of Dodge City; Kennedy & Coe of Dodge City; T-L Irrigation Co. of Dodge City; Fidelity State Bank & Trust Co. of Dodge City; Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas of Garden City; American Implement of Garden City; Ingalls Aerial Sprayers of Ingalls; Commerce Bank of Garden City; Golden Harvest Seeds—Mike Konda of Spearville; Southwest Irrigation of Ulysses, Johnson, Hugoton, & Sublette; and Frank's Auction Service of Copeland.**