

WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 4, Issue 4

April, 2004

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THOMAS FORD Industrial

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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>

OFFICERS ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Brant Peterson, representing Stanton County, was elected on March 10, 2004 to serve a 4th consecutive term as President of the Board of Directors. Kent Dunn, representing Seward County, was then nominated and elected to serve his 4th consecutive term as Vice President. Clay Scott, representing Grant County, was elected to serve his first term as Secretary. Michael O'Brate, representing Gray County, was elected to serve his 5th term as Treasurer.

DR. GARY HECOX INVITED TO PROPOSE HYDROLOGIC MODEL

Dr. Hecox of Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee, presented some examples of hydrologic modeling scenarios to the Board of Directors on March 10, 2004. Dr. Hecox recently produced a comprehensive hydrologic model for GMD4 of Colby, Kansas that helps predict the impact of water consumption on the aquifer. The Board of Directors invited Dr. Hecox to prepare a cost-proposal of developing an interactive model for GMD3 that can be adaptable for future use as the conditions change.

GMD5 OFFERS TO BUY CIRCLE K RANCH FROM HAYS

In an interesting turn of events the Big Bend Groundwater Management District (GMD5), headquarters at Stafford, Kansas, elected on March 10, 2004 to buy the Circle K Ranch from the city of Hays. The Circle K Ranch is located near the city of Kinsley, in Edwards County, which is about 30 miles east of Dodge City. The city of Hays seems to have abandoned their plan to divert water from the ranch to Hays, which is more than 60 miles away. It's been estimated that the ranch has over 6,000 acre-feet of irrigation water rights. In response to declining stream flow in the Arkansas River near Kinsley, the Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR) recently established a tentative plan to reduce approximately 41,000 acre-feet of irrigation water rights. The reductions are to apply within an area designated as the Middle Arkansas River Sub-basin. The Circle K Ranch is part of this basin area and its water rights could be impacted by this plan to reduce irrigation. Prior to GMD5's decision to purchase the ranch, the Kansas Water Office held numerous public meetings on the prospect of the State of Kansas purchasing the ranch. The Water Office plan was to dismiss most of the water rights and then establish a state-managed recreation park.

COLORADO RUN-OFF CAUSES PROBLEM FOR KANSAS

Past and ongoing studies indicate unwanted naturally occurring elements washed away from topsoil in Colorado by irrigation and storm run-off water contaminate the Arkansas River flowing into Kansas. The concentrations of Selenium, Sulfate, and other unwanted dissolved solids are present in unacceptable levels in the river water. This puts our stretch of the Arkansas River on the EPA's list of impaired waters because the concentrations exceed the government's allowable tolerances. Tom Stiles, Kansas Department of Health & Environment, will present information on this and other river water quality issues during the April 14, 2004 GMD3 Board meeting.

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3

409 Campus Drive, Suite 108
Garden City KS 67846

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**LEGISLATION IS ONLY PART OF THE LONG-TERM GOAL**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution 2004-04 on March 10, 2004 that is intended to help Legislators understand significant aspects of draft legislation being considered in both the Senate Bill 559 and House Bill 2620. In general, this legislation proposes an Irrigation Transition Program that originated from hundreds of hours of voluntary work donated over the last several years by numerous western Kansas stakeholders. These local stakeholders managed to establish a common goal to "extend the usable life of the Ogallala Aquifer". In addition to that, the Kansas Water Office, the Division of Water Resources and the State Conservation Commission have promoted this as a small scale, voluntary program that is to be stakeholder-driven and locally managed. As noted in the resolution, the program compliments the historically significant Arkansas River stream flow issues that promulgated the ongoing 1985 Kansas versus Colorado lawsuit. The Arkansas River does not receive adequate recharge from high river flow events due to the reservoirs and other manmade obstructions built in Colorado. These obvious river obstructions have been allowed to keep water from traveling downstream to Kansas that otherwise would not only recharge the aquifer, but might also improve water quality by decreasing the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) of unwanted contaminants. In spite of this disadvantage, Southwest Kansas claims to generate the 2nd strongest economy in the state, which also happens to be dependent upon irrigated crop production. Accordingly, the Irrigation Transition Program could provide long-term economic benefits by helping extend the viability of irrigation in Southwest Kansas.

FLUIDYNE FLOW METER PRESENTATION

At the invitation of the Board of Directors, Larry Stange, Teeter Irrigation of Garden City, and Mark Booker, Emco Flow Systems of Fort Collins, Colorado, presented information on the "Fluidyne" flowmeter during the March 10, 2004 board meeting. Following their presentation, the Board directed Hank Hansen to contact the Division of Water Resources to determine its status regarding their list of approved meters. The meter seems to have several beneficial advantages, one of which is that it can't be operated in a reversed position that would deduct the amount of water being pumped. It also cannot be easily manipulated to provide a false reading. Aside from that, the factory claims the presence of air in the water won't interfere with its accuracy as can happen with more conventional meters. The meter also has "no moving parts" to breakdown.

METER REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT REPORTS

Whenever a flow meter is newly installed, repaired, or replaced the state of Kansas requires written notification be provided to their office within 30 days of the meter installation, repair, or replacement. That's according to the Kansas Administrative Regulation 5-1-10 that became effective September 22, 2000. The District developed a form intended to help water users comply with this regulation and it's available upon request from our office, or by copying it from our Internet Web Site address: www.gmd3.org. The completed form can be mailed or faxed to the District office or is also accepted by the Division of Water Resources (DWR). Upon receipt of the completed form, the District immediately forwards a copy to the appropriate DWR field office.

VEHICLE FLEET REDUCED AGAIN

Executive Director Hank Hansen has decided it's time to reduce the fleet of vehicles again. Hansen initially reduced the fleet from 5 vehicles down to 3 just after being hired as the Executive Director in 2001. Nearly 2 years later it's become apparent the District's car, that was designated for business travel, costs more in depreciation and maintenance than it might cost to reimburse employees for the use of their personal vehicles for infrequent District business travel. Meeting and conference attendance is kept to a bare minimum because the District strives to maintain only essential services.

ADDRESS CHANGE

The District has changed its mailing address from Suite 106 to Suite 108. The remainder of the address is unchanged. The new address in Official Postal Format is now: 409 CAMPUS DR STE 108, GARDEN CITY KS 67846-6158. Access to the main office is now available through the first door on the right found just after entering the front of the building. In comparison, access to the newly remodeled conference room is now through the second door on the right that in the past had been the front door of our main office.