

WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FORMERLY KNOWN AS
"the Pipeline"

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

Volume 2, Issue 5

September, 2002

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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>

BOARD VOTES TO CLOSE DISTRICT TO NEW APPROPRIATION

During their August 14, 2002 meeting the GMD3 Board voted 8 to 5 to recommend to the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources (DWR) to discontinue further appropriations of water for non-temporary and non-domestic use that request to divert more than 15 acre-feet of water per calendar year within the boundaries of the District.

DISTRICT INTERVENES IN ELECTRIC UTILITY CASES

On June 12, 2002 the Board of Directors decided to become an intervener in the Hearing Proceedings being resided over by David Pope, Chief Engineer of the Kansas Division of Water Resources regarding the pending water right applications filed in the following matters: The Sunflower Electric Power Corporation Case No. 02 WATER 2285 and Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Case No. 02 WATER 2277. We have become interveners to assure the interest of all water users of the district are represented. Along with that, GMD3 intends to provide recommendations to Mr. Pope on the pending applications as defined in a 1995 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that exists between the DWR and GMD3. Pursuant to the Wheatland Electric hearings which were held August 26—30, 2002, the GMD3 Board recommended the following during their September 11, 2002 meeting:

- (1) The Board, by a vote of 12-0, voted to approve the application for FI-168.
- (2) The Board, by a vote of 12-0, voted to approve the application for FI-229; pending the request that the Chief Engineer review the historic consumptive use, water right interactions relative to the same source of supply, and water rights impairment issues. It was also acknowledged that the Board did not agree with the model used.
- (3) The Board, by a vote of 10-2, voted to approve the water right 2342; pending the same requests applied to FI 229 with the addition that action was taken knowing that the water right has not been certified.

FIRST LEGACY ALLIANCE MEETING HELD

The first KS Natural Resources Legacy Alliance Meeting was held August 8, 2002 in Topeka, KS. Former Lt. Governor Sheila Frahm from Colby, Kansas was elected as the Chair for the Alliance. The Alliance will be examining the state's current natural resources and programs and submit a preliminary report to the Governor and Legislature on or before May 1, 2003. They will give a final report with recommendations by December 1, 2003. GMD3 Board President, Brant Peterson, serves on the Alliance.

SW KS BEDROCK-SURFACE ELEVATION MAP TO BE UPDATED

During the July 10, 2002 Board Meeting, the GMD3 Board of Directors voted to have the Kansas Geological Survey update the bedrock map for the District. The existing version of the map was last published as part of the regional ground-water resources assessment of GMD3 in 1981 and is most likely based on data collected up to the late 1970s. Since then, many new wells and test holes have been drilled in GMD3 and in adjacent states to locate and produce water as well as considerable drilling for oil and gas production. The new version of the bedrock-surface elevation map will help reduce possible errors in the calculation of saturated thickness. The project is expected to take 18 months to complete. It is projected to begin in September 2002.

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3

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OGALLALA AQUIFER LEGISLATION

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback announced that he and Senator Jeff Bingaman have introduced the High Plains Aquifer Hydrogeologic Characterization, Mapping, Modeling and Monitoring Act. "This bill is an important phase in a comprehensive program to extend the life of the aquifer," Brownback said. "Kansas is the leader among the states and will pioneer the next phase of innovative procedures and techniques to extend and conserve the life of the aquifer." The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the High Plains Aquifer states in conducting a hydrogeologic characterization, mapping, modeling and monitoring program for the High Plains Aquifer. Brownback and Bingaman sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman last month concerning groundwater depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer.

IMPORTANT DATES & INFO:

- The next GMD3 Board Meeting will be held October 9, 2002.
- A public hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, December 11, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at the Wheat Lands Conference Center located at 1311 E. Fulton, Garden City, Kansas to consider the adoption of new regulations recommended by GMD3 to the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, KS Dept. of Agriculture. The hearing will follow the regularly scheduled GMD3 Board of Directors' meeting, which will also be held at the Wheat Lands Conference Center, starting at 9:00 a.m. that same day.
- Hank Hansen presented a brief overview of the District to the Kansas Environmental Leadership Program (KELP) on August 21st and to the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership group (KARL) on August 22, 2002.
- The Contract Meter Inspection Program, which began on June 15th, has been successful. Since that time, 1800 meters have been inspected and 108 of those were found non-compliant. Corrective action has been taken or is pending.
- Sharon Schiffelbein has been hired as Clerk. Sharon comes to us from the KSU SW Area Extension Office where she worked for 11 years. Some of her duties will include payroll, database maintenance, website revisions/ maintenance, and other clerical support for office staff.
- The GMD3 Newsletter mailing list has been updated and radically reduced from over 10,000 addresses down to 3300. The GMD Staff have compiled a more current list of groundwater users and pertinent agencies.

SUB-SURFACE DRIP (SDI) PROJECTS

The State Conservation Commission (SCC) approved a \$213,871 supplemental reserve allocation for FY 2003 to implement SDI Projects. Funding account levels will be based on the Conservation District cost-share rate. The SCC has again created a special fund in the Water Resources Cost-Share Program for FY 2003 to implement irrigation efficiency practices in the Rattlesnake Creek Sub-basin. The amount available is \$25,000. Applications are to be submitted by **Oct. 16, 2002**. During FY 2002, five County Conservation Districts implemented 29 irrigation efficiency projects totaling \$57,671.53 in cost-share from all available sources. **For more information contact your local County Conservation District.**