

WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 3, Issue 12

www.gmd3.org

December, 2003

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THOMAS FORD Industrial

SHANNON CRAWFORD

Stevens

PHONE (620) 275-7147

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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>

CHIEF ENGINEER REQUESTS REDUCTION IN RATE OF DECLINE

During the November 19, 2003 Fall Water Summit hosted by the District, David Pope, Chief Engineer of the KS Division of Water Resources (DWR) requested that the rate of decline is to be reduced in the next 3-years, or he will accomplish it via regulatory means. This comment followed the Board of Directors reassuring the Chief Engineer that they are committed to achieving a reduction in the rate of decline as defined in their recent aquifer management protocol. Areas classified as High Priority Aquifer Subunits have been tentatively identified, but actual goals needed to reduce the rate of decline have not yet been established. Such goals will be designed according to each aquifer subunit characteristics. The District will conduct public meetings early next year to receive input as well to inform stakeholders of the requirement to reduce the rate of decline. Mr. Pope stated that maintaining the "status quo" in a high priority subunit is not an acceptable solution to the problem. He also stated that reductions in irrigated land are necessary to reduce the demand on this depleting aquifer.

PROPOSED GMD3 ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. CST at the GMD3 office, 409 Campus Drive, Suite 106, Garden City, KS to consider the adoption of amended regulations recommended by GMD3's Board of Directors to the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, KS Dept. of Agriculture. The proposals are summarized as follows: K.A.R. 5-23-1. Adopts the statewide definition for "battery of wells," "Theis analysis" and "Waste of Water". It also adopts definitions for "tailwater reuse system." K.A.R. 5-23-3. For the High Plains Aquifer, it specifies that if a fraction of an acre-foot of water is applied for, the quantity will be rounded down to the next whole number of acre-feet for applying the spacing requirements. If a well is being replaced, it is exempt from spacing requirements if it continues to meet spacing to all wells that it met spacing prior to the change and improved the spacing to all wells to which it did not meet spacing prior to the change. It also sets criteria for exempting non-domestic wells from the spacing requirement to domestic wells. K.A.R. 5-23-3a. These amendments make the same types of changes for spacing requirements for wells in a confined aquifer. It also requires a well in the confined aquifer for 15 acre-feet or less to be 2,640 feet from the nearest point of hydraulic contact, and a well from 16 to 25 acre-feet to be 1 mile from the nearest point of hydraulic contact.

OFFICE REMODELING PROPOSAL ACCEPTED

On November 19, 2003, GMD 3 Board of Directors voted to approve a 3-year lease and remodeling proposal offered by Lee Brothers for District office space. This proposal will incorporate Suite 108, which is located next door, to part of the currently occupied Suite 106, at 409 Campus Drive in Garden City, KS. It will also allow area for a larger Board Room and more useable space in order to better accommodate the needs of District constituents and staff. The good news is that the monthly rent will be less than the current amount which will result in an annual savings of \$1824 or \$5,472 for the 3-year duration of the lease.

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3

409 Campus Drive, Suite 106,
Garden City KS 67846

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

PRE-HEARING TO REVIEW MANAGEMENT PROGRAM & PROTOCOL

Pre-hearing conferences are being organized in order to review the District's Revised Management Program and the Ogallala High Plains Aquifer Protocol. They are tentatively being scheduled as follows:

May 18, 2004 Garden City 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

May 18, 2004 Liberal 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

May 19, 2004 Ulysses 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

May 19, 2004 Cimarron 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

This will be a good time for local stakeholders to give input on these two very important issues. Locations for the pre-hearing conferences will be announced in later newsletters. A formal Public Hearing will be held at a later date prior to November 2004. Revised Management Programs cannot be adopted without providing a public hearing as defined in Kansas Statute Annotated 82a-1029 of the Groundwater Management District Act. The last time the District's Management Program was revised and approved by the Chief Engineer was 1991.

BY-LAW REVISIONS FORTHCOMING

District Staff and Board of Directors will soon be reviewing the current GMD3 By-laws in order to propose changes that would update and clarify areas of previous concern. The current by-laws can be amended or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by a majority of the Directors present at any regular meeting or at any special meeting. Written notice to adopt, amend, or repeal a by-law must be provided to the Executive Committee at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which a relevant action will be considered.

MEETING REMINDERS

The **December 10, 2003** Regular GMD3 Board Meeting will be held at the Sunnyland Bed & Breakfast, 501 N. 5th Street, Garden City, KS from 9:00 a.m. CST until approximately 2:00 p.m.

A public hearing will be held in conjunction with the GMD3's Regular January Board of Director's Meeting on Wednesday, **January 14, 2004**, at GMD3's office at 10:00 a.m. CST in order to consider the adoption of amended regulations recommended by GMD3 to the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture. The Regular Board Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The **3rd Annual Topeka Water Retreat** will be held on **Tuesday, February 10, 2004, at the Topeka Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kansas. Invited guests include the Chief Engineer and other state dignitaries as well as area Legislators.**

