

# WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FORMERLY KNOWN AS  
"the Pipeline"

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

Volume 3, Issue 7

[www.gmd3.org](http://www.gmd3.org)

July, 2003

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HANK HANSEN

[hhansen@gmd3.org](mailto:hhansen@gmd3.org)

## ASSISTANT MANAGER

JANET L. KING

[jking@gmd3.org](mailto:jking@gmd3.org)

## CONSERVATIONIST

KENT SHAW

[kshaw@gmd3.org](mailto:kshaw@gmd3.org)

## CONSERVATIONIST

JASON NORQUEST

[norquest@gmd3.org](mailto:norquest@gmd3.org)

## CLERK

SHARON MISHLER

[sschiffe@gmd3.org](mailto:sschiffe@gmd3.org)

## BOARD PRESIDENT

BRANT PETERSON

Stanton County

## VICE PRESIDENT

KENT DUNN

Seward County

## SECRETARY

PETER YORK

Haskell County

## TREASURER

MIKE O'BRATE

Gray County

## BOARD MEMBERS

DAVID BRENN Surface

ARLEN EATON Ford

WARREN FOX Meade

JAY HOUTSMA Hamilton

WAYNE BREEDING Morton

KIRK A. MADDUX Kearny

ALAN SCHWEITZER Municipal

CLAY SCOTT Grant

STEVE STONE Finney

THOMAS FORD Industrial

SHANNON CRAWFORD  
Stevens

PHONE (620) 275-7147

FAX (620) 275-1431

## MEETINGS:

2ND WED. EACH MONTH

9:00 A.M. - DISTRICT OFFICE

409 CAMPUS DR., SUITE 106

GARDEN CITY, KS 67846

<http://www.gmd3.org>

## 2004 BUDGET HEARING

The 2004 GMD3 Budget Hearing will be held on July 9, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the GMD3 District Office, located at 409 Campus Drive, Suite 106, Garden City, Kansas. It will be held in conjunction with the regular July Board of Director's meeting. The Budget is based on the same assessment rate as the previous year, which is \$0.05 per acre of land located within the District which generates \$239,384 and \$0.10 per acre-foot of water permitted by the State of Kansas within the District which generates \$378,376 for a total of \$617,760 being collected from assessments. Other revenues include 2002 carry-over, interest income, MOU income, and Misc. income. For more information contact the District Office at (620) 275-7147.

## FIRST ANNUAL FALL WATER SUMMIT TO BE HELD

The First Annual Fall Water Summit, which will be held with Chief Engineer David Pope, is tentatively scheduled for November 19, 2003 in the Finnup Center for Conservation Education Conference Room, Garden City. The GMD3 Board of Directors have invited Mr. Pope to help identify key discussion issues for the meeting's Agenda.

## KANSAS WATER CONGRESS (KWC)

Dave Brenn the Executive Director of the newly created Kansas Water Congress has reported that all 5 Kansas GMDs have pledged support either through a "Founders" or "Sustaining" membership contribution. The Board of Directors will govern the Kansas Water Congress with representatives from throughout the state. A significant majority of the KWC's divisional representatives held an orientation meeting on May 28, 2003 at the Rolling Hills Wildlife Refuge located west of Salina, Kansas. Director Jay Houtsma, Hamilton County, and the Executive Director, Hank Hansen represented SW Kansas GMD3 at the meeting. All but 2 or 3 of the full 29 board members had been identified prior to the meeting. The first KWC annual meeting has been tentatively scheduled to coincide with the upcoming 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Water and the Future of Kansas Conference slated for early March of 2004. For more information please visit the KWC link on our web site [www.gmd3.org](http://www.gmd3.org).

## WATER RIGHT LOST IN NW KANSAS DUE TO NON-COMPLIANT METER

**PROTECT YOUR WATER RIGHT BY KEEPING A CORRECTLY INSTALLED AND PROPERLY FUNCTIONING METER ON YOUR WELL.** The District has been informed by Mark Rude, Garden City DWR Field Office, that a water right located in Northwest Kansas was recently terminated by the KS Department of Agriculture over a non-compliant flow meter that was required as a condition of the permit in their current water conservation plan. Our ongoing efforts to monitor and enforce compliance with the terms and conditions of existing water rights help prevent the loss of your water right. Staying in compliance with the law is the first step to assuring the future longevity of a water right.

## AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL APPROVED

As mentioned in other newsletters, a second edition of the Ogallala High-Plains Aquifer Management Protocol was adopted by the Board of Directors on May 14, 2003 contingent upon a review by the District's attorney, Michael Ramsey. It passed his review with a minor change in transition and the current version became effective on June 2, 2003. It may be viewed at the following Internet address: [http://www.gmd3.org/PDF/030602\\_GMD3\\_protocol.pdf](http://www.gmd3.org/PDF/030602_GMD3_protocol.pdf).

**SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3**

409 Campus Drive, Suite 106,  
Garden City KS 67846

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GARDEN CITY, KS  
PERMIT NO. 56

**RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**

**WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM IN JEOPARDY**

The Western Kansas Weather Modification Program held their annual commissioners and advisory board budget meeting on June 24, 2003. Reductions in operations as well as concerns about discontinuing the program due to lack of funding create a sense of jeopardy for one of the most successful hail suppression programs in existence. GMD3 has provided meager financial support for the program since its inception in 1976. Kansas Water Office funding has been eliminated, which had been a significant portion of the annual operating budget. Local County Mil now provides the lions share of the operating costs. Individual counties elect each year whether to participate in the program by providing a portion of the operating expenses, or up to 2 mil of their budget. As many as 21 counties have participated in previous years, but only 10 counties have elected to participate in 2004. Keith Lebbin, Manager of GMD1, estimated the return on the investment has been corroborated to be as much as 49 percent in recent years. In the beginning the return amounted to about 20 percent, which was still considered as good. The lack of county participation may cause the program to fold up and cease to exist. If that happens, it's unlikely that it will ever be established again. The loss of this vital infrastructure should be given serious consideration before it's too late. Contact your county commission immediately.

**DRIP IRRIGATION AND SWEET CORN FIELD TOUR**

The District has recently helped the Grant County Conservation District in their promotion of Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation. The District commends Lorine Myers, Conservation District Manager, for coordinating this vital conservation effort. A field tour (and luncheon) is scheduled for July 9, 2003. There will be an informative tour both of a drip irrigation demonstration project and of the West Industries Facilities involved in the production of sweet corn in Grant County. Please contact Grant County Extension Office at 620-356-1721 if you plan to attend this very informational tour.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD ON STREAM FLOW IMPAIRMENT ISSUES**

The Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR) held public meetings in Bucklin, Meade, Minneola and Coldwater, Kansas May 19-21, 2003 to present information on hydrologic studies conducted to determine the effect of pumping on streams in groundwater and surface water locations in Meade, Clark, and Commanche Counties. The DWR seemed predominantly concerned with pending applications that they have designated as being connected to the same source that maintains the streamflows in times of low flow. The DWR assumed that most of these streams are not currently being impaired by existing wells. The focus of their concern is with additional or future permits that have the potential to cause impairment. However, a portion of Crooked Creek located in Meade County is being examined by the DWR to determine if it is being impaired by alfalfa recently planted along the creek or by the pumping of water from a few specific wells that were installed within the last decade.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM**

GMD3 Lobbyist Chris Wilson met recently with the Department of Interior Secretary, Gale Norton, and Director of Fish and Wildlife Service, Steve Williams, in Washington D.C. The Interior Department has to spend so much time in litigation over the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that it interferes with implementing species restoration. Changes in the ESA would improve it both for the people who have to comply with it as well as for the species dependent upon it for survival. Mrs. Wilson also met with the House Natural Resources Chairman, Richard Pombo, who also discussed ESA reform. Unfortunately, congressional support needed to address the Endangered Species Act may not be available at this time in lieu of the need for making changes. Changes could also be accomplished incrementally, or as part of other bills, similar to ESA reforms being proposed in a recent defense bill. The ESA was originally adopted in 1973 as a law that would protect species assumed to be on the brink of extinction. When the law was enacted there were 109 species listed for protection. There are roughly 1300 on the list today, along with 250 species considered as "candidates" for listing and nearly 4000 species designated as "species of concern". Since 1973 there have only been 25 domestic species that have been "delisted" or removed from the endangered species list.