

WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FORMERLY KNOWN AS
"the Pipeline"

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

Volume 3, Issue 6

www.gmd3.org

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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 Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District's **2004 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. 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 and \$0.10 per acre-foot of water permitted by the State of Kansas within the District. For more information, contact the District Office at 620-275-7147.

SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR KANSAS WATER CONGRESS

GMD 1, 3, and 4 have pledged to support the establishment of the newly created Kansas Water Congress (KWC). GMD3 Director Dave Brenn is the Executive Director of the KWC. Director Jay Houtsma has been appointed by the Board of Directors to be GMD3's representative to attend the Kansas Water Congress meetings. Director Clay Scott and Director Tom Ford have been appointed to be alternate representatives. The GMD3 Board of Directors have authorized Staff to place a link to the Kansas Water Congress information on the GMD3's web site located at: <http://www.gmd3.org>

AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL STATUS

Pending a review by the District's Attorney, Michael Ramsey, the Board of Directors tentatively adopted an expanded Aquifer Management Protocol on May 14, 2003. This proposed management plan addresses recommendations made by the Ogallala Aquifer Management Advisory Committee in their October 10, 2001 final report to the Kansas Water Authority. The Kansas Water Authority incorporated those recommendations into the Kansas Water Plan, which is part of the state's water planning process. The rate of decline of the aquifer is the key issue addressed by the plan. Locations may be selected for further evaluation according to the following three factors: the rate of aquifer decline, economic impact, and the water right priorities. Kansas water law, established in 1945, dictates that water rights are prioritized according to the prior appropriation doctrine, which is commonly referred to as "first in time, first in right". Older or senior water rights have the priority over younger or junior water rights in times of water shortages. It may be necessary to conduct extensive scientific research, testing, and analysis to determine if extra-ordinary measures or restrictions are necessary to solve any perceived water management problems. As required by law, the district will follow the administrative hearing process before adopting this plan into a revised management program. In addition to that, the district will continue to provide ample opportunities for stakeholder participation in this water management process.

ANNUAL FALL WATER SUMMIT

The First Annual GMD3 Fall Water Summit will be held on November 19, 2003 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Finnup Center's Conference Room, 312 E. Finnup Drive, Garden City, Kansas. The meeting is being held with Chief Engineer David Pope in order to coordinate water management plans and programs between GMD3 and the Kansas Division of Water Resources.

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3

409 Campus Drive, Suite 106,
Garden City KS 67846

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD ON STREAM FLOW IMPAIRMENT ISSUES

The Kansas Div. of Water Resources held public meetings in Bucklin, Meade, Minneola and Coldwater, KS 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 Comanche Counties. The District encourages all those concerned to submit verbal or written testimony to:

David L. Pope, Chief Engineer
Division of Water Resources
109 SW 9th ST 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283
Phone: (785) 296-3717 Fax: (785) 296-1176

OVERPUMPING PREVENTION

The Board of Directors are considering conventional as well as innovative methods to help prevent overpumping. As mentioned in previous newsletters and other public information, the District initiated a program to curtail over-pumping of water right limits in January, 2003. Over 300 wells with a past history of over-pumping are being closely monitored for enforcement that may become necessary to prevent them from exceeding their water right. GMD3 is coordinating with the Division of Water Resources in this effort as the 2003 irrigation season progresses. Enforcement action will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Alleged violations are being monitored by GMD3 Staff, as well as, Contracted Inspectors. Current law provides severe and significant repercussions as well as penalties for water right violations.

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION ON THE WEB

For the past 2 years, the District has been having their important documents and studies digitally archived by Digital Document Storage of Garden City. The Board of Directors recently decided to have these records linked on the District's web site. Currently, the District's Board Meeting minutes from the 1976 establishment of GMD3, through the year 2000 can be found on the web site under the link called "Library". Historic studies and other water information will soon be available via this same link to our web site. A tutorial guides the user through the steps to retrieve the information.

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING DATE CHANGE

The next Kansas Water Authority meeting will be held July 23 & 24, 2003 in Topeka. Committee Meetings will be on Wednesday, July 23rd at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Full Authority will meet on Thursday, July 24th, 2003 in the Shawnee "A" Room of the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas, also beginning at 9:00 a.m. These meetings had been originally scheduled for July 9th and 10th, 2003.