

WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 4, Issue 6

June, 2004

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BOARD PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

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PETE YORK Haskell

STEVE STONE Finney

MIKE McNIECE 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 108

GARDEN CITY, KS 67846

<http://www.gmd3.org>

CHIEF ENGINEER APPROVES REVISED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

On June 4, 2004 David Pope, Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources (DWR), Kansas Department of Agriculture, provided written approval of the preliminary draft of the Revised Management Program for the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 (GMD3). The GMD3 Board of Directors transmitted the preliminary draft to the Chief Engineer on May 28, 2004. The Board of Directors requested the Chief Engineer give approval of the Revised Management Program. This program contains a written report describing the characteristics of the District and the nature and method of dealing with groundwater supply problems within the District. It also includes information as to the groundwater management program to be undertaken by the District and such maps, geological information, and other data necessary for the formulation of the revised program. The Revised Management Program is compatible with Article 7 of Chapter 82a of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and all acts amendatory thereof of supplemental thereto and any other state laws or policies. Upon adoption by the GMD3 Board of Directors following the September 8, 2004 public hearing, this Revised Management Program will supercede the Revised Management Program approved by the Chief Engineer on August 2, 1991 that became effective on September 1, 1991.

REVISED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING SEPTEMBER 8, 2004

In response to receiving the June 4, 2004 written approval of the Chief Engineer of the Revised Management Program, the Board of Directors approved a preliminary draft of the Revised Management Program on June 9, 2004 that will be the focus of a formal Public Hearing scheduled for September 8, 2004. The September 8, 2004 public hearing will take place at the District's main office located at 409 Campus Drive, Suite 108, Garden City, KS 67846. The public is invited and encouraged to submit written testimony according to the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Hearing Act. An opportunity will also be provided during the public hearing to receive written and oral comments specific to the June 9, 2004 draft version of the Revised Management Program. A copy of the proposed Revised Management Program is available for public inspection in the District office and on the District's website at: <http://www.gmd3.org>. A few of the changes proposed in the Revised Management Program include, but are not limited to the following: aquifer subunit management, the preliminary delineation of aquifer subunits, as well as expressing awareness of the need to reduce the rate of decline of the aquifer. As of June 9, 2004 the Board of Directors has not defined or demanded reductions in water usage. On the other hand, they support water conserving incentive-based farm programs and other voluntary reductions in water consumption.

2005 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

The 2005 public budget hearing will be held on July 14, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the board meeting room of the District's headquarters, located at 409 Campus Drive, Suite 108, 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 \$240,430 and \$0.10 per acre-foot of water permitted by the State of Kansas within the District which generates \$381,203 for a total of \$621,633 being collected through property tax assessments. Additional 2005 revenues include 2003 carry-over, interest income, MOU income, and Misc. income totaling approximately \$257,347. For more information contact the District Office at (620) 275-7147.

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3

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Garden City KS 67846

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**SERVI-TECH LAB BEGINS 2004 WATER QUALITY SAMPLING**

During the last week in June, Servi-Tech Laboratories of Dodge City will begin to obtain water samples from wells selected by the district for the Annual Water Quality Monitoring Program. This is the third successive year Servi-Tech Laboratories has performed both the field sampling and laboratory analysis under an annual agreement with the District. On June 9, 2004 the Board of Directors elected to increase the number of wells sampled by Servi-Tech during 2004 from approximately 250 to 320 wells. The analysis focuses on drinking water standards that apply to both humans and livestock. Due to noticeable, but non-threatening increases in nitrates found throughout the District, the directors chose to add approximately 70 new sampling sights to the existing 250 sampling sights. Along with that, the board decided to allow additional analysis of up to 25 wells that will be specifically selected to determine the presence or migration of Selenium. Selenium has been found in extremely minor concentrations in the Arkansas River located along both sides of the Kansas & Colorado State lines. Selenium originates in the soil common to irrigated farmland found in Eastern Colorado located along the Arkansas River. Selenium is highly soluble and is easily flushed from the soil. Flood irrigation water that is reapplied several times to different fields along the river increases the amount of Selenium in the water that eventually drains into the river. Earlier this year the EPA designated parts of the Arkansas River to be impaired by the presence of Selenium found in the Arkansas River in Eastern Colorado and Western Kansas. The concentration of Selenium decreases the further east water is sampled downstream of Colorado. According to health department officials, even a very small amount of Selenium is considered to be potentially harmful to aquatic life. On the other hand, the amount of Selenium identified in the Kansas portion of the Arkansas River is not considered to be harmful to people. The Board of Directors elected to compile an inventory of water quality information for portions of the Arkansas and the Cimarron Rivers that run through the District. This is a long-term initiative that will be reviewed and assessed annually by the Board of Directors. The District has recently encouraged an informal working partnership with experts from both the Kansas Geological Survey and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment regarding this issue.

NEW INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The GMD3 Board of Directors appointed a new Industrial Representative to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Tom Ford, who relocated to a new job outside of the District in April of 2004. After considering letters of interest submitted by 2 highly qualified candidates, the Board of Directors cast written ballots to determine which candidate would be the next Industrial Representative. Michael McNiece of Cimarron, Kansas won the majority of the votes. Mr. McNiece and his wife Jan have two children and have lived in Cimarron for 16 years. He is a 1976 graduate of St. Mary of the Plains in Dodge City, Kansas and is presently a partner at DM&M Feed Yard in Cimarron, Kansas. Mr. McNiece is no stranger to the challenges facing the GMD3 Board since he served on the Board from 1992 to 1998 as the Gray County Representative. Dale Reppond also competed for the Industrial board member position. Mr. Reppond is the Operations Manager at the Dodge City Nitrogen Facility of the KOCH Nitrogen Company of Dodge City, Kansas.

KANSAS WATER OFFICE DIRECTOR NAMED

On May 8, 2004 Governor Sebelius announced that she has appointed Mr. Tracy Streeter as the Director of the Kansas Water Office (pending Senate confirmation). This appointment requires confirmation by the Kansas Senate. In lieu of formal confirmation, Mr. Streeter will serve as Acting Director, effective June 30, 2004. Mr. Streeter is currently the Executive Director of the Kansas State Conservation Commission, since 1995. According to the same news release, the Interim Director of the Kansas Water Office, Joseph Harkins, was named by the Governor as the Director of Natural Resource Policy in an "effort to focus and coordinate planning with Kansas' natural resources and to better serve Kansans".

HANSEN ELECTED AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF KGMDA

On April 20, 2004 the members of the Kansas Groundwater Management District Association (KGMDA) elected Hank Hansen, Executive Director of GMD3, to serve a one-year term during 2005 as the Vice President of the KGMDA. Michael Dealy, Manager of GMD2, Halstead, was elected to serve as President. All Kansas Groundwater Management Districts belong to this organization. Tom Huntzinger, of the Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR) actively participates in KGMDA meetings as an ex-officio or non-voting member. The DWR also maintains records of the meetings as well as provides administrative assistance as needed. Besides the DWR, all water related agencies in Kansas are associated with the KGMDA.