

# WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FORMERLY KNOWN AS  
"the Pipeline"

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

Volume 3, Issue 5

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

May, 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>

## GMD3 on Smoky Hills Public Television Live Call-in Program

The Executive Director's of the 3 western Kansas GMD's, along with the Chief Engineer of the KS Division of Water Resources, David Pope, and a representative of the KS Water Office are to be members of a panel that will answer questions from callers during a live broadcast on Smoky Hills Public Television on May 6, 2003 at 7:00 PM. Call Smoky Hills Public TV at 1-800-337-4788 for details.

## Aquifer Management Protocol

The GMD3 Board of Directors is developing a new Aquifer Management Protocol that will be a strategic plan governing areas experiencing a severe rate of decline in the aquifer. The first protocol was adopted on October 10, 2001 and was very brief and general in scope. The current protocol being considered incorporates current and long-term water management goals and is an expanded version of the initial protocol. The Board of Directors plans to have the newly revised protocol finished by July 9, 2003.

## Proposed Ban on New Appropriations of Water

A decision is still pending following the December 11, 2002 public hearing, hosted by the Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR), on whether the District is to be closed to new appropriations of water. The time period allowed for the public to provide comment on the proposed regulation change ended on January 10, 2003. The Chief Engineer of the DWR, David L. Pope, is expected to provide a decision on the hearing in a matter of weeks.

## Application Process is back to Normal

The processing of recently filed and pending applications to appropriate water for beneficial use in GMD3 has been delayed while awaiting a decision from the Chief Engineer on the pending regulation changes proposed at the December 11, 2002 public hearing. According to Tom Huntzinger, DWR, pending applications are now being processed as normal in GMD3 because the issues identified during the December 11, 2002 public hearing are about to be resolved.

## Monitoring and Enforcement of Over-pumping

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 DWR in this effort as the 2003 irrigation season progresses. Enforcement action will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**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**

**GMD3 Supports Sam Brownback's High Plains Aquifer "3M" Act, S. 212**

The Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District's Board of Directors supports The High Plains Aquifer Hydrogeologic Characterization, Mapping, Modeling and Monitoring Act (S. 212) that passed the US Senate on April 8, 2003. Furthermore, we encourage the passage of this legislation by the US House of Representatives. This type of initiative is vital to all levels of future planning. Individuals, corporations, cities, inter-local governments, and state governments can all benefit from better hydrologic information. The District has provided letters of support to the Kansas Delegates of the US House of Representatives.

**Voluntary Irrigation Set-a-Side Reserve Incentive Program**

The Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District's Board of Directors supports a voluntary irrigation set-a-side incentive program. Maggie Nelson, Senator Brownback's staff person, informed the District that Brownback's office has explored this concept, but that nothing firm had been drafted as of April 8, 2003. In lieu of the lack of any draft legislation, the Senator has requested an economist to review the concept.

**DWR Hosts Public Meetings on Stream Flow Impairment Issues**

The DWR has scheduled public information meetings 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. This may be of concern to owners of wells located in Ford and Meade Counties that may have an influence on the streams listed along with the meeting schedules as follows:

**3:00 PM, Monday, May 19, 2003**, Bucklin National Bank, 110 North Main, Bucklin, KS.

Subject: Kiowa Creek Study and irrigation wells located in Southern Ford County. Impact of irrigation wells on outflows to West Kiowa Creek and other tributaries to Kiowa Creek.

**9:00 AM, Tuesday, May 20, 2003**, B Building, Meade County Fairgrounds, Post Street, Meade, KS.

Subject: Crooked Creek Basin Study. Impact of irrigation wells on outflows to Spring Creek tributary to Crooked Creek.

**1:30 PM, Tuesday, May 20, 2003**, Civic Connection, 130 Main Street, Minneola, KS.

Subject: Impact of irrigation wells on outflows to Simmons Creek, Hargis Creek and Fish Creek tributaries to Bluff Creek, as well as Mulberry Creek.

**9:00 AM, Wednesday, May 21, 2003**, Veterans Building, 239 East Main, Coldwater, KS.

Subject: Impact of irrigation wells on outflows to Nescatunga Creek, Sand Creek, Wildcat Creek and Indian Creek tributaries to the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River.