

WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FORMERLY KNOWN AS
"the Pipeline"

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

Volume 3, Issue 9

www.gmd3.org

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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>

BRENN APPOINTED TO SECOND TERM ON KS WATER AUTHORITY

On August 27, 2003, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius confirmed the reappointment of David A. Brenn, GMD3 Surface Water Representative, to serve a four-year term on the Kansas Water Authority (KWA). Mr. Brenn is the current Executive Director of the Kansas Water Congress (KWC) and is also one of three Kansas Commissioners on the Arkansas River Compact Administration (ARCA).

RESOLUTION ON EXPERTS APPROVED

On August 13, 2003 the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2003-5. This resolution clarifies the Board's intent to retain private consultants or other appropriate experts on a temporary or as needed basis to provide the District with factual, scientific, technical, or legal information or advice that best represents the interests of the District. This is in response to the recommendations made by the Ogallala Aquifer Management Advisory Committee to the Kansas Water Authority on October 16, 2001. The committee recommended that the 3 western Kansas groundwater management district's (GMD's) "establish water-use goals to extend and conserve the life of the Ogallala Aquifer". The Kansas Water Authority plans to submit these recommendations as part of the 2005 Kansas Water Plan to be adopted by the Kansas Legislature in the upcoming legislative session. This local GMD expects to have a reasonable opportunity to consider the hydrologic, legal and economic impacts associated with implementing these recommendations that could result in a regulated reduction of water usage.

OGALLALA HIGH PLAINS AQUIFER PROTOCOL UPDATE

On September 10, 2003, the Board of Directors reviewed the submitted proposals from 3 engineering firms to provide expert analysis of the District's pending adoption of the Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer Protocol. Wright Water Engineers, Inc. (WWE) of Denver, Colorado was selected by the board to provide engineering consulting to the District on an ad hoc basis. The District has agreed to have a preliminary draft of the protocol completed by November 14, 2003 that is acceptable to the Chief Engineer, David L. Pope, of the Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR). WWE is preparing a very initial review of the protocol for the Board of Directors to consider before the November 14, 2003 deadline. A more thorough and detailed report is expected from WWE by February or March of 2004. The protocol was also discussed during a portion of the July 23, 2003 Kansas Water Authority meeting held at Topeka. During that meeting the Chief Engineer, David Pope, implied that the 3 western Kansas GMD's could have a Revised Management Program adopted by November of 2004 that will include these new Aquifer Management Protocol's. If things go as planned, the District will host a public hearing to consider the adoption of a Revised Management Program prior to November of 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.

UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATION OF WATER PROGRAM UPDATE

During December of 2003, at least 304 irrigation wells were selected for intensive monitoring because they appropriated water during the calendar years 2000 and 2001 that was in addition to their authorized annual limit. The District successfully completed monitoring these sites during the 2003 irrigation season. Fortunately, as of September 9, 2003 approximately 220 of the initial 304 wells did not exceed their authorized quantity. Unfortunately, in the same time period approximately 30 well owners were sent legal notices of unauthorized appropriation of water. The remaining 50 or so wells are still being scrutinized by District staff. Their eventual determination may result in more notices of non-compliance being delivered. The notices include a written directive that the unauthorized appropriation of water must stop. Corrective legal action is being considered in the more egregious cases.

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3

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Garden City KS 67846

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGED

The date of the regularly scheduled 11/12/03 Board Meeting has been changed to November 19, 2003 in order to hold the November Board Meeting in conjunction with the Fall Water Summit.

PREMIER FALL WATER SUMMIT NOVEMBER 19, 2003

On November 19, 2003 the District will host at Garden City the First Annual Fall Water Summit with the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources (DWR), David Pope. This annual event provides for open discourse between the Chief Engineer and the Board of Directors on pertinent water issues.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

The 12/10/03 Board Meeting will be held at the Sunnyland Bed & Breakfast, 501 N. 5th Street, Garden City, KS. 67846 from 9:00 AM CST until approximately 2:00 PM. Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting. Requests for handicap accommodation should be made at least 20 days in advance of the meeting by contacting Jan King at (620) 275-7147.

3RD ANNUAL TOPEKA WATER RETREAT

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. This provides a unique forum to discuss current water management issues.

LIQUID CARBON DIOXIDE SEEDING TESTS

Testing of the experimental liquid carbon dioxide (LC) cloud seeding method began on August 20th, 2003 according to the Western Kansas Weather Modification Program (WKWMP). The cloud seeding tests are a cooperative effort between the WKWMP and Dr. Norihiko Fukuta, meteorologist with the University of Utah. Hopefully this effort will increase the cloud seeding effect in both rain optimization and hail suppression. Besides that it has lower operating costs as well as keeps the program on the cutting edge of the latest cloud seeding techniques. This cloud seeding technique may be implemented on an operational basis next year if these tests produce the desired results. This is the first full-scale LC field experiment of its kind in the United States. Other countries, like China and Japan, also have LC cloud seeding programs.

GPS TECHNOLOGY USED TO LOCATE WELLS

Also on September 10, 2003, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase and application of two portable Global Positioning System (GPS) units. This modern land-surveying equipment will increase our technical capability as well as provide additional quality assurance associated with identifying water wells. For more than a decade the District has used electronic distance meters installed permanently on the field vehicles. However, the economical availability of GPS technology has rendered the older electronic distance meters obsolete. In addition to that, the GPS will be especially helpful in correctly identifying wells located far off the beaten path.