

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 7th, 2013 in Topeka Downtown Ramada Hotel**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The February Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District was called to order by President Dunn at 9:05 a.m. The meeting was held at Ramada Inn, Topeka, KS.

Directors Present

Kent Dunn, President, Seward County Representative
Nathan Kells, Vice President, Haskell County Representative
Kirk Heger, Stevens County Representative
Dave Brenn, Surface Water at-large Representative
Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative
Mike McNiece, Industrial at-large Representative
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative
Steve Stone, Finney County Representative
Alan Schweitzer, Municipal at-large Representative
Tom Bogner, Ford County Representative
Wayne Breeding, Morton County Representative
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative
Meghan Houtsma, Secretary, Hamilton County Representative

District Staff Present

Mark Rude, Executive Director
Jason Norquest, Assistant Manager
Patty Stapleton, Office Administrator
Chris Law, Resource Technician
Sean Miller, Legislative Liaison, Capitol Strategies

Others in Attendance

Brownie Wilson, Manager of Geohydrology Support Service, Kansas Geological Survey
Jan King, GMD1 Manager
Gregg Graff, GMD1 Board President
Dan Welsh, GMD1 Board Vice President
Tom Stiles, Chief, Watershed Planning, Monitoring and Assessment, KDHE

APPROVE AGENDA

President Dunn asked for consideration of the meeting Agenda. After some discussion, Clay Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mike O'Brate seconded. The motion was approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President Dunn drew the attention of the Board to consider the January 18th, 2013 draft minutes. Nathan Kells made a motion to approve the January 18th, 2013 Board Meeting minutes. Dave Brenn seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all in favor.

President Dunn next drew the attention of the Board to review the January 2013 financial report documents. Nathan Kells made a motion as follows: Approve the financial reports and payments for the month of January 2013, as presented at this meeting, and to submit them for the annual audit. Clay Scott seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all in favor.

President Dunn signed and submitted the financial documents.

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President's Report, President Kent Dunn

Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey

Brownie Wilson with the Kansas Geological Survey presented information regarding changes in water levels. While 2013 posed a significant decrease of 3.56 feet it was not as significant as the prior year. He presented a graph that showed the whole district and water level changes throughout the state. GMD4 has not had a severe decrease in the last two years however they were hit with a significant decrease for 2013. Brownie mentioned a Meade county well that is not in production but keeps increasing in level over time.

Brownie shared several maps demonstrating the past year percent departure from normal rainfall or lack thereof. Kansas was consumed by red areas on the map that demonstrated drought areas. USGS has drilled four wells and those will be added into the yearly measuring data. There is no telemetry on them to date. Mark brought up for discussion a proposal from USGS. USGS is considering equipping three wells along the Oklahoma boarder with real time water level data equipment. The cost share portion to operate these after equipping these three monitoring wells would be \$3,000 for each well (a total of \$9,000) from GMD3 as a sponsoring partner. After some discussion, Clay Scott moved to approve cost sharing real time equipment with USGS at a total of \$3,000 for the Stevens County area to start. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Sean Miller, Capital Strategies, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Miller thanked all in attendance for allowing him an opportunity to speak. He mentioned that compared to last year the Kansas legislative session is currently a little calmer. He spoke to the board on some bills that are being discussed as legislation. HB2049 is a Department of Ag bill on filing fees. This bill comes around every three years to review fee changes and approval. HB2051 is a Department of Ag catch all bill. HB2051 covers fees and penalties relating to dams, covers flex account carry over credits, and limited water right transfers, to name a few. The part most concerning the GMD is the flex account area. It states that if the producer has been in a five year flex account and wants to roll immediately into another five year flex account, they can carry over no more than one year's worth of water from the prior flex account into the new one. HB2121 reads about well spacing from property lines and should go to hearing on February 12th, 2013. HB2171 discusses opening the whole state of Kansas to LEMA's. Section 1a indicates that county commissioners shall play a key role introducing enhanced management areas for local water plans. Mr. Miller assured the board he will keep GMD3 posted on legislative issues, changes and concerns for the upcoming year.

KDHE considerations with GMD3 for 2013.

Tom Stiles with Kansas Department of Health and Environment reviewed with the board topics of discussion during the December Compact meeting for water quality standards with Colorado along the Ark River. There is a constant increase in selenium and uranium in the system that departs from historic sulfate trends. Mr. Stiles mentioned there was discussion during the compact meeting regarding solutions for the issue that are compact neutral. Creating relationships, network and formulating results in the issue of water quality standards is a key interest for flows into Kansas and GMD3. Mark and Mr. Stiles discussed the efforts of GMD3 to apply for a WaterSMART grant for basin planning assistance. Mark noted that GMD3 applied for that grant in 2012 and again for 2013.

Kansas Aqueduct Activity

Mr. Rude spoke about the Aqueduct related activity that occurred while in Topeka. He met with a joint Senate committee of Agriculture and the committee on Natural Resources regarding the project and much interest was shown. Application filing fees is not designed for a project of this size. A suggestion from David Pope to propose a pay file fees as the project development progresses to final form is being considered.

Committee Report

No reports.

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Finance Report

Executive Director Mark Rude provided printouts of 2012 Audit from Lewis Hooper and Dick. Review of the audit occurred from the directors. Kirk Heger moved to accept the 2012 Annual Audit and present it at the annual meeting. Nathan Kells seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer, Mike O'Brate referenced the draft budget for 2014. There have been no major changes therefore budget should remain similar for 2014 supported by no change in member assessments. Carryover budgeted numbers of 2013 to 2014 and present to finance committee before the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting

Mark reminded all those present that the annual meeting will be held on March 13th, 2013 in Cimarron, Ks at the Gray County 4H Building. Guest speakers planned will be Brownie Wilson, Secretary Dale Rodman and Tracy Streeter.

Old Business

No old business was brought up for review.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Executive Director Report, Mark Rude

Bureau WaterSMART Grant

Mark brought to the table discussion regarding a resolution needed for the Bureau WaterSMART grant submitted for a Local-Area Data Communication Network for Improved Irrigation Water Management. This grant will provide monetary support for a real time communication of flow meters and other sensors to better manage irrigation water. \$17,000 of in-kind effort from GMD3 staff would be combined with equipment and cash from McCrometer and member irrigators to aid in the project funding. Much discussion occurred and several questions were presented. Kirk Heger moved to table the resolution until further details can be provided. Nathan Kells seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Legislative & Producer Outreach Session.

Mark announced that several outreach water meetings have taken place in the last month. Jason Norquest did a good job presenting at the American State Bank Producer event. GMD3 was represented at the Garden City Farm Show that was live streamed over the internet, which aided in several producer contacts. Mark also commented that all Kansas GMD's helped with a statehouse display meet and greet legislators that occurred on January 22nd, 2013. A visit with Governor Brownback was enjoyed.

Refocusing EQIP conservation incentive areas.

Discussion is occurring on the EQIP conservation quick response areas and refocusing those incentive areas.

Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Mark Rude drew the attention of the board to the financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and activity of the advisory committee. After some discussion of the Board, Clay Scott moved to accept the January financial report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Mike McNiece seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Mark reported that the Legislative Report for the Western Water Conservation Projects has been completed and presented to the House Ag Budget subcommittee and the Senate Ag and Senate natural Resources committees.

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BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

No board member reports were announced.


PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was brought up for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike O'Brate seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Meghan Houtsma