

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The July 8th, 2015 Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District was called to order by Secretary Mike McNiece at 9:01 a.m. The meeting was held in the Board Room of Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District NO. 3.

**Directors Present**

Kent Dunn, President, Seward County Representative

Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative

Mike McNiece, Board Secretary, Industrial Representative

Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative

Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative

Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative

Steve Stone, Finney County Representative

Alan Schweitzer, Municipal Representative

Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative

Fred Claassen, Morton County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Kirk Heger, Vice President, Stevens County Representative

Clay Scott, Grant County Representative

Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative

Jeff Reinert, Ford County Representative

Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative

**District Staff Present**

Mark Rude, Executive Director

Jason Norquest, Assistant Manager

Patty Stapleton, Office Administrator

Chris Law, Director, Field Services

Trevor Ahring, Engineer

Brandi Sneath, Office Assistant

**Others in Attendance**

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS

Lane Letourneau, Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Manhattan, KS

Jonathan Aguilar, Ph.D., Water Resource Engineer, KSU Research & Extension

Frank Mercurio, P.E., KLA Environmental Services, Inc.

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**APPROVE AGENDA**

Secretary McNiece asked for consideration of the meeting Agenda. After some discussion, Seth Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Zachary Gale seconded. The motion was approved with all in favor.

Secretary McNiece handed the gavel to President Kent Dunn.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

President Dunn drew the attention of the Board to consider June 5th, 2015 draft minutes. Mike McNiece made a motion to approve the June 5th, 2015 Board Meeting minutes as revised under the Wichita Water Authority Meeting. Fred Claassen seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all in favor.

President Dunn next drew the attention of the Board to review the June 2015 financial report documents. Hal Scheuerman made a motion as follows: Approve the financial reports and payments for the month of June as presented at this meeting, and to submit them for the annual audit. Randy Hayzlett seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all in favor.

President Dunn signed and submitted the financial documents.

**President's Report, President Kent Dunn**

**Water Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Mike Meyer**

Mike Meyer stated that John Martin Reservoir is nearly full and deliveries are being made to Kansas ditch companies. Some discussion occurred on how to get water on downstream. Mr. Meyer explained that water is tagged for certain ditches above Garden City and until JMR spills from storage over 340,000AF, the river will not likely run at Garden City.

Mike reported the DWR is preparing the 2014 over pump list.

**Resource Management in Agriculture Production RMAP Project: Lane Letourneau**

Lane Letourneau, Program Manager with Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources was present to speak to the board about Project Term Permits and the proposed "RMAP" project. He reviewed a slide presentation providing information on the concepts of the project. Mr. Letourneau described how stock water facilities have been asking for flexibility of water use from well to well and use to use limits to gain project efficiency in water supply and nutrient management regulations compliance. When facilities get to the over pumping state on certain wells, they are always trying to fix it with an after-the-fact term permit. This program idea was structured from aspects of the Sand & Gravel Project Term Permits (K.S.A. 82a-734), which actually has multiple uses but a set quantity and rate.

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Mr. Letourneau identified the following producers could possible benefit from the Project Term Permit Program: Powerline Dairy and Noble Dairy. Others were examples in the presentation. After significant policy discussion by the board on the policy questions and program opportunities, a consensus of the board was to proceed to work through the management and property right questions. The Project Term Permit program approach is still in the works and more information will be discussed and or announced at a later date.

**Due Process & Impair Demonstrations, Mark Rude**

Discussion occurred on File 1231, Crouse; a senior water right wants to move closer to a junior. Is this move unreasonable even though it meets all guidelines? The board reviewed DWR aquifer information provided in response to a neighbor's letter of concern. Mr. Jim Bagley of DWR did two Theis calculations were reviewed and discussed amongst the directors. GMD3 staff is waiting to hear from the neighbor response prior to providing DWR a recommendation regarding the changes.

Policy and Legal should review the guidelines and report back to the Board of Directors.

**Board Review, Well Spacing, Worf Land LLC, FI**

The board was informed that more applicant and staff work is needed to re-structure the change proposal prior to a board review to meet present standards for a reasonable irrigation water right change. The proposal is for approximately 35 irrigable acres from a new well to be authorized for up to 400 acre feet. A majority of the annual authority to pump groundwater is to remain unexercised and the groundwater conserved. The proper administrative mechanism must be identified for a water right change proposal where the chief engineer can consider a request to restrict use of part of a water right for conservation purposes under the consent of the water right owner and subject to a later change proposal. The review may be discussed at a later date.

**City of Johnson WCA, Mark Rude**

Mark Rude reminded the board that the City of Johnson could possibly be an applicant for WCA. But the concept of a Project Term Permit may provide the flexibility for the City. Mark will visit with the city to discuss their needs as the WCA and the PTP projects develop further. WCA could help the city manage their quantity and rate within the system capabilities and institutional restrictions.

**City of Moscow, Mark Rude**

Mark Rude reported the city council of Moscow would like to pursue their application of several years ago to move irrigation water right authority more than a mile to their city well. Mark informed them that application, which the GMD3 Board recommended approval with conditions, was denied and dismissed several years ago. Mark said he was aware the City was seeking help from their water right consultant, Gary Baker, and the GMD for a recommended resolution to meet the community need for more flexibility to meet the City needs in dryer years. The new Project Term Permit concept was considered, and further progress in a recommended resolution for the City will be reported to the board at a later date.

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**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports to bring to the table.

**Executive Director Report, Mark Rude**

**Basin Plan of Study Draft complete w/o Partners, RCPP**

Mark Rude announced there were no partners for the RCPP that were willing to enlist in studying the John Martin to Garden City Ark River basin water quality problems through the Bureau of Reclamation sponsored GMD3 initiative. He indicated the finalized report of a “Plan of Study” will remain as a “final draft” to keep the door open for revision, should the political climate on the subject change. Mark further reported that the poor Ark River basin water quality from the upper basin in Colorado continues to adversely affect the usability of the Ogallala Aquifer areas in GMD3. He said staff will continue to work to identify other projects or programs that may offer solutions. Mark expressed disappointment that the invitation to propose a joint RCPP program with help of Kansas and Colorado state officials failed to produce a submittal to meet the NRCS deadline for a pre-proposal.

**Flowmeter Summit**

A flowmeter summit will be held July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Stafford County GMD 5 office.

**Update: Water Authority and Proposed Regional Goals in GMD3**

Mr. Letourneau stated that the Water Authority wants one more meeting with the Regional Goals team prior to the Authority adopting final goals.

**NWRA Western Water Seminar**

National Water Resources Association will hold a Western Water Seminar August 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Monterey, California. The agenda for the seminar is included in the board packet.

**Water Congress Conference, Lawrence, KU Student Center Aug. 6 & 7**

Kansas Water Congress will hold a conference in Lawrence, KS on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The agenda for the conference is included in the board packet. Any director who is interested in attending needs to let Brandi know for room and registration details.

**Office Signage**

Mark presented proposals for signage on the building and near Spruce Street. Raised letters on the south side of the building would cost \$127.00. A sign by the blue spruce near the street and installed by GMD3 staff would cost approximately \$450.00. Discussion occurred. Mike O’Brate moved to approve the expense for the big sign that would be installed by the GMD3 staff. Bret Rooney seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to bring back to the table.

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**New Business**

There was no new business to bring to the table.

**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, Alan Schweitzer moved to accept the June financial report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Randy Hayzlett seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Project Activity**

**Frontier Return Flow Gage Contract**

Mark brought to the table a \$10,000 payment voucher for Joint Funding Agreement for the Frontier Ditch Return flow Stream gaging on the end of the irrigation ditch, near Coolidge, KS. This is the cost for equipping the gage that was originally committed by the Water Office before GMD3 received the special find. The State will take over the Operations and Maintenance through the legislatively created Ark River Gage Fund. Mike O'Brate moved to approve payment of voucher of \$10,000 for Stream flow gaging near Coolidge, KS, contingent Kevin Salter with DWR receives a copy of the contract and all details of authorization be completed. Alan Schweitzer seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Board Member Report**

Treasurer Mike O'Brate asked about the budget hearing. Mark stated it will be held in August.

The Directors thanked Lane Letourneau for being present and visiting with them regarding the Resource Management in Agriculture Production Project.

**Public Forum**

Jonathan Aguilar reported there will be a Field Day at the KSU Experiment Station next month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Zachary Gale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred Claassen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike McNiece  
GMD3 Board Secretary