

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the ANNUAL Meeting of the Board of Directors
MARCH 11th, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The 40TH Annual Meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District was called to order by President Dunn at 9:25a.m. The meeting was held at the Activity Center, Liberal, KS.

Directors Present

Kent Dunn, President, Seward County Representative
Kirk Heger, Vice President, Stevens County Representative
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative
Mike McNiece, Board Secretary, Industrial Representative
Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative
Steve Stone, Finney County Representative
Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative
Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Clay Scott, Grant County Representative
Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative
Wayne Breeding, Morton County Representative
Alan Schweitzer, Municipal Representative
Jeff Reinert, Ford County Representative
Vacant, Hamilton 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

Charles Claar, Lewis Hooper and Dick
Loren Seaman, Crop Consultant
Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey
Lane Letourneau, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Tracy Streeter, Director of Kansas Water Office
Greg Graff, GMD1 Board Member
Mike Meier, Water Commissioner, DWR Garden City Field Office
Thomas Makens, DWR, Garden City Field Office
Paul Pistorius, DWR, Garden City Field Office
Jonathan Aquilar, PH.D., Water Resource Engineer, KSU Research & Extension
David Brenn, Water Congress
SW KS GMD3 Members

Welcome, Introductions and Sponsors

President Dunn welcomed all those in attendance to the 40th Annual Meeting of the Groundwater Management District No. 3.

Special introductions were completed and a Thank You was expressed to all sponsors?.

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APPROVE AGENDA

President Dunn asked for consideration of the Annual Meeting Agenda. After some discussion, Randy Hayzlett made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Doug Fox seconded. The motion was declared approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President Dunn drew the attention of the Board to consider the March 12th, 2014 draft annual meeting minutes. Mike McNiece made a motion to approve the March 12th, 2014 annual meeting minutes. Kirk Heger seconded the motion. The motion was declared approved.

Report of District Activities

Executive Director, Mark Rude spoke to those in attendance through a power point presentation. All five Kansas Groundwater Management Districts are involved in the State wide water planning. Tracy Streeter, Director of Kansas Water Office and Facilitator of the Water Authority will provide more information later in the meeting regarding the State Wide Water Planning. GMD3 is also involved in the National Water Resources Association and Groundwater Management District Association.

Priority work for GMD3 consists of:

1. *Reasonable water right administration*
2. *Aquifer declines in quality and quantity*
3. *Promote high water value from all sources*
4. *Promote a Culture of Conservation*

Talk of Furthering Water Right Restrictions have been going on for over 40 years. Some areas of consideration include, but not limited to: Voluntary limits to gain more management flexibility, brackish water use instead of fresh water where feasible for some uses, limit inefficient distribution systems for irrigation, limit waste, register every well including domestic, no water use reports if on state accessed telemetry is installed, all test holes to be submitted.

Mark spoke about flowmeters and that some may have several attachments referenced as “extra bling.” The manufacturers seal is a light weight seal and could break off easily. GMD3 seal is only added if the manufacturers seal is still attached. The GMD3 seal preserves the rule presumptions of accuracy that is provided by the manufacturers seal. On some there might be a chain to seal the meter to the pipe. That chain is placed on by DWR for numerous reasons, including flex account participation or other random tools/concerns. Mark mentioned that a hand full of meters in various areas of the state have been confiscated by the Kansas Bureau of Investigations. No other information is known.

Water right impairment is an ongoing issue. There are two types of water right impairment: 1) well to well impairment, where neighboring well operation restricts the output under your own well and water right. 2) Overall lowering of the water table from general pumping. Impairment of a groundwater use can be factually complicated and locally significant. More process and criteria is needed for member and agency staff and courts to understand groundwater impairment and water right administration in aquifers that are mined as provided by legislative and local policy.

As the aquifer depletes in local supplies it is normal and natural to seek ways to get alternative water supply into our projects to keep doing what we as a region of the state do so well. One option for water transportation is to consider re-tasking existing interstate pipelines. The other option is to appropriate water from rivers leaving the state, including the Missouri River. Mark provided a review of the Kansas Aqueduct Project schematics and the estimated finances of the project.

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Finance Report

2013 Audit Report, Charles Claar, LHD

Charles Claar, CPA with Lewis, Hooper and Dick stated that Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management received an unqualified audit report. The funds were properly accounted for and audited for 2014. 94.43% of the general funds were invested in interest bearing accounts. 99.66 % of the Water Conservation Project Funds were invested in interest bearing accounts. Assessment receipts made up 93% of the years receipts with reimbursements at 6% and interest bearing accounts bringing in 1%. The 2014 expenses consisted of the following: 88% administration, 5.2% professional services, 4.8% payroll taxes and 10.5% water management programs. Mr. Claar stated all in all a good audit for 2014.

Proposed 2016 Draft General Fund Budget and Member Assessments, Treasurer, Mike O'Brate

GMD3 Treasurer Mike O'Brate reviewed the 2016 Draft General Fund Budget with the members. He reminded them that assessments for water will be increased to 12 cents per acre foot. GMD3 is still the lowest water assessment charge (12cents) than any other Groundwater Management District in Kansas. No questions from the members were stated.

Mr. O'Brate reviewed the special fund accounts. Western Water Conservation Projects Fund ended 2014 with unencumbered cash of \$5,584,010.00. There are two additional special accounts created to receive special purpose funding, but with zero funds in them. Those are, Water Right Retirement Fund and Kansas Aqueduct Fund.

Election of Directors

Board Secretary, Mike O'Brate introduced the director's up for election. Each director provide a brief bio and thoughts about the GMD3 District.

Mike McNiece:	Industrial (at large)
Doug Fox:	Meade County
Kent Dunn:	Seward County
Kirk Heger:	Stevens County
Vacant:	Morton County

Steve Rome moved to accept the ballots as presented. Larry Kepling seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Speakers

Mark Rude and Trevor Ahring, USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Executive Director, Mark Rude introduced Trevor Ahring. Trevor is a member of the GMD3 Staff, he is the engineer that has worked diligently on numerous grants. Through a power point presentation, Trevor spoke about the RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) a funding opportunity under NRCS. RCPP was created to address agricultural water resource concerns across the nation. Kansas GMDs have been awarded a grant for \$2.4 million to incorporate Advanced Irrigation Water Management. Under RCPP, NRCS will provide \$5,335 (\$43.73per acre) to successful applicants. \$5,335 will cover the cost of: Soil moisture probes, telemetry-enabled flowmeter, programming cost along with solar panels and telemetry equipment. The requirements of the producer are: telemetry-based metering, soil moisture monitoring, ET calculations, Utilize a consultant, maintain service for a four year period and must be located within a Kansas GMD.

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Loren Seaman

Loren Seaman is a crop consultant in the local area. Mr. Seaman has worked 110 fields for each of the past 4 years. This next year they are planning on 130 fields. Passing of water to future generations is important to keep farming profitable. The goal to good water management is planning. Plan ahead with the equipment needed: Proper plants (genetics), pivot designed and maintained system that is efficient and uniform with application, flowmeter-determine gpm (gallons per minute) water pumped, soil moisture sensors and analysis of crop water use measurements (probe sensors /soil calibrated). Through a power point presentation Mr. Seaman continued to prove the benefits of Soil Moisture Probes and the data that is collected from the probes every 30 minutes, recording data by a graph on the website.

Brownie Wilson, KGS

Brownie Wilson from the Kansas Geological Survey discussed the water levels for the GMD3 area. He reminded those in attendance about the 1400 wells that are measured every January by KIGS and DWR and how each is measured. The total average decline in the GMD3 area is 1.92feet. A demonstration of precipitation by year and by month was provided, showing that March, April and May were dry months with precipitation coming down around harvest time in June. Information from the Haskell County &/or Hugoton index wells can be reviewed on line at either:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ks/nwis/current/?type=gwor>

http://www.kgs.ku.edu/HighPlains/OHP/index_program/index.shtml

Mark Rude, GMD & Lane Letourneau, KDA/DWR Water Legislation

Mark Rude introduced Lane Letourneau with KDA/DWR.

Mark reviewed SB 227 and HB 2351 is now in House Energy and Environment Committee. Both bills will amend the WAAct to require the Chief Engineer to give due consideration to water users who already have implemented reductions in water use resulting in voluntary conservation measures when reviewing IGUCA's, LEMA's or similar conservation programs.

SB 52 and HB 2059 are both alive and well in different forms since they are different committees. Both are voluntary Augmentation. SB 52 is only for the Rattlesnake Creek Basin while HB 2059 is State wide.

SB 36 is live, however HB 2069 is dead. The goal for MYFA is to remove the "use it or lose it" rule. When the end of the MYFA comes and there is still quantity left over it can be rolled over into the next year. The rollover amount could never be more than 5times the authorized quantity. Currently in statue the change in term permit place of use is not allowed, work is in the process for this to be implemented.

HB2245: sets standards for when temporary and permanent injunctions against groundwater pumping can occur. This is for court cases directing DWR/Chief Engineer for fact finding, opinion and report to the court, DWR report must meet standards of evidence admissibility. Currently DWR court report has to be approved by GMD if land is located in one.

HB2063: relates to the public water supply projection loan program.

Lane spoke about HB2227 Water Conservation Areas. During the vision meetings discussion on more flexibility and reduction of barriers occurred. The hearing for HB2227 will be held next week.

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Tracy Streeter, KWO

Tracy Streeter with the Kansas Water Office spoke to those present on what the Kansas Water Office (KWO) and the Water Authority has worked on the past year along with the discussions of the Kansas Water Vision Meetings. One item that KWO heard loud and clear with the Water Vision Meetings was the Goal Setting Process. Reaction from the meetings was that the Goal Setting Process should be done at the local level. Implementing and revamping the Goal Setting Process has been in the works, revised State Water Plan, and changed the Basin Planning Areas to fourteen Regional Advisory Committee Water Planning Areas. Public meetings were held or will be held in the near future. Liberal will have one March 12th, 2015 at 1:30 along with one in Garden City that evening. How to conserve, who conserves and water technology were / are major topics of discussion.

Mike O'Brate & Brian Hemman: Regional Water Planning,

Mike O'Brate announced an Upper Arkansas Regional Water Planning committee meeting will be held March 12, 2015, 6pm at the Finney County Fairgrounds. Input is needed from all water users, so all are welcome to attend. Discussion in the past two meeting have included: irrigation, cities, feedlots, and the notion of moving water and or buying water within a two mile radius of projects. Limiting irrigation water use to 18 inches per acre with flexibility of water in a five year time frame.

Brian Hemman is chairman of the Cimarron Regional water planning committee. The Cimarron Regional Water Planning Committee is made of a broad range of folks: municipalities, irrigators and livestock industry. The committee's primary goal is to preserve water, water rights and the future of water. Water Conservation will allow those goals. Creating a comfort level between water users and legislators is important for future water. Flexibility in water law, moving water from areas to areas that would allow benefit to use water to the most potential. Seward County Community College (room 229c) is the location of the March 12, 2015 Cimarron Regional Water Planning Committee meeting which will start at 1:30p.m.

County Breakout Sessions

County breakout sessions were not held due to the interest in time.

Public Forum

Dave Brenn (Kansas Water Congress) asked Tracy Streeter to explain time line of the Kansas Water Visioning Plan and the protocol afterwards. Tracy stated that the public meetings will be held throughout the month of March. Afterwards the Goal Setting Team will get together and work up the goals that were discussed in the meetings. Presentation from all the Chairs from the Teams will be held at the Water Authority Meeting, May 20th, 2015 in Greensburg, KS. August will be the final action from the Goal Teams and they will turn over the information to the Water Authority Meeting that will be held in August and then proceed to the Governor's Conference in November, 2015.

Questions were taken from the floor:

- 1) The chance that reductions will be put into place, when will those be activated? Producers may need to reduce sprinkler lengths, change crops, etc...
Lane Letourneau responded that "if changes of the sort will occur it will be a soft landing, no surprises. Appropriate planning will occur for producers to make adequate adjustments."
- 2) How much water can we pump and not use up our reserve?
Depends on the location. That is one of the reasons why so much time was spent on the groundwater model (helping us to come up the best guess of how much water is there).
- 3) What is sustainable:
District wide per the groundwater model, 9% of what we are currently pumping would keep us sustainable.
- 4) If the producer(s) goes about with their own conservation will they (producer) be hurt in the long run if a Conservation Plan is set into place?
Both with Legislation and Chief Engineer would be responsible for the changes to the water act.

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- 5) Doesn't flex account give you a hit of what you can use/pump over the five years? Could a voluntary program allow the producer to carry over the AF that wasn't used into the next year?
A management plan that has conservation definability would open up the door for implementation with assumption.

In conclusion each sponsor provided a couple of comments about their product and thoughts on water.

Bruce Reichmuth with Hydro Resources
Teeter Irrigation / Dragon Lines,
D&K Environmental-Water Resource Division
McCrometer Great Plains
Servi-Tech

ADJOURNMENT

Kent Dunn provided a thank you to all in attendance and welcomed everyone to stay for lunch. President Kent Dunn adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike McNiece
Board Secretary