

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 10th, 2019**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Bret Rooney called to order the March 13th, 2019 Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:03 a.m. The meeting was held in the GMD3 Board Room.

Flag Salute

Directors Present

Bret Rooney, President, Haskell County Representative

Fred Jones, Vice President, Municipal Representative

Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative

Mike McNiece, Board Secretary, Industrial Representative

Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative

Steve Stone, Finney County Representative

Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative

Kirk Heger, Stevens County Representative

Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative

Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative

Fred Claassen, Morton County Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative

Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative

Clay Scott, Grant County Representative

Seth Nelson, Stanton 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

Austin McColloch, Kansas Department of Ag

Keith Rome, Producer

Dave Brenn, Kansas Water Congress

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APPROVE AGENDA

President Rooney asked for consideration of the meeting Agenda. Executive Director, Mark Rude suggested to add under Presidents Report item E. Committee Assignments and F. Out of State Travel for Trevor Ahring and to correct IX Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business Financial review to March 2019. Zachary Gale made a motion to approve the agenda as revised. Fred Claassen seconded. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & GENERAL MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President Rooney drew the attention of the Board to consider the March 13th, 2019 draft minutes. Randy Hayzlett noted that Hal Scheuerman was in attendance. Steve Stone moved to approve the March 13th, 2019 minutes, as corrected. Fred Jones seconded. Motion passed.

President Rooney next drew the attention of the Board to review the **March 2019 financial report** documents. Questions on the Assessment Income sheet was presented. Brandi Sneath printed a revised sheet and provided it to the directors. Mike O'Brate made a motion as follows: Approve the financial reports and payments for the month of March as presented at this meeting, Hal Scheuerman seconded the motion. Motion passed

President Rooney signed and submitted the financial documents.

President's Report, President Bret Rooney
Water Commissioner's Report, Mike Meyer

Water Commissioner Mike Meyer announced the Department of Ag has funding available for cost share for producers in Water Conservation Areas. The cost share first for aiding in use of soil probes, then remote sensing and drip efficiencies. Deadline to sign up is April 20th, 2109.

Chief Engineer Barfield approved R9 Ranch water change application for pipeline from Edwards County to Hays / Russel Kansas area. Due to the changes in use made of water, the total authorized quantity is being reduced from 7,647-acre feet down to 6,756.8-acre feet / year (for municipal use). A 10-year rolling average limitation of 48,000-acre feet (4,800-acre feet / year x 10) is being imposed by the Chief Engineer. This is based on the reasonable long-term yield of the R9 Ranch.

Alluvial wells along the Ark River have been measured, but data has not been reviewed.

Mr. Meyer again praised the producers for their work to provide on-line water use reporting. Great success for the first year of imposed paper fees.

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Water Right 183, Rome Farms

Jason Norquest reviewed Water Right 183 change application, Rome Farms with all those present. The change is being proposed due to a new dairy being constructed in the SE ¼ of 8-31-37. A change of point of diversion, adding use made of water to include stockwater and modifying the current place of use to serve the new dairy. Water right 183 authorized rate will go down from 2245gpm to 500gpm. Spacing to Rome's water right 135 requires 2300 foot spacing (which is not met), spacing to other wells is met. Rome's have a domestic well to the west and they signed a release provided in submitted application. Discussion occurred amongst the Board of Directors. Kent Dunn moved to approve spacing waiver; Zachary Gale seconded. Motion passed.

Legislative Resolutions

Mark Rude noted it was great to see such good support the last couple of weeks for the joint legislative resolutions that were completed in short order directing the Federal government to address the contaminated Ark River water. Kansas hasn't done a joint resolution in more than a decade and that is why 2 separate resolutions were completed and moved for adoption and enrolment. Staff and board committees will work with local, state and federal offices in support of the resolutions.

Congressional Meetings

Randy Hayzlett, Clay Scott, Mark Rude and Jason Norquest were in Washington D.C. first part of April. During their time on the "Hill" they visited with staffers of Senator Moran, Senator Roberts, Congressman Estes and met directly with Congressman Marshall. Mark Rude added they briefed Colorado congressional staff for Tipton and Buck on the uranium issue and facilitated delivery of copies of the Kansas Senate resolution to Colorado local districts in attendance. The GMD3 team also spoke to Congressman Tipton and attendees at a reception at the capitol visitors center regarding water transfer ideas.

Western Water Authority.

Mark reminded the Board of Directors they nominated Greg Graff to continue serving on the Water Authority representing GMD3 and the other two western GMD's. A letter was sent accordingly that included advocating for Kirk Heger to serve as Authority Chairman.

Committee Assignments:

President Rooney announced the committee assignments and provided a handout to the directors, he also noted a change in a Committee title; Annual Meeting to read Annual Meeting & Nominations. Executive Director Mark Rude proposed establishing a scheduled date every month for committee meetings. The directors were in favor.

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Out of State travel:

Trevor Ahring was asked to attend a grant writing workshop in Lakewood, Colorado held by the Bureau of Reclamation. Kirk Heger moved to approve out of state travel for Trevor Ahring. Fred Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports to announce.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

Executive Director Report, Mark Rude

Agency Updates

Mark Rude announced that Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Beam and Wildlife and Parks & Tourism, Brad Loveless were confirmed into office. Earl Lewis has yet to be confirmed as Director of the Water Office.

Legislative Updates

No updates to report.

NWRA Federal Affairs Conference Report

Mark reported the trip to DC is always a good collaboration with the NWRA members providing an update of the state of federal water opportunities and concerns for the management program of the district. Kansas Water Congress is the state wide association recognized to represent Kansas as the current state association member of NWRA. KWC has not had the resources to sustain this membership. The Kansas Aqueduct Board has \$40,000 for the purpose of moving the aqueduct concept forward. Mark would like to propose to the Aqueduct Board paying Kansas NWRA dues. Those dues are \$13,000 annually. Discussion on monetary support from other Kansas Groundwater Management Districts was brought to the table. Mark Rude stated he will correspond with the other Kansas Groundwater Management Districts and report back to the board.

USDA Survey:

The NWRA DC trip provided an opportunity to meet with USDA officials working on a water management survey, which will come out the beginning of next year to focus on organizations that deliver or enable delivery of water. GMDs have been added. This survey was last completed around 1978. The GMD3 team provided perspective to the USDA team from a GMD and a Mutual Surface Water Irrigation District operations perspective.

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NRCS Meeting

Trevor Ahring presented the Mobile Drip on Inner Tower Spans PowerPoint, which he presented at the NRCS meeting last Monday afternoon. NRCS was pleased with the CIG grant outcome and will be working to develop a practice description under the EQIP to provide incentives for the practice for Kansas. This could result in a significant benefit to member irrigators and others.

Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Mark Rude drew the attention of the board to the March Financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and activity of the advisory committee. After some discussion of the Board, Hal Scheuerman moved to accept the March Financial Report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Kirk Heger seconded. Motion passed.

President Rooney updated the board about the WWCP Fund certificates of deposit that have been sent out for bid. CD# 15121 was at Grant County Bank and moved to Plains State Bank for an interest rate of 2.65 and the ability to withdraw without penalty. CD#15215 was sent for bids.

RAC Updates

Upper Ark: A meeting will be held Friday, April 12th at 9 a.m. in the Finnup Center for Education, Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, KS. The agenda can be found on the website.

Cimarron RAC: A meeting of the Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee will be held Thursday, April 11th, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Conestoga Energy Office. The agenda for this meeting can also be found on the website.

Board Member Report

No reports were heard

Public Forum

Cimarron National Grasslands index wells on the State Line was reviewed on-line.

Dave Brenn announced there will be a task group meeting to look at the issues of land associated with water rights that never received water and with ownership not involved with the water use. The question relates to whether administrative findings can be utilized rather than going to court to establish ownership interest in the water right. Also, the Kansas Water Congress summer meeting will likely be in Manhattan.

Mike Meyer noted since there are still water users afraid of their water right found abandonment due to non-use, a public announcement will likely be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

Kent Dunn moved to adjourn. Fred Jones seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11: 55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike McNiece, GMD3 Board Secretary