

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
DECEMBER 11th, 2019**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Rooney called to order the December 11th, 2019 Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District to order at 9:05 a.m. The meeting was held in the GMD3 Board Room.

Flag Salute

Directors Present in person or by phone

Bret Rooney, President, Haskell County Representative

Fred Jones, Vice President, Municipal Representative

Mike McNiece, Board Secretary, Industrial Representative

Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative

Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative

Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative

Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative

Fred Claassen, Morton County Representative

Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative

Steve Stone, Finney County Representative

Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative

Kirk Heger, Stevens County Representative

Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative

Clay Scott, Grant 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 in person or by phone

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

APPROVE AGENDA

President Rooney asked for consideration of the December 11th, 2019 meeting agenda. **Fred Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Randy Hayzlett seconded. The motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & GENERAL MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President Rooney drew the attention of the Board to consider the November 13th, 2019 draft minutes. **Hal Scheuerman moved to approve the November 13th, 2019 minutes, as revised, correcting dollar amount of Farmers Headgate to 1.88 million dollars. Mike McNiece seconded. Motion passed.**

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President Rooney next drew the attention of the Board to review the November 2019 financial report documents. **Fred Jones made a motion as follows: Approve the financial reports and payments for November as presented at this meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Fred Claassen seconded. 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 that Chief Engineer Barfield will retire March 6th, 2020. Garden City DWR, along with KGS, is gearing up for water well measurements first part of January. Water Use Reports will be mailed out first part of January. The reports will no longer be in a form of postcard. They will be mailed in a State envelope with a regular sheet of paper as the water use report. There is still \$20.00 fee for paper filing while on-line reporting is free. Pay attention for the pin number on the paper, it does change every year so don't use an old Pin number. New Owners may need to contact DWR for assistance.

Mr. Meyer announced they are looking for a new River Bailiff, as that position is currently vacant.

Response to Order of Secretary Beam denying standing for hearing.

Final Order of Secretary Beam denying standing for hearing regarding the Matter of approval of application for change in point of diversion and order in the matter of authorized rate of diversion for water right, file No. 27,188, was reviewed. Executive Committee met with Attorney Mike Ramsey to review options. Consensus of Executive Committee and Mike Ramsey was the best option would be to proceed the legislation route. Proceeding through court would be expensive and time consuming, therefore, not prudent. Mike McNiece stated, "it comes down to who has authority and who can act on situation(s). Ramsey will draft up a letter to Executive Director Mark Rude. Time permitting Mark will forward to the Executive Committee for review before final submission.

Response to Dis-approval of proposed modification of the GMD3 MP

Mark turned the boards' attention to the Chief Engineers supplemental written report regarding the modified management program. Mark highlighted the findings of the Chief Engineer and discussed each one with the directors. Noting we still have a difference in opinion on several points, but tweaking wording on some of those points may appeal to the Chief Engineer; for example, changing *GMD3 Shall to "A goal of the GMD3"*. Final decision of the Executive Committee was to not appeal.

KGMDA annual meeting November 22nd and concepts for legislative clarification of GMD Act.

Annual meeting of the KGMDA was held on November 22nd, 2019 at Stafford County Annex. Minutes of the meeting were included in the December Board Book. Mark reviewed the Concept paper for Legislation 12/1/2019, which was included in board book. The handout has been updated since the meeting, but the concepts are the same. Mike Meyer requested a copy of the updated concepts.

Mark asked the Directors' if they were comfortable proceeding with the concept paper for legislation. Recommendations from the directors consisted of prioritizing questions and stress the issue / question upfront. The next meeting will be held on December 20th with Chief Engineer and GMD Managers.

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Board Legislative Outlook

Mark Rude handed out a memo regarding the GMD3 2020 Kansas Legislature Action Decisions. After some discussion, **Fred Jones moved to approve alternative 1. Let the executive director interpret the will of the board with input from legislative liaison and partners and report at the next board meeting, unless the weight of a question requires action to establishing board position by Executive Committee with follow-up report and discussion at the next board meeting, for 2020 legislative action decisions. Dave Casterline seconded. Motion passed.**

Committee Reports

No additional committee reports.

Old Business

No old business to take from the table.

New Business

No new business to bring to the table.

Executive Director Report, Mark Rude

GMD3 Report to ARCA annual meeting, December 5th in La Junta, CO

The annual ARCA meeting was held in La Junta, Colorado on December 5th, 2019. Hal Scheuerman was recognized as a past compact member and was presented with a plaque of appreciation.

November 19th meeting, Augmentation of Water Resources, KWO staff

Kansas Water Office called a meeting with the Upper Arkansas RAC in response to a letter from Fred Jones, Past Chairman of the Upper Arkansas, encouraging the KWO to support the study of water transportation. Earl Lewis, Interim Director of Kansas Water Office noted he is in no position to support or not support the study until someone is committed to pay for it.

Governor's Kansas to Kansas Budget Listening session November 29th, in Garden City, KS

Mark Rude attended the Governor's Kansas to Kansas Budget Listening session, November 29th, which was held in gym at Garden City Community College.

Gove County Court LEMA appeal – November 12 Motion to alter Court decision

Ongoing. Will provide more details as it proceeds.

GMD3 RCPP changes with NRCS through mid-2021, November 15 meeting

1.5 million dollars is still available in the current RCPP. Emphasis is on flowmeter information and in field moisture probe tied in with the help of a consultant and accessible with your smart device. How do we optimize the RCPP for the 5 GMD's? Some suggestions were to: 1) Eliminate gallons per minute per acre requirement 2) Re-nozzle pivot system. 18 months is left to spend 90% of the funds.

Conservation Service Providers / Producer conservation assistance

Mark Rude has had discussions with Kylan Hunt, who works with Crop Metrics and is a motivational speaker. Kylan Hunt and Company would like to work with GMD3 as a full-time employee, assisting water users with the process through conservation programs.

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FEWtures: Envisioning Sustainable Agriculture

Mark turned to FEWtures: Envisioning Sustainable Agriculture through Renewable Energy in the board packet. FEWtures is a project which explores how farmers can benefit from recent and ongoing advances in water treatment and ammonia production using local renewable energy. The concept is to tie energy and food production together which lessens the demand of water.

Approve Travel and January Board meeting reschedule

Executive Director Mark Rude brought to the table some dates for out of state travel and changing the January 2020 board meeting.

NWRA Leadership Forum: January 7-8th, Chandler, AZ

Hal Scheuerman moved to approve out of state travel for NWRA Leadership Forum for board and staff. Mike O'Brate Seconded. Motion passed.

Four States Irrigation Council, January 8-10, 2020 in Fort Collins, CO

Mike O'Brate moved to approve travel for staff to attend the Four States Irrigation Council, January 8-10, 2020. Dave Casterline Seconded. Motion passed.

Consider moving January Board Meeting

Mark proposed changing the January board meeting date to Friday 10th, 2020, due to meeting conflicts. **Fred Jones moved to approve changing the January board meeting date to January, Friday 10th, 2020 at 9 a.m. Dave Casterline seconded. Motion passed.**

Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Mark Rude drew the attention of the board to the November 2019 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 November 2019 Financial Report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Randy Hayzlett seconded. Motion passed.**

Farmers Headgate Project (NEPA completed)

NEPA is completed, still working on getting approval from the Kansas Water Office.

Drafting 2020 Legislative Report

Mark will provide a copy of the Legislative Report when complete.

State Water Plan & Funding

Kansas Water Office Report

No report was presented.

GMD3 work to communicate at Regional Public listening meetings (working draft)

Mark has a draft document put together, these meeting will allow feedback regarding the Governors Vision and incorporate it into the State Water Plan document. A listening meeting will be held the first part of next year.

Board Member Report

No board member reports were announced.

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Public Forum

No public forum.

Mark turned the boards' attention to the very last insert of the board packet. Grant County Farm Bureau and K-state Research and Extension is hosting a tour across Kansas. Trip cost is \$300.00. Registration deadline is December 1, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Dave Casterline made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hal Scheuerman seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike McNiece
GMD3 Board Secretary