

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3**  
**Minutes of the ANNUAL Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**MARCH 13th, 2019**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The 44th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District was called to order by President Kirk Heger at 10:03 a.m. The meeting was held at Gray County Event Center, Cimarron, KS.

**Directors Present**

**Kirk Heger, President, Stevens County Representative**  
**Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative**  
**Mike McNiece, Board Secretary, Industrial Representative**  
**Bret Rooney, Vice President, Haskell County Representative**  
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative  
Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative  
Steve Stone, Finney County Representative  
Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative  
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative  
Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative  
Fred Jones, Municipal Representative  
Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative  
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative  
Fred Claassen, Morton 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**

SW KS GMD3 Members  
Kristen Sekavec, Lewis Hooper and Dick  
Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey  
Greg Graff, GMD1 President and Western GMDs rep on Water Authority  
Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, DWR Garden City Field Office

**Flag Salute**

**Welcome, Introductions and Sponsors**

President Heger welcomed all those in attendance to the 44th Annual Meeting of the Groundwater Management District No. 3.

Special introductions were completed.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

President Heger asked for consideration of the Annual Meeting Agenda. After some discussion, Clay Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Randy Hayzlett seconded. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Heger drew the attention of the Board to consider the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 draft annual meeting minutes. Fred Jones made a motion to approve the March 14th, 2018 annual meeting minutes. Clay Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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**GMD3 Activity Report, Executive Director Mark Rude**

Executive Director Mark Rude spoke to the membership about District activity for the past year. GMD3 Board members support team building and acknowledge the transitional times happening in a lot of agencies. Governor Kelly is working to get her Cabinet secretaries appointed. Earl Lewis is interim director of KWO, and Mike Beam is Interim Secretary of Ag. David Barfield will be retiring from Chief Engineer / Director, DWR at the end of the year while Raney Gilliland is retiring as the director of Legislative Research. Governor Kelly understands the importance of water to Western Kansas economy; however, she is currently focused on several other issues: school finance, healthcare, foster care and prison conditions just to name a few.

Groundwater Management Program is in the works of being completed, currently on the Chief Engineers Desk for approval. Once approved, the board will conduct a series of hearings to the members of the district. Mark encouraged everyone to take the time to review the program and attend the hearings when they are scheduled. In part of the GMD3 Water Rights Administration Program GMD3 has worked to resolve proposal conflicts with basic water use doctrine, upholding rules and evaluating new multi-well use flexibility in declining groundwater areas. Mark noted the flowmeter program is ongoing, along with measurement and data collection.

2019 Kansas Legislature SB 182 relates to water measuring devices; technicians; inspections and liability of water right owners. SB 182 allows Chief Engineer to regulate flowmeter measuring device technicians, issue fines to meter technicians and limits liability of device owner if only a technician seal is missing.

Mark touched base on GMD3s' association with Master Irrigator and Water Transfer Projects, Kansas Water Congress along with Groundwater Management Districts Association. All are very important activities for information, member knowledge and the conservation of water.

**Financial Report:**

**Lewis Hooper and Dick**

Kristen Sekavec with Lewis, Hooper and Dick stated that Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management received an unmodified audit report.

- Total Treasurer's Cash \$3,296,558
- Invested in Interest Bearing accounts at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018
  - General Funds 88.72%
  - Water Conservation Project 96.48%
- Total receipts under expenditures for 2018 \$33,551.00
- 2018 General Fund Expenditures were less than budget authority by \$385,030.00
- Zero funds at risk for deposits in financial institutions.
- Risk Management: settled claims have not exceeded commercial insurance for last three years
- General Fund
  - 2018 Receipts
    - Assessments 94%
    - Reimbursement Expenses & Misc. 3%
    - Intergovernmental 3%
    - Interest 0%
  - 2018 Expenditures
    - Administration 83%
    - Water Management Programs 4%
    - Professional Services 9%
    - Payroll Taxes and benefits 4%

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**2019 General Fund Draft Budget**

GMD3 Executive Director Mark Rude turned the audience's attention to the 2020 proposed general fund budget. The proposed budget will be taken to the July hearing for approval. Mark reminded the members of the district that assessments are currently at 5cents per acre of land over 40acres and 14cents for authorized water usage. Cimarron National Grasslands was assessed this past year however, they advised us they do not pay taxes. The assessments from GMD3 are not classified as taxes but assessments. Assessments are value set on property, a tax is a payment of income which is required to be paid.

**Election of Directors**

President Heger introduced the director's up for election:

Each director provided a little insight into their history of GMD3.

**Surface Water at Large:** Randy Hayzlett; been on the Board since 2013. Surface Water is also a valuable source of water and works together with groundwater.

**Finney County:** Steve Stone; has served on the Board for 25 years. This will be his last term.

**Gray County:** Mike O'Brate; been on the Board for 20 years and treasurer for 18 years. This will also be his last term.

**Ford County:** Dave Casterline; was appointed to the board in 2017 to cover Ford County representative that had to get off the board. This will be his first full term and looking forward to it.

**Kearny County:** Hal Scheuerman; been on the Board for 9 years.

Bret Rooney moved to accept the ballots as presented. Larry Keply seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Groundwater Supply & Climate: Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey**

Brownie Wilson with Kansas Geological Survey spoke to the members about the groundwater supply and climate. 2019 Cooperative Water Level Program is completed every year at the beginning of the year, between KGS and DWR approximately 1400 wells are measured. GMD3 area has approximately 424 wells measure. Overall in GMD3, average 2018-2019 (provisional) water level change was -0.39 feet. Precipitation came late in the season which helped with the little change of water level through the Kansas area. Index wells are up and running, some maintenance repairs have been made but nothing out of the ordinary.

**Draft Revised Management Program and new well evaluations: Mark Rude, GMD3**

Mark turned everyone's' attention to the Draft Revised Management Program that was included in the board book and a copy was provided at the tables. Mark completed an Executive Summary and stressed that if members have any questions or concerns regarding the Draft Management Program to come and visit with him.

A power point presentation on the GMD3 Guidelines for the Assessment of Well Drawdown estimates was completed by Mark.

**State Legislature and Federal Activity**

Clay Scott spoke of the involvement in NWRA. Representation on the groundwater task force and having input on priorities is vital. Value of water continues to increase, especially in western states. It helps to bring up the water transfer projects that would benefit Kansas and other states.

**State Water Planning, Randy Hayzlett, Kansas Water Authority Rep**

Randy Hayzlett: Kansas Water Authority started back in 1981 consisting currently of 13 members from across the State. Kansas Water Authority is responsible in advising the Governor, Legislature and Director of the Kansas Water Office on water policy issue and approving the Kansas Water Plan. In 2013 Governor Brownback set out a Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas and created 14 committees for the Kansas water advisory. Randy welcomed comments from the public to take back to the authority for discussion.

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Upper Arkansas RAC Chairman, Fred Jones spoke to those in attendance. Mr. Jones stated the boundaries for the Upper Arkansas is part of Hodgeman County, Ford County and west to the Colorado State Line. The next meeting will be April 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. at the Lee Richardson Zoo.

**Water Rights Administration Update: Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, KDA DWR**

Water Commissioner Meyer thanked the directors and GMD3 staff for working together on water issues. Producers who completed on-line water use reporting this year received a big pat on the back. 88% of the water use reports were completed on line and on time. A total of 97% was turned in timely.

Mike introduced the staff in attendance: Jett Little, Armando Zarco and Austin McColloch. The Garden City Field Office will be moving to a new location the first part of April.

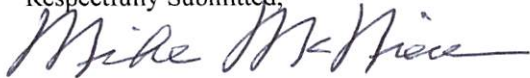
**Member / Public Forum**

There were no public announcements.

**Adjournment**

Dave Casterline moved to adjourn the 44th GMD3 Annual meeting. Fred Jones seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike McNiece, Board Secretary