

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
April 8th, 2020**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President Rooney called to order the April 8th, 2020 Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District to order at 9:05a.m. The meeting was held by teleconference due to COVID-19 pandemic state requirement.

**Directors Present in person or by phone**

Bret Rooney, President, Haskell County Representative  
Fred Jones, Vice President, Municipal Representative  
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative  
Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative  
Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative  
Fred Claassen, Morton County Representative  
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative  
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative  
Kirk Heger, Stevens County Representative  
Mike McNiece, Board Secretary, Industrial Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative  
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative  
Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative  
Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative  
SEAT EMPTY, Finney County Representative

**District Staff Present**

Mark Rude, Executive Director  
Patty Stapleton, Office Administrator  
Chris Law, Director, Field Services  
Trevor Ahring, Engineer  
Brandi Sneath, Office Assistant

**District Staff Absent**

Jason Norquest, Assistant Manager

**Others in Attendance**

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS  
Armando Zarco, Kansas Water Office, Garden City, KS  
Dave Brenn, Kansas Water Congress  
David Barfield, Kansas Water Resources Consulting, LLC  
Sara Zdanowski, DWR

**APPROVE AGENDA**

President Rooney asked for consideration of the April 8th, 2020 meeting agenda. Mark Rude recommended to add Water Commissioner Report under President's Report. President Rooney agreed to add it as Letter A. **Randy Hayzlett made a motion to approve the agenda as revised. Hal Scheuerman seconded. The motion passed by roll call.**

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES & GENERAL MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

President Rooney drew the attention of the Board to consider the March 11th, 2020 draft minutes. **Kent Dunn moved to approve the March 11th, 2020 minutes as presented. Mike McNiece seconded the motion. Motion passed by roll call.**

President Rooney next drew the attention of the Board to review the January and February 2020 financial report documents. **Hal Scheuerman made a motion as follows: Approve the financial reports and payments for the months of March as presented at this meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Kirk Heger seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor by roll call.**

President Rooney signed and submitted the financial documents.

**President's Report, President Bret Rooney**

**Water Commissioner Report.**

Water Commissioner Mike Meyer stated that due to the orders of the Governor they have been closed for the last two weeks due to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, Department of Agriculture is officially open for business with doors locked. Majority of the Garden City staff are working from home, with a couple of employees working in office. Weekly reports are provided by the Governor and Secretary of Agriculture and adjustments will be made if advised.

Commissioner Meyer announced Chief Engineer had accepted GMD1 LEMA in Wichita County within the district boundaries. GMD1 LEMA consists of 25% reduction from historic use from years 2008-2015 across the board for irrigation water rights, except vested rights. More detailed information can be found on the DWR or GMD1 website.

**District response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Mark Rude advised everyone that GMD3 is operating in the functional sense, like DWR. The office has remained open for business with the doors locked to walk-ins and following the guidelines by the Governor. Jason, Chris have continue coming into the office with Mark working from both home and office, while others have been on call as needed and come into the office to complete procedures. Mark stated he has attended several informational webinars on COVID-19 response and GMD3 is square on guidelines. Mark added that if any director has questions from the board on how we continue to approach this time during the pandemic, please bring them to his attention. President Rooney advised Mark to continue the safest way for the employees and the district to operate.

**Response to Finney County Board vacancy announcement**

**Mike O'Brate Gray County position resignation and Finney Co. interest**

Mark Rude turned the boards attention to a copy of the Legal Publication, for Finney County Representative, which was published in the Garden City paper. One letter was received from Mike O'Brate. Mr. O'Brate turned in his resignation for Gray County Representative as he has move into Finney County. **Clay Scott moved to accept the Mike O'Brate's resignation letter for Gray County Representative and accept his letter of interest and appoint him to the Finney County Representative position for the unexpired term. Randy Hayzlett seconded. Motion passed by roll call.**

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Gray Co. Representative is now open, directors' consensus was to advertise for two consecutive Saturdays in the appropriate Gray County papers and bring letters of interests to the next board meeting. Mike O'Brate noted that Kyle Averhoff is interested, however, doesn't feel like he would have the appropriate amount of time to commit. Mike O'Brate and Mark will both reach out to Kyle.

**Board Committees status and assignments**

President Rooney advised the Committee assignments have been updated and a copy of them can be found in the board packet. Assignments have basically remained the same, however, Gray County Rep. when elected, would take Steve Stones spot appropriately.

**Nick Hatcher WCA and Tech Farm renewal**

Mark Rude announced that a WCA and Tech Farm renewal was received by Nick Hatcher. Armando with KWO noted not renewing the Tech Farm as it continues to be a tech farm, just renewing the WCA. Mark advised the WCA is like what he previously had, with the addition of 40 acre-feet being added for carry over credit. Not moving authority between wells, no new acres, with proposed years being 2020-2022. Proposed 385af (annual WCA allocation) possible for carry over (1/3 of base WCA amount). After some discussion, Mike O'Brate moved to approve the WCA renewal for Nick Hatcher. Fred Jones seconded. Motion passed by roll call.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to take off the table.

**New Business**

There was no new business to bring to the table.

**Executive Director Report, Mark Rude**

Mark Rude advised that another version of the Draft Management Program has been posted on the GMD3 website. He asked the board to review the 9 pages of the goals, paying attention to the first paragraph and provide feedback.

**Summer Flowmeter Inspection service plans**

Chris Law, summer flowmeter inspections will be the same as the past years, however, this is a big year with approximately 2,600 potential inspection. Started the process to hire summer help of approximately 6 to 8 people.

**KSU study updates**

Mark turned the boards attention to the Board packet, pages 18-23. These pages demonstrate a survey from Kansas State University to gather data from people regarding ground water quality funding. This survey caused many questions to GMD3 regarding the amount of dollars being presented in the survey.

Mark added there is another project in the works with the City of Garden City and Finney County Economic Development Corporation which is forthcoming.

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**Travel for Board members and staff, GMDA Summer Conference, June 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2020  
The Mining Exchange, Colorado Springs, CO.**

Mark Rude announced the GMDA Summer Conference will be held in Colorado Springs, CO, June 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. As of today, this conference is still happening but due to COVID 19 any changes to the conference will be announced within the next month. **Kent Dunn moved to approve travel for staff and directors to attend the GMDA conference, June 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in Colorado Springs, CO. Mike McNiece Seconded. Motion passed by roll call.**

**Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business**

Mark Rude drew the attention of the board to the March 2020 Financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and activity of the advisory committee. **After some discussion of the Board, Randy Hayzlett moved to accept the March 2020 Financial Report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed by roll call.**

**Projects update.**

2 projects in the mill.

Project 1) Farmers Ditch: engineer is looking to start the work this winter. It was questioned if tax should be applied or if this is tax exempt. Mark reached out to the auditors and was advised there is a state statute if there is work done to provide irrigation water then it is tax exempt, within guidelines.

Project 2) PISE is still in the works. Mark stated has been placed on the side burner but will be working on proposals.

**Board Report**

Mike O'Brate questioned if Patty had heard anything about the second half of property taxes being delayed. Patty noted she has not heard anything but will reach out to Finney County and will report back.

**Public Forum**

Mike Meyer asked Mark Rude to provide him the new owner information for the Isaac feedlot which was reviewed last month. Mark agreed to get the new owner information to him.

Dave Brenn mentioned in reaction to a couple of the issues discussed at the winter conference, there are sub committees being formed on the potential need to re-evaluate the structure of Kansas agencies that are involved in water.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Randy Hayzlett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred Jones seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike McNiece  
GMD3 Board Secretary