

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 13th, 2020**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Rooney called to order the May 13, 2020 Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:01a.m. The meeting was held by teleconference due to COVID-19 pandemic state requirements.

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
Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative
Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative
Fred Claassen, Morton County Representative
Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative
Kirk Heger, Stevens County Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative
Zachary Gale, 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

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS
Armando Zarco, Kansas Water Office, Garden City, KS
David Barfield, Kansas Water Resources Consulting, LLC
Greg Graff, GMD1

APPROVE AGENDA

President Rooney asked for consideration of the May 13, 2020 meeting agenda. **Fred Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kent Dunn seconded. The motion passed by roll call.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & GENERAL MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President Rooney drew the attention of the Board to consider the April 8th, 2020 draft minutes. Mike Meyer turned everyone's attention to page 3 under Nick Hatcher WCA & Tech Farm renewal and corrected Armando Zarco typos for name and agency. **Randy Hayzlett moved to approve the April 8th, 2020 minutes, as revised. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed by roll call.**

President Rooney next drew the attention of the Board to review the April 2020 financial report documents. **Hal Scheuerman made a motion as follows: Approve the financial reports and payments for the month of April 2020 as presented at this meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Mike McNiece seconded. Motion passed by roll call.**

President Rooney will sign and submit the financial documents.

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President's Report, President Bret Rooney
KDA/DWR Water Commissioner Report

Mike Meyer announced doors remain locked at the DWR field office through May due to COVID-19. KDA is on a hiring freeze on all vacant spaces. However, Garden City DWR will have a new Ditch Bailiff and another employee starting in the next couple of weeks. DWR is following up on late Water Use Reports. Approximately 300 letters sent to people needing to get meters repaired. Most did have their meter repaired however, just failed to get paperwork submitted. Currently office is drafting over pump notices, fines paid this year and water penalty will be for 2021.

District update on COVID-19 protocol

Mark advised that all staff are back in the office working. Doors will remain closed this week and will open them up next week, while monitoring number of people in the office at one time. If need arises, staff can work from home remotely if needed. Adjustments will be made for changing situations. President Rooney stated, doing the best you can with the times and keep the decision at staff level.

Response to Gray County Board vacancy announcement

Mark Rude stated announcement was in the paper, however, overlooked reference to Finney County resident. A corrected advertisement was made.

GMD3 Missouri River POC project

Simple concept, however, not feasible, but is a step to determine issues that might come up if a full-scale project would ever move forward. 5,040 gallons of water trucked from Missouri to the dry Arkansas Riverbed, knowing the riverbed will drink the water right into the aquifer. Project will cost approximately \$6,000.00. Arkansas River Funds could fund the project. Randy Hayzlett suggested maybe a private funding to partner with the Projects for this POC. Maybe the Aqueduct Coalition Fund. President Rooney stated his concern putting letters out there without proper explanation, GMD3 could get laughed out. Make sure letter explains properly, however, a condensed version. Benefit to this is more knowledge than anything. Kirk Heger noted questions with KDHE permitting, how extensive is it. Mark stated trying to get that answered. Clay Scott remembers a court case a couple years ago, he thought, stated merging rivers is not considered pollution. Consensus of the board was to produce a one-page summary and send to board for review first. Make contacts and report back to the board in the June meeting.

Committee Meetings

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Executive Director Report, Mark Rude

Stephen Lauer: Social aspects of Groundwater Management research

Review of Draft program document for suggestions

Stephen Lauer was the student with KSU that sent out the survey to producers. A summary of findings is in the board book for review. Mark spoke to Stephen Lauer about reviewing the GMD3 draft management program, thinking another fresh set of eyes could provide better perspective. Mark proposed to the Board of Directors to resubmit the Management program next month.

Office Landscape updating

Mark noted that office landscaping is needing to be updated. Several bids have been requested but none provided as of this date. The project would be to remove the old flower bed and rock (southside of building), update the railroad tie barrier by the sidewalk and trim shrubs and trees.

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Soil Moisture Probe RCPP

The program is still active, and funds are still available. Due to time running out for signup may consider promoting it.

Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Mark Rude drew the attention of the board to the April 2020 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 April 2020 Financial Report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed with roll call.**

Projects Update

- Mark Rude announced, still working on south side system interval control gates.
- Finney County Water Users have bills to be paid but working out how they were presented as estimates. Still projected to start the project this fall. The grant for lining a portion of the ditch has had to be altered but optimistic in the revision of NEPA review.
- Also working to complete the Preferred Interstate Supply Evaluation in being responsive to the Colorado proposed account in JMR under discussion by the ARCA special engineering committee. David Barfield is now a consultant and seeking the opportunity to work with the advisory committee and GMD3. David Barfield had planned to possibly have a state contract, but with the effects of covid19, the state budget is not there for independent contractors, so he is looking elsewhere for funding.

KWO

Armando Zarco, Kansas Water Authority will be having a teleconference on the 20th of May at 1:00 p.m.

KWA

Nothing new to report. Randy Hayzlett noted a lot of new faces on KWA, however, have not met in person due to COVID-19.

Board Member Report

Fred Jones mentioned he experienced some difficulties in the phone meeting technology today.

Public Forum

There was no public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

Randy Hayzlett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Clay Scott seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike McNiece
GMD3 Board Secretary