

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the ANNUAL Meeting of the Board of Directors
MARCH 11th, 2020

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District was called to order by President Bret Rooney at 9:03 a.m. The meeting was held at Grant County Civic Center, Ulysses, KS.

Pledge of Allegiance

Directors Present

Bret Rooney, President, Haskell County Representative
Fred Jones, Vice President, Municipal Representative
Mike McNiece, Board Secretary, Industrial Representative
Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative
Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative
Fred Claassen, Morton County Representative
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative
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

Directors Absent with Notice

Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative
Dave Casterline, Ford 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
Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, DWR Garden City Field Office
Tracy Streeter, Burnes and McDonnell

Welcome, Introductions and Sponsors

President Rooney welcomed all those in attendance to the 45th Annual Meeting of the Groundwater Management District No. 3.

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APPROVE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Rooney drew the attention of the Board to consider the March 13th, 2019 draft annual meeting minutes. Kent Dunn made a motion to approve the March 13th, 2019 annual meeting minutes as presented. Fred Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Special Award for Steve Stone presented.

President Rooney presented Steve Stone a plaque in grateful appreciation of committed leadership and dedicated long-standing service to the GMD3 Board of Directors and the people of SW Kansas.

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 \$2,936,504.00
- Invested in Interest Bearing accounts at December 31st, 2019
 - General Funds 95.76%
 - Water Conservation Project 98.93%
- Total receipts under expenditures for 2019: \$27,011.00
- 2019 General Fund Expenditures were less than budget authority by \$379,278.
- Zero funds at risk for deposits in financial institutions.
- Risk Management: settled claims have not exceeded commercial insurance for last three years.
- General Fund
 - 2019 Receipts
 - Assessments 93%
 - Reimbursement Expenses & Misc. 5%
 - Intergovernmental 1%
 - Interest 1%
 - 2019 Expenditures
 - Administration 88%
 - Water Management Programs 2%
 - Professional Services 6%
 - 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 2021 proposed general fund budget. Mark reviewed the assessment, and buckets. Larry Kepley commented on the size of the buckets and questioned if they were big enough to accept potential funds. Mark assured they are considered sufficient at this time.

The proposed budget will be taken to the July public hearing for subsequent consideration and adoption.

Election of Directors

Secretary Mike McNiece introduced the director's up for election:

Municipal at Large:	Fred Jones (Water Resources Manager, City of Garden City)
Grant County:	Clay Scott
Hamilton County:	Zachary Gale
Haskell County:	Bret Rooney
Stanton County:	Seth Nelson

Brant Peterson moved to accept the nominations as presented and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion was seconded and passed with all in favor.

McCrometer Vendor Moment

Groundwater Supply Mike Meyer, KDA/DWR Commissioner

Water Commissioner Mike Meyer provided information on the water levels report that was completed by KGS and DWR. Approximately 1,400 wells were measured across the state, 430 wells were measured in Southwest KS GMD3 area. GMD1 and GMD3 are the only districts that declined on average 2ft. Precipitation for the year was the best in May, June, July and August, which helped with pumping.

Currently there are 27 active Water Conservation Areas (WCA) plans. 86,738 acres are enrolled, and 11,983 acre-feet of annual water savings has been calculated.

GMD3 Activities Report.

Mark Rude reviewed the latest Draft Revised Management Program with the members. He provided details on the Management Program Summary, economy, valuing water (including federal tax code), Water Rights Assistance and water conservation types. Mr. Rude encouraged all members of the district to review the Draft Management Program which can be found on the GMD3 website. www.gmd3.org. Questions or comments regarding the Program can be directed to any board member or Mark Rude.

Mark announced that due to the retirement of David Barfield, Chris Beightel is the interim Chief Engineer until a permanent Chief Engineer is hired.

Cotton as a Low Water Use Crop: Landon Lukens, PhytoGen Cottonseed

Landon Lukens, PhytoGen Area Sales Manager, Kansas and Oklahoma Panhandle was present to educate the members on cotton physiology and production systems. Cotton makes up 3% of total global acreage used for crop production, acreage on a global and U.S. scale has declined over the last 30 years, while in the U.S. production has doubled. In 2018 United States was #3 out of top 8 countries of world cotton production. In 2015 Upland planted cotton was at a low of 15,509 acres planted and increased to over 200,000 acres in 2019. The most limiting resource for cotton production in the High Plains is water. 80% of Southwest Kansas Cotton is irrigated. Mr. Lukens reviewed several characteristics of cotton along with the stages of plant development and crop management.

Teeter Irrigation Vendor Moment

Water Conservation Partner, USDA-NRCS, Joel A Willhoft, Resource Conservationist

Joel Willhoft, Resource conservationist with NRCS has been with the agency for a little over 38 years and working with Conservation Programs for a little over 6 years. RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) GMD3 partnered with other GMDs in the state to develop a proposal to NRCS to address inefficient water use. GMD3 submitted the proposal with NRCS funding the program. This is the last year for the program and it is under a continuous funding cycle. Due to the nature of the farm bill, NRCS is delayed on getting programs released. General EQUIP cut off date was March 4th. The ranking evaluations have not been made yet. Money has been received to support Reclamation awarded local district WaterSMART grant areas.

Hydro Resources Vendor Moment

Finney County Sustainability Community, Tracy Streeter of Burns & McDonnell,

Tracy Streeter of Burns & McDonnell was in attendance to speak about the Finney County Sustainability Community and introduced the panel that was present to speak: Fred Jones with the City of Garden City, Gina Gigot with Circle Land and Cattle and Mark Boos with Brookover Companies.

What is Sustainability?

Definition:

Positive and replicated natural resource and economic outcomes.

Repeatable: conservative solutions

Expected: profitable results

ROI: return on input

Tyson's definition: community

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Fred Jones with the City of Garden City spoke about how they get customers their information regarding their water uses for the month. How many gallons they used and if it is above average use. Half the water used in garden city is used for outdoor use (irrigation and recreation).

Gina Gigot, with Circle Land and Cattle, reflected what Circle Land and Cattle did in 2016 to help with farming and conservation of water.

Mark Boos with Brookover noted the importance of farmers, feedlots and private municipalities. He added that Brookover will be adding 8 moisture probes this year to assist in water conservation.

Kansas Water Office Report,

Armando Zarco with Kansas Water Office thanked GMD3 for allowing them to have a table in the back. The information in the back is a public input table. Armando mentioned the State Water Plan and some revisions could be in the works, RAC's (Regional Area Committee) may have some open spaces for new faces, so if interested come and put your application in. Kansas Water Authority meeting is also coming up on April 14th in Hutchinson, KS. Mr. Zarco noted there are 15 Water Technology Farms as of 2019. The purpose for the farms is to provide information to producers regarding all the technologies available. A Cover Crop Field Day is coming up April 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at Circle C Farms near Scott City. Lastly, Kansas Governor's Water Conference will be held November. 9th & 10th, 2020.

Member / Public Forum

Jonathon Aquilar talked about the KSU survey that is currently taking place.

Loren Seaman spoke about being interested in working with groups or individuals as a consultant.

Reid Petty, representative for Jerry Moran's office will be available to speak to anyone for comments or questions. He also thanked the GMD3 office for the continued communications.

A question from a member regarding the Uranium Contamination concern: The contamination is already in Lakin water well, is it in Garden City yet? Mark Rude stated GMD3 is working with KGS and the Extension office. Jonathan Aguilar with KSU announced there is not enough uranium concern for livestock.

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President Rooney thanked everyone for their time and commitment.

Adjournment

The 45th GMD3 Annual meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike McNiece, Board Secretary