

Resolution 2021 - 1

OF THE

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the upper Arkansas River watershed serves as a source of water for a diverse array of stakeholders, including municipalities, irrigators, feedlots, dairies, power plants, domestic users, and the environment, either through direct use or as recharge to the Ogallala/High Plains Aquifer in western Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the GMD3 draft revised Management Program contains a program area for the Arkansas River management activities that includes providing leadership in considering development of an Arkansas River Watershed group to help address program elements of this section and building from prior work of program partners, including those identified in the 2008 Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Report and others.

WHEREAS, the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District Number 3 (GMD3) is requesting funding in the amount of \$100,000 from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 Grants program for the formation of a watershed group that would allow a diverse array of stakeholders to form a local, grassroots organization to develop plans to restore and enhance the local watershed, and;

WHEREAS, the contamination of the Arkansas River water and aquifer supply, especially the high levels of salinity and uranium, is diminishing the usability of the water and creating groundwater problems that must be addressed, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed project will begin in the fall of 2021 and will last for 2 years, ending around October 31, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of GMD3 to support the proposal "Creation of a Watershed Management Group to Address Concerns in the Upper Arkansas River Basin, Kansas."

Adopted this 13th day of January 2021

ATTEST:



Mike O'Brate, Treasurer



Bret Rooney, President