

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 12, 2022**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President Rooney called to order January 12, 2022, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was at the GMD3 Board Room.

**Directors Present in Person**

Bret Rooney, President, Haskell County Representative  
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative  
Fred Jones, Vice President, Municipal Representative  
Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative  
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative  
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative  
Matt Johnson, Stevens County Representative

**Directors Present by Phone or Zoom**

Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative  
Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative  
Ben Amerin, Meade County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Hal Scheurman, Kearny County Representative  
Harrison Krey, Morton County Representative  
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative  
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative  
Chad McCormick, Industrial Representative

**District Staff Present**

Mark Rude, Executive Director  
Jason Norquest, Assistant Manager  
Patty Stapleton, Office Administrator  
Chris Law, Director, Field Services  
Brandi Sneath, Office Assistant

**Others in Attendance**

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS  
Dave Brenn, Kansas Water Congress  
Austin McColloch, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Sean Miller, Capital Strategies  
Rachel Duran, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Chris Beightel, Division of Water Resources  
Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office, Water Resource Planner  
Tom Stiles, Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Ian Lyle, National Water Resources Association  
Jonathan Aguilar, Southwest Research Extension

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**APPROVE AGENDA**

President Rooney asked for consideration of the January 12, 2022, meeting agenda. **Clay Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mike O'Brate seconded. The motion passed.**

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

President Rooney drew the Board's attention to consider the December 8, 2021, draft minutes. **As presented, Fred Jones moved to approve the December 8, 2021, minutes. Clay Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

President Rooney next drew the attention of the Board to review the December 2021 financial report documents. Mark Rude spoke about the NWRA membership of \$14,500 that is due every year. There was no financial support from other agencies/districts last year. The Board's consensus was to table the invoice for approval until the February 9 Board meeting in Topeka. In the meantime, Mark will get the word out to other GMDs for support. **Fred Jones made a motion: Approve the financial reports and payments for December 2021 as presented at this meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Kent Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed**

President Rooney signed and submitted the financial documents.

**Correspondence / Recognition / Public Comments**

Dave Brenn with Kansas Water Congress announced that Kansas Water Congress winter conference would be on February 8 at The Beacon in Topeka. Numerous presentations will be held, including from Tom Stiles and Burk Griggs.

**Kansas Legislature. Sean Miller, Capitol Strategies**

Sean Miller of Capitol Strategies, LLC spoke to the group remotely. Omicron is hitting Topeka hard right now. However, there are no mask mandates at the Capitol. Legislatures are discussing the end-of-year budget balance of approximately 3 billion dollars. Many opinions on whether it should be spent or saved for a "rainy day fund." Governor Kelly mentioned removing the food sales tax. Attorney General Schmidt, who is running for governor on the Republican side later this year, has suggested the same thing. However, this would be a big hit to state revenue. Kansas Water Plan may receive a total of \$8 million, also. 2022 is a redistricting year, which will significantly impact the legislative session and the voting distribution for State and Federal. Western Kansas could lose two House seats in the next go-around.

**Water Quality / Ark River**

**KDHE ARCA announcement**

Tom Stiles with KDHE was participating remotely. He described the discussion of water quality as a big topic at the ARCA meeting. Working on an interstate conference in 2022 that would include sessions and tours starting around Lamar and moving east into Kansas. Water quality is a confounding problem long rooted in the Ark basin. Tom Stiles discussed the provision within Section 319 of the Clean Water Act that governs nonpoint sources that are not regulated and provide interstate concerns addressed through EPA hosted talks. Kansas proposes similar discussions, but without federal involvement at this point.

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**Outreach Advocacy**

**Federal Priorities: NWRA & GMD3**

**Ian Lyle with NWRA**

Ian Lyle with NWRA participated remotely and thanked the Board for the invitation and the opportunity to join the meeting. In addition, he thanked Mark, Jason, Randy, and Clay for coming to the NWRA work session and tour the previous week. NWRA is happy with the significant progress in the last year, with involvement continuing for developing the infrastructure bill, specifically the Western Water portions, and some funding that will benefit many irrigation districts and groundwater management districts. The comment period is currently happening on the Clean Water Act rulemaking. Another priority is WRDA (Water Resources Development Act). Next week, Ian will be at the GMDA conference and would be happy to talk further to Mark, Jason, and others attending.

**Official Management Program Reports/Recommendation**

**Management Program: Chief Engineer approval update and board procedure**

Mark Rude asked Mike Meyer if he knew the status of Management Program approval. Mr. Meyer stated it was approved and signed last week and should be received in the mail any day. Mark thanked Mike for the good news and reviewed the next board steps in completing the process of the Management Program adoption. The Board's consensus was to have one informational meeting and hold the Management Program hearing at the annual meeting on March 9, 2022. Legal Notice for the annual meeting should include information on the Management Program hearing, noting that written comments need to be received five days before the hearing by statute.

**Water Commissioner, Mike Meyer**

Mike Meyer noted they are busy with customer service, mainly helping with Water Use Reports. Approximately 13,000 water use reports were mailed before January 1, 2022, confusing those who wanted to report immediately, and the online site was unavailable. About 1,900 have been filed or received, estimated 450 of those from southwest Kansas. In addition, the annual static water measurements are completed. Stafford field office has a bulk of wells to measure, which takes about a month to complete.

Brownie Wilson will present the final numbers at the GMD3 annual meeting. However, raw data from DWR in Kearny, Finney, Gray, Grant, and Haskell had about a 2.5-foot decline from the previous year over those five counties. Haskell County appears to be the greatest decline winner of almost a 4-foot drop.

**Research / Conservation**

Mark presented topics for GMD3 Water Conservation Program activities.

- Flowmeter
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Finney County Sustainability Group
- Finney County WaterCARE
- WaterGIVE
- Conserve to Preserve Reports

**Watershed Group**

Mark explained that we were awarded the grant just waiting on the contract. The funding will support getting a watershed plan downstream of the Stateline.

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**2022 / 2023 Goals: Planning Retreat January 24, Finnup Center, Garden City, KS**

The Finnup Center has been reserved for January 24 for the Planning retreat. The session will begin around 9:00 a.m. and end shortly after lunch.

**Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee**

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

**Finance Committee: Budget for 2023**

Finance Committee will meet this afternoon after the board meeting.

**Annual Meeting**

The Board discussed the upcoming annual meeting. Elections and the Management Program hearing will be on the agenda. Is the Board interested in sponsors? In the past, sponsors have paid \$50.00 for a booth and a couple of minutes to talk about the business. The Board's consensus was to increase the dollar amount of sponsorship to speak and highlight its business.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

**DC Travel Board and Staff**

Mark asked for travel approval for Board and staff to Washington DC to visit with USDA Deputy Secretary. Kent Dunn moved to approve travel to Washington DC for Board and staff. Clay Scott seconded. Motion passed.

**Executive Director Report, Mark Rude**

Staff support for GMD1

Board President Mark Calendar asks for consideration of assistance, if needed while hiring a manager for GMD1. Assistance would be for members having water use and water right questions, and so on.

**Fred Jones made a motion to approve GMD3 staff assisting GMD1 contingent on an agreement with GMD1 that the Executive Committee can approve beforehand. Clay Scott seconded. Motion passed.**

**Yuma, AZ Tour**

A good tour will allow attendees to provide details over lunch.

**Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business**

Mark Rude drew the attention of the Board to the December 2021 Financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and the activity of the advisory committee. **After some discussion of the Board, Fred Jones moved to accept the December 2021 Financial Report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Kent Dunn seconded. Motion passed.**

**GMD3 2021 Legislative Report**

Mark announced the GMD3 2021 Legislative Report is complete and in the board book for review.

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**KWO/KWA/RAC's**

**KWO**

Keadron Pearson announced that next Thursday, Upper Ark RAC will be meeting. Kansas Water Authority will meet on January 27 in Topeka, KS. February 3 will be a Water Expo held in Garden City at the Finney County Fairgrounds.

**KWA**

Randy Hayzlett noted that KWA would meet with the Legislatures on January 26, and the regular meeting of the Authority would be on the 27th.

**KSU Extension**

Jonathan Aguilar announced KSU Extension is seeking a Director for Southwest Kansas.

**Board Member Open Discussion**

Fred Jones informed the group that the City of Garden City would be laying 2.6 miles of new transmission water to the east side of town as part of their infrastructure development.

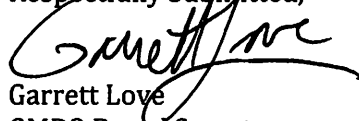
**ADJOURNMENT**

President Rooney announced the next meeting would be held on February 9 in Topeka at The Beacon.

**Mike O'Brate made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt Johnson seconded.**

**The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Garrett Love  
GMD3 Board Secretary