

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**February 9th, 2022**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Vice President Jones called to order the February 9, 2022, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:04 a.m. The meeting was held at The Beacon, 420 SW 9<sup>th</sup> St. Topeka, KS.

**Directors Present in Person**

Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative  
Fred Jones, Vice President, Municipal Representative  
Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative  
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative  
Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative  
Chad McCormick, Industrial Representative

**Directors Present by Phone or Zoom**

Bret Rooney, President, Haskell County Representative  
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative  
Ben Amerin, Meade County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative  
Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative  
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative  
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative  
Harrison Krey, Morton County Representative  
Matt Johnson, Stevens County Representative

**District Staff Present**

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

**Others in Attendance**

Brownie Wilson, KGS

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Vice President Jones asked for consideration of the February 9, 2022, meeting agenda. **Clay Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Randy Hayzlett seconded. The motion passed.**

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

Vice President Jones drew the attention of the Board to consider January 12, 2022, draft minutes. **Mike O'Brate moved to approve January 12, 2022, minutes, as presented. Kent Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

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Vice President Jones next drew the attention of the Board to review the January 2022 financial report documents. **Randy Hayzlett made a motion: Approve the financial reports and payments for January 2022 as presented at this meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Garrett Love seconded the motion. Motion passed**

Vice President Jones signed and submitted the financial documents.

**Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business**

Mark Rude drew the Board's attention to the January 2022 Financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and the activity of the advisory committee. **After some discussion of the Board, Clay Scott moved to accept the January 2022 Financial Report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed.**

**Official Management Program Reports/Recommendation**

**Accept 2021 Financial Audit Report**

Mark Rude, Jason Norquest, and Patty Stapleton met with Kristen Sekavec with Lewis Hooper and Dick. Mark noted the suggestion to have the bank statements reconciled before the board meetings and, if not possible, acknowledge any changes that may affect the budget at the next board meeting. Mark added that the cost of Lewis Hooper and Dick to conduct the annual audit would be going to about \$15,000. Fred Jones stated that a periodic rotation of auditors can aid in preventing fraud within the system and could have auditors reconsider the cost of service. Randy Hayzlett moved to accept the audit for presentation at the annual meeting next month in Cimarron, Chad McCormick seconded. Motion passed.

**Approve Draft 2023 budget and assessments for Annual Meeting**

Mark turned the boards' attention to the Proposed budget for 2023. Finance Committee is proposing a two-cent increase in assessments, increasing it from 14 cents to 16 cents. Mark reviewed the budget in the areas where questions may arise. The directors discussed the pie chart from the auditors and believed that Administration at 85% and Water Management Programs at 2% doesn't give the true story of finances and staff work time. Consider monitoring time spent with the public, water management programs, and time spent doing general office work.

Also, when the auditor presents at the annual meeting, have her describe what Administration Expenses entail. Clay Scott moved to approve the draft budget as presented with the two-cent increase for assessments and present at the annual meeting. Chad McCormick seconded. Motion passed.

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**Approve Board Smart goals for 2022**

Mark reviewed the outcome of goals previously studied at the Board planning retreat.

The high priority goals include:

1. Draft critical well rules in 2022 and seek consensus for formal adoption, working with DWR.
2. Seek Federal legislation and develop a GIVE (Groundwater Incentivized Voluntary Easement)
3. Promote EMAWC (Every Manager a Water Conservator) activity by forming a steering committee to develop a Master Water Manager Pilot project.
4. Develop concept documentation activity to appropriate high flow source water for GMD3 MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge) in natural recharge sites in 2022. Develop Proof of Concept projects and identify policy needs for MAR activity.
5. Update the GMD3 Model with KGS.
6. Conduct I-CARE reports in 2022 to Finney County Irrigators with video information and a platform for those using less water than their peers to share their methods.
7. Support the KGS mineralization study to evaluate the movement of contamination from Ark River Flows from Colorado into SW Kansas aquifers and participation in the KDHE interstate meetings announced at the 2021 ARCA meeting.

Directive Goals for staff include:

1. Implement decision memos for all board reviews and provide DWR results.
2. Provide notice to appropriate board directors when staff becomes aware of controversial issues.
3. Initiate formation of an Upper Ark Watershed Group when Reclamation is ready
4. Seek funding sources for river projects to extend the GMD3 WWP Fund and advisory committee work.
5. Participate in local, regional, and national water organizations.

General agreement from the Board is to work on the final document of the 2022 goals.

**Committee Reports**

The executive committee met Monday and reviewed the staff goals from the planning retreat. The committee also discussed COLA (cost of living adjustment) raises. The recommendation from the executive committee was to approve COLA raises for staff up to 3%. Executive Director will receive a 1.5% COLA. Garret moved to approve the executive committee recommendation for COLA raises. Chad McCormick seconded. No discussion, motion passed.

**Annual Meeting**

Mark will continue to work on presentations and speakers for the annual meeting. Earl Lewis, Tom Stiles, and Brownie Wilson could be in attendance. A hearing of the GMD3 Management Program is planned.

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**Executive Director Report. Mark Rude**

Mark spoke with Ian Lyle with NWRA regarding the 2022 \$14,000 NWRA membership fee. Ian Lyle has agreed to delay the due date of the NWRA membership fee until the KWC and other Kansas GMDs discuss membership or consider a partial payment for now.

**\*\*\*\*\*A Quorum was lost\*\*\*\*\***

**Reports and Discussions**

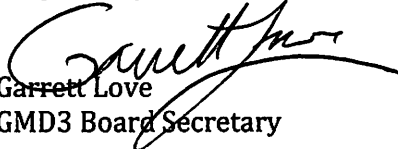
For the record, while in Topeka yesterday, board members participated in the Kansas Water congress Winter meeting and luncheon, The GMDs roundtable meeting, and legislative reception at The Beacon. No official actions of the Board occurred. Following adjournment, board members will participate in a Kansas GMDs roundtable meeting and luncheon with State Water Officials. Again, no official actions of the Board will occur.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be on March 9, following the annual meeting. The meetings will be at the Gray County Recreation Center in Cimarron, KS.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Garrett Love  
GMD3 Board Secretary