# GMD3 Board Room, 2009 E. Spruce St. Garden City, 67846

# Meeting in person and by zoom

# August 16th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

**Invited**

Abe Lollar Ducks Unlimited

Chris Beightel Kansas Department of Agriculture

Connie Owen Kansas Water Office

Curtis Logsdon Finney County Public Works

Emily Vsetecka Sunflower Electric Power Corporation

Fred Jones Garden City Water Resource Manager, Upper Arkansas RAC member

Jason Norquest SW KS GMD3

Joanna Rohlf Kansas Department of Agriculture

Jonathan Aguilar Water Resource Engineer, K-State

Keadron Pearson Kansas Water Office

Kevin Salter DWR

Kyle Nelson Sunflower Electric Power Corporation

Libby Albers Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS)

Luke West Wheatland Water Treatment

Mark Rude SW KS GMD3, Finney County Drainage District #2

Mike Heinitz City Administrator, City of Lakin

Mike Meyer DWR

Patty Stapleton SW KS GMD3

Perry Smith Wheatland Water Treatment

Susan Metzger Kansas State University, KCARE & KWRI

Tom Stiles Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment

Trevor Ahring SW KS GMD3

Weston McCary Kansas Water Office

Bill Simshauser Upper Ark RAC / KS Association of Conservation Districts

Angie Schmitt Finney County

Roger Calkins Finney County

Tom Norman Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Kurtis Meier District Wildlife Biologist-Garden City, KS

Anthony Forsen City Superintendent, Maintenance Dept. Holcomb

Dan Cashman Kearny County Public Works

Doug Mai Finney Co. Water Users / Farmers Ditch +

Ivan Nolde Public Works Director, City of Deerfield

Jeffrey Holste

Larry Miller Amazon Ditch Representative

Randy Hayzlett South Side Ditch Representative

Shane Knoll GC Ditch Representative

Stanley Hines Frontier Ditch Representative

Tom Norman Friends of Sand and Sage Bison

Troy Dumler Garden City Company, Great Eastern Ditch & Ark River Compact Rep.

Brian Bloyd City of Syracuse Administrator

Hugh Brownlee Producer

Mike Ramsey Attorney

Marisela Castro

Rachel Duran Division of Water Resources

Jack Berry

Hal Scheuerman

**Attendance in person or by zoom**

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Patty Stapleton SW KS GMD3

Luke West Wheatland Water Treatment

Randy Hayzlett South Side Ditch Representative

Tom Stiles Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment

Those in attendance completed introductions.

Reviewed notes from July 19th, 2022

Educational Presentation

Review of ownership of the Arkansas River Channel-Mark Rude

Mark Rude spoke on ownership of the Arkansas River Channel.

Old Business

Review of timeline for milestones

It appears that the group is ahead of schedule.

* June 2022: kick-off meeting, allowing stakeholders to be acquainted with each other. (done)
* August 2022: advertise the group to potential members. (done/on-going)
* October 2022: Develop a Mission Statement. (work in progress)
* January 2023: Draft By-laws and articles of incorporation
* February 2023: Submit 270 Day report to the Bureau of Reclamation
* April 2023: Finalize By-laws and articles of incorporation
* June 2023: Select a coordinator/facilitator in accordance with the adopted By-laws
* August 2022 through June 2024: Discuss project concepts and the watershed restoration plan.
* June 2024: Pass a final watershed restoration plan, including a prioritized list of projects and goals for the future.

Mission Statement

*To improve and protect the quality and quantity of the Arkansas River*

*and connected aquifers for the sustainability of life in the basin.*

Discussion of how similar watershed groups are structured

Trevor Ahring noted he spoke with similar watershed groups, Sun River Watershed Group (Montana) and

Sierra Streams Institute (California). Each one is structured differently.

The Sun River Watershed Group By-laws were included in your email before this meeting.

Their group has one full-time employee, the director, and one half-time employee. The watershed group

is funded entirely through grants, fundraisers, and donations. They have room for up to twelve members

but operate with eight currently.

Discussion occurred again on whom should be a representative of the Upper Arkansas River Basin

Watershed Group. Some suggestions included an Environmental representative, at-large, landowners,

and county commissioners / local government. The Lakin Watershed along with James Draw Watershed

and Cheney Lake Watershed will be contacted to see how their bylaws are constructed.

Trevor also talked about the Sierra Streams Institute in California. They have a lot more interested

donors and research grant abilities. They have 16 full-time employees and an entire board of directors.

Discussion of By-laws and Membership.

Membership

Who should be a member? Suggestions to consider everyone that lives within the watershed area.

The more flexible and informal the by-laws are, the easier it will be to develop the group.

Bill Simshauser moved to accept the Mission Statement as completed.

Hugh Brownlee seconded. Motion passed.

Directors

Groundwater

Surface Water

Landowners within the watershed area

Municipalities

Livestock

Recreation

Environment

Conservation

Local Government

At Large (to be considered)

Public Water Supply and Domestic Water

Those listed were all suggested for a director position. Keadron reminded everyone that the by-laws can

dictate a number for a quorum.

Projects Roundtable

Brainstorming session for ideas and problems to address to help outline the restoration plan.

* Terrace to refill Hamilton County Lake or use Fort Aubrey Ditch Right
* Fishpond on Buffalo Reserve
* Wildwood Park.
* Removal of Tamarisk.
* Working with water reuse.

Next meeting:

September 20th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the GMD3 Board Room, Garden City, KS.

Adjournment