2023 REPORT TO THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE

Western Water Conservation Projects Fund

Year 2022 activities and topics

from

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 3(GMD3)

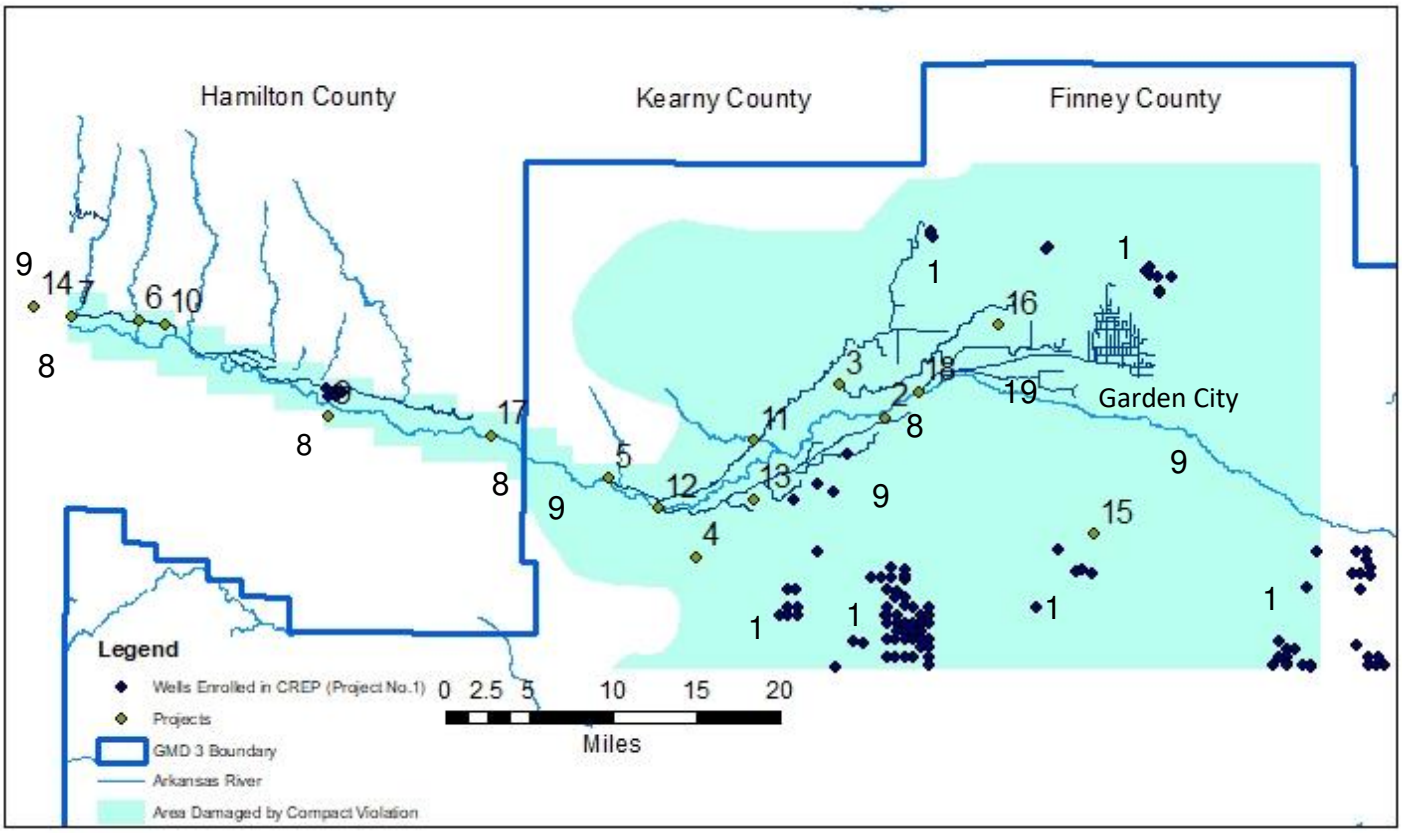
Session 2008 SB 534 proviso & Kansas Water Office

Contract Number 08-0129

Financial Statement for 2022. The GMD3 Western Water Conservation Projects (WWCP) Fund began the year 2022 with $370,602.81 and ended the year with $345,568.14. There was one expenditure totaling $25,788.00. The expenditure was a 3% fiduciary service charge from 2021 actual expenditures of $859,600.36 that was paid to the GMD3 general fund. Expenditures in 2022 were leveraged to support the Kansas Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) state obligations reported on page 6. GMD3 audit financial statements are available upon request.

WWCP Fund: A legislative model enabling local water management projects.

Specifically, funding for the affected area of the Upper Arkansas River basin directly affected by water supply from Colorado. Numbers on the map below correspond to the projects list enclosed. This work returns a fraction of the cash damage award from KS v. CO per the 2008 Session SB 534 proviso and opportunity to leverage these funds with federal grant funding as a successful model for investing in local leadership to address Kansas water needs.



Background

As a result of litigation filed in the United States Supreme Court (*Kansas v. Colorado, No. 105 Original*), the State of Kansas received more than $34.7 million in damage award from the State of Colorado for actual Kansas losses to crops and fields in Southwest Kansas, including interest. Quantified from effects on this Kansas area The cash damages from the litigation first paid back the state $20 million litigation cost, with 1/3 of the remainder going to the Kansas Water Plan used to form the Kansas CREP, and 2/3 to the actual affected area in southwest Kansas in the form of the Water Conservation Projects Fund.

***50 Year Kansas Water Vision** – "locally driven solutions have the best chance of providing long term solutions to water problems."*

Projects funded in whole or in part by the Fund must be in the area directly impacted by the Arkansas River Compact past violations and meet eligibility requirements and goals in K.S.A. 82a-1803 and the 2008 Senate Bill 534 proviso. For more than a century, local stakeholders have identified job one to be protecting the declining water quantity and quality (usability) concerns. From the guiding principles in the 50 Year Kansas Water Vision, locally driven solutions have the best chance of providing long term solutions to water problems. Legislative leaders have entrusted local leadership with an innovative collaborative model to protect public water funds and the efficient completion of water projects.

Legislature model for a locally managed water conservation fund.

The 1996 legislature passed law to direct management of anticipated water funds from Colorado. The 2008 Kansas Legislature looked to the institutional leadership of the GMD3 governing body, professional staff, and surface water stakeholders to assure a portion of the damage funds would be preserved to meet the needs of the area directly affected by prior compact violations. In doing this, the Legislature created an efficient way to accomplish legislative purposes in K.S.A. 82a-1803. This structure also allows the investment interest on the principal to accrue to those purposes under fiduciary care of GMD3.

Legislative goals for the GMD3 managed WWCP Fund:

1. *Maximize general public good (public interest).*
2. *Maximize efficiency of call water for ditch irrigation.*
3. *Maximize benefits of high river flows to improve recharge.*
4. *Mitigate water quality problems in surface and groundwater.*
5. *Reduce consumptive use of water to help stabilize the system.*
6. *Improve the stability of the hydrologic system for irrigators.*
7. *Address compact compliance.*

GMD3 Management Program and the GMD3 WWCP Fund.

The Management Program discusses relationships and interdependent roles of GMD3 and state and federal partners. GMD3 continues to do its part to help keep Kansas strong – not because it can always find immediate solutions, but because it allows space, with good intention and honest dialogue to find workable solutions that better meet our collective needs and better serve Kansas.

***local leadership** assures the vital goals of wise public funding and water project management.*

The Shared Ark River Basin Water Supply.

The Kansas farmer owners of senior river water rights have been using and protecting surface water for Kansas for nearly 150 years. This history provided a basis for equitable apportionment under the 1949 Compact agreement with Colorado. Kansas irrigation ditch companies call for water under their federal court decreed and vested private property water rights, coordinated with state Compact administration activity, to put water to immediate beneficial use in Hamilton, Kearny, and Finney counties. All lands irrigated from the river also have groundwater wells that supply irrigation water through conjunctive use management. The constant aquifer recharge from river flow ties all area water use to the nature and quality of Ark River flows from Colorado.

***Funding for interstate study is a Priority**. Mutually beneficial interstate collaboration requires informed staff and stakeholders.*

GMD3 requested that Compact Administration investigate water quality change as system efficiencies improved.

Water quality (usability) of river flow is a BIG problem and a growing concern in both member states of the Arkansas River Compact Administration (ARCA). Even though the source of the mineralization is natural geology, in absence of human activities the salinity would be three to four times less as presented to ARCA by the KGS linked HERE. As the largest reservoir in the state, the Ogallala/High Plains Aquifer in GMD3 receives tons of Uranium and other harmful dissolved solids carried in with river flow from Colorado. This daily occurrence is depleting Kansas groundwater usability. The resulting health concerns require similar state funding attention as currently provided to address Harmful Algal Blooms or major point source pollution affecting other Kansas Reservoirs.

In the 1949 compact agreement administered by ARCA, Article IV-D express terms of the Compact prohibit future beneficial development which involve the improved or prolonged functioning of existing works and which materially deplete the waters of the Arkansas River in usable quantity or availability for use to water users in Kansas. Some may view Compact language as lacking reference to water quality and not enforceable, but the purposes and language of the compact are not so limiting. For example, the word "groundwater" does not appear in the compact, and yet it was a basis of the Supreme Court for determining damages. All benefits and obligations of the pro - development and protection language of the Compact apply to all.

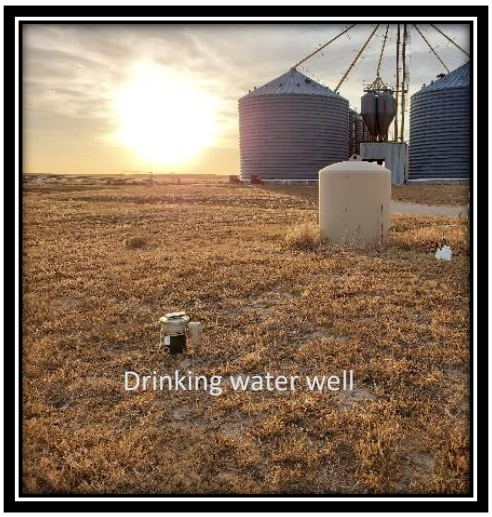
Declining water quality - In the absence of water quality preservation steps, all use and reuse efficiency improvements in Colorado can reduce downstream water supply and usability. Water usability metrics are needed for basin water system operations to aid in determining resource sharing and consider remedies for users in both states. Kansas cannot let Ark River water quality be kicked aside as a subordinate matter. The water quality question of harm needs metrics and constant attention.

KDHE proposed work sessions between Colorado and Kansas, offering hope for water quality progress downstream into Kansas.

Basin Study - Declining water quality is a significant problem across all major irrigated agriculture areas of the world. The Arkansas basin is no exception. **GMD3 efforts for a Basin Study** from John Martin Reservoir to Garden City in 2015 was supported by Reclamation but state staff in both states declined to support the GMD3 initiative linked HERE, or to develop the interstate set of tools like occurred in the Republic River Compact linked HERE. The 2019 Kansas legislative resolutions SR1729 and HR6018 resolved to seek more cooperation and funding assistance in completing planning for the entire basin, including needs in Kansas. This Basin Plan development work with Reclamation and other partners requires additional action.

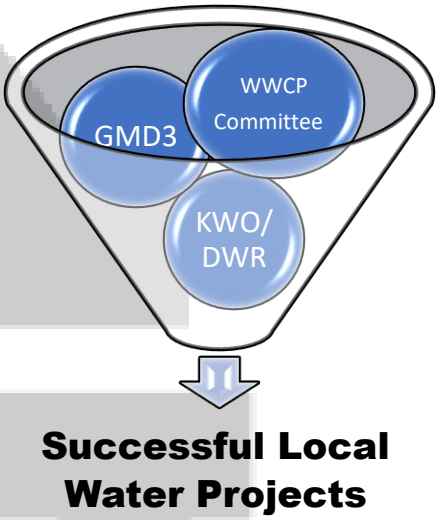
Ark River water mineralization study assistance (ongoing).

In response to 2019 legislative SR1729 and HR6018, the KDHE embarked in 2020 on a domestic water well project and two-year study, in partnership with the KWO, KDA, and KGS. This project builds on prior KGS study to provide some focus on analyzing the impacts of uranium and other minerals on water used for human consumption from private water wells in the GMD3 WWCP Fund area and elsewhere along the Arkansas River. In 2020, homeowners were invited to provide voluntary water well samples, using sample equipment provided by KDHE and distributed through local project hubs, including county health departments. The KGS is evaluating the results as part of the longer-term study and sampling assistance by GMD3 through 2022 linked HERE and HERE.



WWCP Fund Advisory Committee (Committee)

The WWCP Committee is chaired by Randy Hayzlett, who represents the South Side Ditch Association during committee meetings. Chairman Hayzlett also serves on the GMD3 Board, Vise Chair of ARCA, and the Kansas Water Authority (KWA). The committee is comprised of representatives from the six irrigation ditch companies in the area, supported by GMD3 staff and state staff. Meetings are open and minutes are posted.



Committee members and the organizations they represent have given significant time and attention to interstate river supply concerns for over 100 years. A preliminary list of projects that fit the requirements of K.S.A. 82a-1803 was developed by this stakeholder work group in 2006, working from a GMD3 "Upper Arkansas River Conservation Projects Reconnaissance Study" completed in 2005. These priorities resulted in three feasibility studies initiated in 2006 by the KWO using damage funds. A basis for moving the funds to local care was formed the following year and the Kansas Legislature passed a budget proviso in 2008 moving the remaining damage funds to GMD3 fiduciary care subject to a KWO grant agreement that preserved some state supervision and secured a role for Ark River ditch company leaders.

Dates of Advisory Committee meetings in 2022

Committee meetings are open to the public and are generally conducted at the GMD3 office in Garden City, with those attending either in person or by remote zoom meeting. Regular meetings are conducted when active projects are under way. However, only one meeting occurred in 2022. All Committee and GMD3 Board meeting minutes are posted on the GMD3 site linked HERE.

WWCP Fund Advisory Committee Members

Name ***Voting**	**Representing**	**Address**	**Telephone/Email**
*Randy Hayzlett **Chairman**	South Side Ditch Association (also Kansas Rep. on ARCA, GMD3 Board, and Water Authority.	1112 Road T Lakin, KS 67860	(620) 355-7499 Home (620) 271-4008 Cell hayzlett@pld.com
*Troy Dumler **Vice-Chairman**	Great Eastern Ditch Association (also Kansas Rep. on ARCA)	P.O. Box 597 Garden City, KS 67846	(620) 276-3246 Office (620) 640-2339 Cell troy.dumler@sbcglobal.net
*Doug Mai	Finney CO Water Users Association (Farmers Ditch)	14550 N VFW RD Garden City, KS 67846	(620) 260-6354 Cell swkscornfarmer@gmail.com
*Shane Knoll	Garden City Ditch Company	2245 N Little Lowe Garden City, KS 67846	(620) 260-5707 Cell shane_knoll@hotmail.com
*Larry Miller	Kearny County Farmers Irrigation Association (Amazon Ditch)	P.O. Box 222 Deerfield, KS 67838	(620) 355-1600 gafi@pld.com
* Stanley Hines	Frontier Ditch Company	P.O. Box 147 Coolidge, KS 67836	(620) 372-8251 Shop (620) 372-2636 Fax
Patty Stapleton **Recording Secretary**	GMD3 Staff	2009 E Spruce St Garden City, KS 67846	(620) 275-7147 Office pstapleton@gmd3.org
Mark Rude **Treasurer**	GMD3 Staff	2009 E Spruce St Garden City, KS 67846	(620) 275-7147 Office mrude@gmd3.org
Keadron Pearson	Water Resource Planner, Kansas Water Office	4532 Jones Ave., Garden City, KS 67846	(620) 765-7489 Office Keadron.Pearson@kwo.ks.gov
Michael Meyer	Water Commissioner, KDA/DWR	4532 Jones Ave., Garden City, KS 67846	(620) 276-2901 Office mike.meyer@ks.gov
Kevin Salter	Interstate Water Engineer, KDA/DWR	4532 Jones Ave., Garden City, KS 67846	(620) 276-2901 Office (620) 276-9315 Fax kevin.salter@ks.gov

Projects and support since 2008 when funds moved to GMD3.

The following paragraphs correspond with numbers on the front map.

1) Kansas CREP - state match from GMD3 WWCP Fund and District activity.

The 2007 Kansas Legislature authorized the Kansas Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) using part of the money Kansas received from Colorado as repayment of quantified damages to southwest Kansas. The portion dedicated to the State Water Plan Fund was leveraged with local, state, and federal resources under CREP to provide voluntary cash incentives to transition irrigated land to dry land grass and to permanently retire groundwater water rights. Most of the cash damage funds committed to the CREP have been swept to other legislative

funding priorities. But the legislature has continued to provide funding. The program benefits are locally viewed as a cost-effective way to mitigate the missing 400,000 acre-feet lost to compact violations by Colorado. Local retirement of groundwater rights help offset those effects while encouraging land use transition in highly erodible soils.

CREP has helped mitigate the uncompensated 400,000 acre-feet lost to past Colorado compact violations.

The amount of in-kind costs reported which GMD3 expended in the CREP area from its general fund activity: **$132,348.10**.

Activities to promote proper water management and conservation in the CREP area included:

a. Water flowmeter operation and maintenance inspection services.
b. Direct assistance to stakeholders on water rights and water conservation.
c. Advice and assistance on how the CREP can work to enhance water conservation benefits and the purposes of the Kansas CREP.

Western Water Conservation Project Fund Cash Contribution to CREP goals: $7,485.35

October 2021 through September 2022.

Project	Cash for Surface Water Efficiency	Cash for Aquifer Recharge	In-kind Cost
Farmers headgate project wrap-up	$7,485.35	$0.00	$2600
WWCPF Reimbursement to GMD3 in-kind for fiduciary and fund operations.	$0.00	$0.00	$25,788
Totals from WWCPF for report period	$7,485.35	$0.00	$28,388

The KDA/ Division of Conservation annually provides a full CREP report linked HERE.
Note that the annual program period is different than the GMD3 Fiscal (calendar) year.

Kansas Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

South Side Ditch Phase 1 (Initial project construction completed, 2011)

a) Southern Alternative Delivery System - ditch capacity restoration.
b) Efficiency improvement in key areas.
c) New return canal & measurement to the river (2012).

2) Lake McKinney Improvements (2011)

a) Restoring Lake McKinney capacity and storage efficiency, update outflow structures.
b) Alternate bypass canal around Lake McKinney saves delivery water.

3) Arkansas River Recharge storage evaluations (ongoing)

a) GMD3 new water storage supply study, 2004
b) GMD3 options reviewed, Arkansas River Reconnaissance study completed 2005.
c) Recharge elements in the System Optimization Review, 2014.
d) Future technical memos to update prior reservoir sites for water importation (considered).

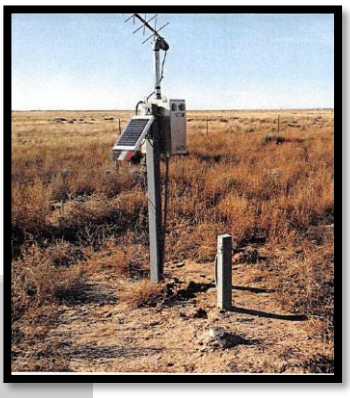
4) Amazon Headgate Improvement Project (Construction completed 2012)

a) Replacement of headgate to improve diversion efficiency.
b) Rotary gates provided by Amazon Ditch as contributing partner.

5) Frontier Ditch West Bridge Creek Flume (use efficiency)

a) Evaluation (2011)
b) Construction (Completed, 2012)

6) Upper Arkansas basin gage and data collection.



a) The GMD3 WWCP Fund provided interim funding for important river system gages lost from state agency budget cuts. GMD3 sought and received permanent dedicated funding the Legislature in **K.S.A. 74-5,133 - Arkansas river gaging fund** (2012).
b) Equip South Side return to river gaging station (completed, 2012)
c) Identify and equip upper basin Stateline groundwater gage sites.
   i) In 2013, data needs resulting from new post compact irrigation development in Colorado south of Holly near Stateline.
   ii) Groundwater gages established by GMD3 and partners in 2014 with O & M funding from 2015 SB156 amending K.S.A.74-5,133).

7) System Optimization Review, Kearny and Finney Co.

a) GMD3 assistance came from a $112,000 Reclamation WaterSMART grant (2012, completed 2014). The $223,250 project budget focused on elements for improving efficiency and operations of the Ark River delivery system in GMD3 Posted HERE.

8) GMD3 Improving Drinking Water alternatives (2014).

a) "Upper Arkansas River Basin Public Water Supply Alternatives Viability Analysis" posted HERE.
b) KGS & KSU crop samples to investigate uranium contamination posted HERE.

9) GMD3 Basin Study to inform WWCP Fund work (Complete 2015)

From the 2009 federal SECURE Water Act and Basin Study Program, Reclamation partnered with GMD3 to conduct comprehensive studies to evaluate the impacts of climate change and define options for meeting future basin water demands linked HERE

10) Frontier Ditch Return Gage (Completed, 2015)

Gage was replaced with assistance from US Geological Survey with O&M through a continual USGS-KDA agreement implementing K.S.A.74-5,133 to accurately measure return flow to the Arkansas River from the Frontier Ditch.

11) Amazon Canal Sand Creek Flume

(at Lakin Golf Course)

- Evaluation (2015).

- Reconstruction (Completed, 2016)

At Right, Replaced old wood and steel Ditch Flume over Sand Creek that supplies both the Amazon Ditch system and the Great Eastern Ditch system and Lake McKinney.

12) South Side Ditch Headgate Improvement. (Completed in 1996, reimbursed 2016)

State required repairs to the headgate and river control structure in 1996 to improve function and efficiency. The state committed to reimburse costs if damage funds became available from KS vs. CO. Costs were reimbursed in 2016.

13) South Side Ditch Phase 2 (2020).

Evaluate and replace 14 water control structures along the ditch. In combining several, South Side eliminated need for two structures, saving project dollars. Also, reusing engineering for one structure saved engineering costs. Work began in 2016 and concrete work spanned several years. The improvements allow for more efficient delivery of surface water and options for head stabilization ponds so surface water can be run through center pivot systems and river water can be co-mingled with groundwater to improve usability. The total budget for Phase 2 was $1,400,000. A total of $464,841.61 was spent on the project in 2017 and $316,046.45 in 2018, $377,042 in 2019 and $50,852 in 2020.

Check gate structure construction, S. S. Ditch.

14) Interstate operations review (ongoing)

Colorado "Super Ditch" and "ATM" Concerns

a) Preferred Interstate Supply Assessment.

i) Began in 2012 compiling all institutional agreements and court rulings that govern interstate operations.

ii) Assisted state staff in funding a review of the Colorado so-called **"Super Ditch"** pilot project conducted by Spronk Water Engineers. Now operated in Colorado as Alternative water Transfer Methods (ATMs).

iii) Funding support for LiDAR cost share with Kearny and Grant Counties for public use and to evaluate aquifer recharge.

b) Colorado Lower Arkansas Water Management Association (LAWMA) - Sufficiency of Colorado post compact water depletion replacements.

LAWMA Operating Concerns.

In 2015, The KDA/DWR was short on interstate water management funds and requested $75,000 of the GMD3 WWCP Fund for technical analysis and consulting work related to the effects that the Colorado LAWMA decree operations have on Kansas water supplies. In 2017, this budget was extended to $95,000 from the GMD3 WWCP Fund. Good analysis informs interstate relationships.

Winter Water Storage Operation Concerns

c) **Colorado Arkansas basin winter water storage and reservoir operations.**

Significant new development of storage space in the basin after the Compact agreement has allowed storing irrigation water that could have otherwise been diverted to fields by irrigation entities during the winter months. This stored water that once was used or flowed into Kansas may then be released later for irrigation use or made available for other uses. Kansas water users maintain basin winter storage operation concerns. Colorado operates their basin Winter Water Storage Program (WWSP) to store their WWSP water primarily in Pueblo Reservoir, but also use Lake Henry and Lake Meredith under the Colorado Canal system, Holbrook and Dye Reservoirs under the Holbrook System, Adobe and Horse Creek Reservoirs under the Fort Lyon System, Great Plains Reservoirs under the Amity System and interstate agreement with Kansas for space in John Martin Reservoir (JMR). The added management space brings management concerns in Kansas for losses of supply that may result from system efficiency improvements.

New storage account in JMR for Colorado.

15) GMD3 WWCP Fund support for the Willis Water Tech Farm

(Completed, 2017) Field days at the Willis Water Technology Farm. As aquifer supplies and well yields decline in southwest Finney County, water conservation and utilization strategies have been shared with interested attendees

16) Roth/Garden City Company Tech Farm & water quality study.

Both river and aquifer sources are harmed by very low water quality river flows from Colorado. Preliminary water quality work indicated dryland corn out performed corn irrigated with river water due to poor quality water and timely rains. In 2019, a six-zone more permanent and complex SDI set-up is now installed on the same location for further study.

17) Muskingum River Routing Model for water deliveries

The Muskingum River routing method is one of several factors used to credit the Stateline delivery of Kansas Account releases from John Martin Reservoir. $37,482.92 was spent in 2017 to develop the model for the river reach from Stateline to the farmers/Garden City Ditches headgate. Some project overruns occurred between the engineering and legal expenses, and $17,517.08 was paid in 2018, for a total project expense of $55,000.

18) Replacement of the Farmers Ditch Headgate (Completed 2021).

- Needed a more water efficient and technology friendly water control system.
- Lack of River administrative boundaries for Kansas owned land were problematic.
- Leveraged WWCP Fund expenditures for a $300,000 Reclamation WaterSMART grant.

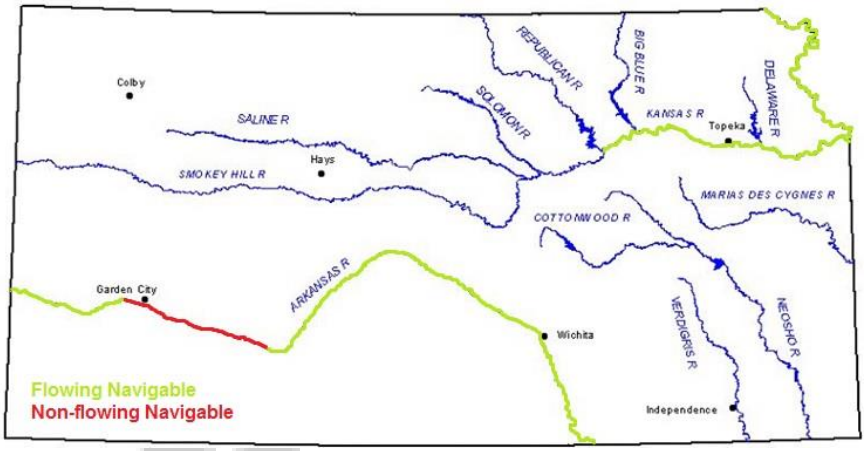
The Farmers Ditch has a river water right of 20,000 acre-feet per year, which can be distributed over 10,000 irrigated acres. The Garden City Ditch shares the headgate and first part of the Ditch system and has a river water right of 4,000 acre-feet. The average annual quantity of water diverted over the past 10 years from this structure was 4,692 acre-feet.

19) Garden City Ditch infrastructure & measuring station.

- Reviewing options to add historic system land and water benefits to local interests, including groundwater recharge along historic ditch service area and for other public benefits.
- Consider best use of the $25,000 dedicated measuring station replacement funds.
- May add limited river flow options to benefit fish, wildlife and recreation along public lands.

Additional GMD3 Management Program concerns

Confused/no policy on navigable river boundaries in SW Kansas.



As a navigable river, the bed of the Arkansas River from the Colorado state line to the Oklahoma state line is unmanaged property of the state. The extent of the riverbed extends to the ordinary high-water mark at the time of statehood. Over time, due to accretion, avulsion, floods, invasive species phreatophyte encroachment, natural and man-made changes to the landscape, and the over-utilization of water supplies in Colorado and Southwest Kansas, it has become difficult to determine property lines. The problem is further compounded by non-uniform descriptions on deeds, different taxing practices among counties, the use of state-owned land by private and public parties and lack of a single state agency being appointed authority to actively manage riverbeds. This all leads to systemic confusion about river property lines and differing land use tax policies of Counties that confuse people and hinder the orderly development of both state and private property, including development and use of water rights on state property. GMD3 acknowledges that all parties would be well served by the establishment of a uniform method for determining the ordinary high-water mark at the time of statehood and that following a compatible administrative boundary determination system would allow for cooperative and comprehensive planning and the development of the beneficial use of state-owned natural infrastructure by neighboring landowners and other GMD3 partners. Under our Management Program, GMD3 is committed to providing resource assistance to other state and local government partners to address this issue in a collaborative and comprehensive manner.

Systemic confusion about Ark River property lines and differing land & tax policies

Arkansas Riverbank Breach in Finney County.

The Kansas legislature has never delegated to anyone the duty to supervise state owned land along the historic bed and banks of the Arkansas River. In 2000, high river flows created a breach in the bank of the river, creating a stream flow into an adjacent sand pit. It is a diversion without a water right. The breach is approximately 200 ft long and the pit now collects 100% of river flow until it is full. In some years, the pit never fills as river flows in are less or match aquifer recharge rates. This disrupts the aquifer recharge benefit distribution along the intensive groundwater use control area. Restoring the river flows on downstream of the breach would extend the flow of the river and restore an important source of recharge to many groundwater users near the river channel. GMD3 seeks funding to address this problem. Drone video of the site is linked HERE.

The Ark River breach has interrupted river flow for 22 years.

Upper Ark Watershed Group.

GMD3 participated in 2005 in Upper Ark River Water Quality Tours hosted by K-State Research and Extension. GMD3 supported the Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategy (WRAPS) activity that followed. GMD3 will continue to provide leadership in further development and protection of the natural water infrastructure of the Ark River consistent with the GMD Act, respecting local member and WWCP Fund advisors and advice of an Arkansas River Watershed group being formed in support of the GMD3 Ark River Management activities. A multi-year federal Reclamation WaterSMART grant was awarded to GMD3 in 2021 for this activity of the Management Program. Efforts will be made to consider the Colorado Lower Ark Watershed Plan linked HERE in the work of this Kansas group.

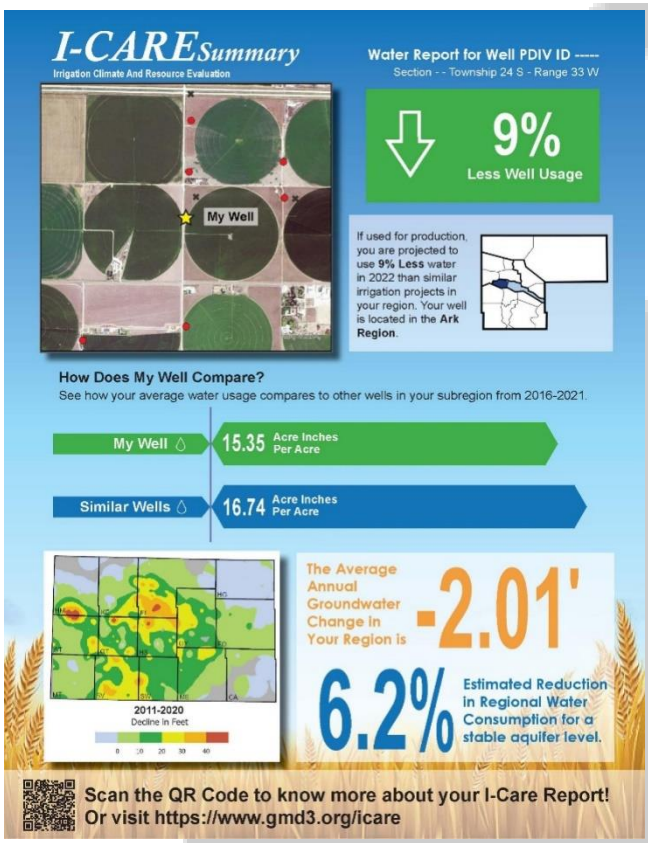
A federal WaterSMART grant was awarded to GMD3 to form a Watershed Group.

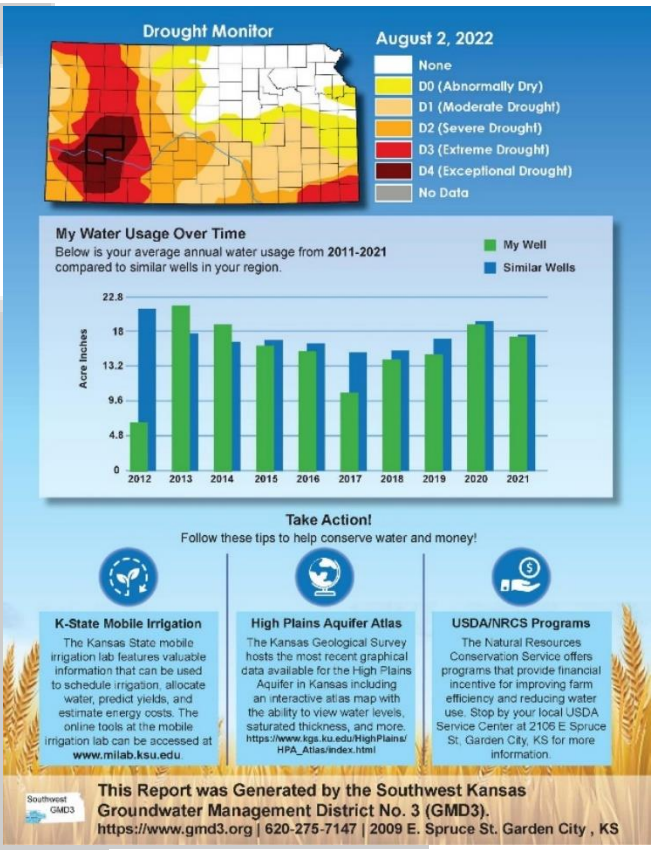
GMD3 Source Water conservation for water transfer project development.

An in-state water transfer Proof-of-Concept (POC) project was conducted by GMD3 in 2020 to demonstrate importing fresh water from the Missouri River to the Ark River/ Ogallala Aquifer system. Next, a ground breaking interstate water transfer POC project in partnership with the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District was completed in 2022 to prove in simple terms that a dully partnered and permitted interstate water transfer project across the state can successfully occur in Kansas. This is important as other states have similar demands and may be able to subsidize agriculture water projects, like the pricing structure of the Central Arizona Project. GMD3 may find leveraging from other funding sources outside Kansas.

GMD3 *I-CARE* project. Each Irrigation well has a story to tell as it assists members in the area and across SW Kansas to overcome drought and grow the Kansas economy. The GMD3 Irrigation Climate And Resource Evaluation (I-CARE) is a new annual data resource for GMD3 agribusiness managers. Local groundwater reservoir storage has been used to counter the effects of drought, but as water reserves are mined, water supplies become less reliable, and drought resiliency is lost. This GMD3 project works with partner water communities of practice to reach across their boundaries and barriers to provide GMD3 members with valuable information for managing their water, increase the usable life of the Ogallala/High Plains Aquifer, and increase farm profitability. Year 1 (2022) focused on Finney County while year 2 (2023) and beyond will include all active irrigation wells in southwest Kansas. Each well is evaluated, and an I-CARE summary is mailed to the owner similar to the following example.

Click HERE to access the GMD3 story map about the project.





Click the picture to watch a video outlining project goals and objectives.

Water Vision.

The Kansas Water Vision and the GMD3 official Management Program include action steps and activities to grow watershed yields to Kansas water storage that will meet Kansas future water needs. The GMD3 vision is to have partner water communities of practice reach across their boundaries and barriers to fully consider all options for meeting official Management Program needs and secure assistance from state and federal water administration, water planning and water program funding sources in support of locally driven solutions. Securing new source waters is a high aim of the GMD3 Management Program, and action recommendations have been provided annually in table form to the KWO/KWA to advise and assistance them in their statewide budgeting of the Water Plan Fund. The 2021 table is linked HERE. The Board encourages favorable Kansas appropriation-for-transfer policy to secure vital interstate source waters for Kansas, mitigate floods, restore rivers, meet demands, fill empty storage spaces, and manage poor-quality water.

Also view the award-winning documentary *Feast And Famine: Securing Kansas Water Needs* that is linked HERE.

Thank you. *Special recognition is given in appreciation of these partners: the Kansas legislature for water wisdom in moving targeted water funding to local management; the local ARLFA Committee of surface water leaders who volunteer their time and talents with GMD3 and state advisors in collaboration to achieve good water projects; and to the unwavering support of the Kansas Water Office; the Kansas Department of Ag's Divisions of Water Resources and Conservation; the KDHE Bureau of Water; K-State Research and Extension; the Kansas Geological Survey; and the US Departments of the Interior and Agriculture.*

Board of Directors of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3

Kent Dunn — **Seward County**
Bret Rooney — **Haskell County President**
Garret Love — **Gray County Secretary**
Randy Hayzlett — **Surface Water**
Matt Johnston — **Stevens County**
Chad McCormick — **Industrial**
Clay Scott — **Grant County**
Kyle Maddux — **Kearny County**

Seth Nelson — **Stanton County**
Harrison Krey — **Morton County**
Ben Amerin — **Meade County**
Mike O'Brate — **Finney County Treasurer**
Zachary Gale — **Hamilton County**
David Casterline — **Ford County**
Fred Jones — **Municipal Vice Pres**
Mark Rude — **Executive Director**