

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Rooney called to order the December 9, 2022, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:02 a.m. The meeting was at the GMD3 Board Room.

Directors Present in Person

Bret Rooney, President, Haskell County Representative
Fred Jones, Vice President, Municipal Representative
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative
Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative
Harrison Krey, Morton County Representative
Matt Johnson, Stevens County Representative
Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative
Chad McCormick, Industrial Representative
Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative

Directors Present by Phone or Zoom

Directors Absent with Notice

Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative
Ben Amerin, Meade County Representative
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative

District Staff Present

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

Others in Attendance

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS
Kevin Salter, Division of Water Resources
Sean Miller, Capital Strategies
Chris Beightel, Division of Water Resources
Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources

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APPROVE AGENDA

President Rooney asked for consideration of the December 9 meeting agenda. **Randy Hayzlett made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kent Dunn seconded. The motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & GENERAL MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President Rooney drew the attention of the Board to consider the November 9, 2022, draft minutes. **Kent Dunn moved to approve November 9, 2022, minutes, as presented. Mike O'Brate seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

President Rooney next drew the attention of the Board to review the November 2022 financial report documents. Patty Stapleton brought the Board's attention to a check fraud issue that came across our general checking account in October with Commerce Bank. Two checks equaling \$3,500 to Anyah Darby in Houston, Texas. Commerce Bank Fraud Department caught this issue quickly and contacted our office. Since Commerce Bank noticed this and we agreed it was a fraud, our account would have no monies transferred. The Board suggested contacting Commerce Bank and GCPD to discuss possible further response actions.

Clay Scott made a motion: Approve the financial reports and payments for November 2022 as presented at this meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Fred Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Rooney signed and submitted the financial documents.

Correspondence/recognition/public comments

Sean Miller reported that the House of Representatives elected their new leadership for 2023 – 2024. They elected Dan Hawkins to be the speaker nominee. Chris Croft will be the new majority leader, and Blake Carpenter will be the Speaker Pro Temp. The democrats voted Dick Miller as their minority leader. It appears there will be a Water Committee also next year to meet only on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Chaired by Rep. Jim Minnix of Scott City.

Patty Stapleton reported there was an open records request from The Kansas Reflector. Mark Rude responded to the requests with the available open records. Sean Miller added that The Kansas Reflector is an email base news for the Capital.

Management Program: Reports and Recommendations

Water Commissioners Report, Mike Meyer, DWR

Water Commissioner Mike Meyer stated that they are still seeking a position in the Garden City Office. Phone calls are picking up regarding over-pumping questions. Their options are a penalty or file for a MYFA. Since last month seven more MYFAs applications were received, with a total of seventy new applications for the year. Static well measurements will start at the beginning of January.

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Hamilton County member petition

Mark Rude brought the Hamilton County petition out of GMD3 to the table. He stated that he had gathered information and a timeline of Hodgeman County withdrawing from the district for a memorandum to the Board when completed. The Hodgeman County process started in the summer of 1986 and was completed in January 1989. Three years from start to finish, so this process will take time. Next, Mark turned the directors' attention to page 11 in the board book, which is the petition Zachary Gale submitted at the last board meeting. Following that page in the board book is the pertinent portion of the GMD ACT and recent example documents from GMD2 actions to add land onto their district that followed the statutory process.

The consensus of the Board was to investigate and communicate with Hamilton County members, schedule a town hall meeting to get feedback from the membership, and provide them with facts about what GMD3 does. Zachary Gale would like a timeline of the process.

Planning Retreat and 2023 Management Program Goals

Mark asked the Directors if they would like to have a planning retreat as we had in January this year. The group's consensus was to keep it up and look at the week of January 16 for a day. Mark will get with the Finnup Center and see what days may be available.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports to announce.

Old Business

There was no old business to take off the table.

New Business

There was no new business to bring to the table.

Executive Director Report, Mark Rude

Governors Water Conference

The Governors Water Conference was heavily attended from across the state on November 16 & 17 in Manhattan, Kansas. Three Board members from GMD3 attended, Fred Jones, Randy Hayzlett and Mike O'Brate, and three staff attended, Chris Law, Trevor Ahring, and Mark Rude.

Ogallala Water Authority Committee

The Kansas Water Authority formed an Ogallala Committee to discuss Ogallala policy. That committee met in Hays and language of that meeting was reviewed and included the recommend policy to halt to the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer.

Interstate Water Transfer POC

Mark Rude and truck driver Hugh Brownlee completed the Proof of Concept (POC) Missouri Water Transfer deliveries last week. Three thousand gallons of water was delivered to Stoney Creek on a property in Wichita County, and the remaining 3,000 was delivered to an aquifer recharge facility in Colorado. Missouri RAC sent a letter of questions and comments to the Water Authority and KWO, primarily with questions to the Chief Engineer.

Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Panel Presentation

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Mark will participate in a panel of presentations on December 15 in Las Vegas at the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference. CRWUA will cover Mark's expenses; Clay Scott will also attend, with GMD3 covering his costs.

ARCA Annual Meeting

The Arkansas River Compact Administration annual meeting was held Thursday, December 8, 2022, in Lamar, Colorado. Randy Hayzlett, who serves as vice-chair, stated the committee meetings were on Wednesday, with a full ARCA meeting on Thursday. Randy also announced that after serving 28 years on ARCA, Kansas would need to find a new representative as he is now stepping down.

Travel Approval

GMDA Annual Meeting January 23-26, St. Simons Island, Georgia

Kent Dunn moved to approve travel for Board and staff to attend the GMDA Annual Meeting, January 23-26 in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Clay Scott Seconded. Motion passed.

ICARE

Trevor Ahring announced that the ICARE reports are done. They are being reviewed and mailed out before the month's end. Mark will update the cover letter as appropriate to send with the reports.

Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Mark Rude drew the Board's attention to the November 2022 Financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and the activity of the advisory committee. **After some discussion with the Board, Fred Jones moved to accept the November 2022 Financial Report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Randy Hayzlett seconded. Motion passed.**

Agency Reports

KWO: Keadron Pearson

- Kansas Water Authority will meet next week, December 14 and 15. In addition, Kansas Water Office is going over annual reports for review.
- Alan Olsen passed away, leaving a vacancy in the Cimmaron RAC.
- WISE Tour: March 23, 2023. More details will be announced later.
- Upper ARK and Cimmaron RAC will have a meeting first of the year.

Board Member Reports

Fred Jones announced that he would like a Research and Development meeting set by the end of the year to the first part of the year.

Public Forum

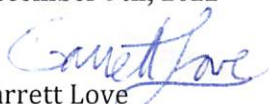
Kent Dunn noted that the new farm bill would be leaning towards conservation.

ADJOURNMENT

Fred Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kyle Maddux seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Garrett Love
GMD3 Board Secretary