

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
February 8th, 2023**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Vice President Fred Jones called to order the February 8th, 2023, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 8:11 a.m. The meeting was in the Library of The Beacon, Topeka, KS.

**Directors Present in Person**

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

**Directors Present by Phone or Zoom**

Bret Rooney, President, Haskell County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Ben Amerin, Meade County Representative  
Harrison Krey, Morton County Representative  
Matt Johnson, Stevens County Representative  
Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative  
Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative  
Zachary Gale, Hamilton 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,

**Others in Attendance**

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS  
Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources  
Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office  
Chris Beightel, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Jeff Lanterman, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Stafford, KS  
Jonathon Aguilar, Kansas State University  
Lane Letourneau, Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Gregg Graff  
Prithvi Murphy, Interested Citizen  
Tom Adrian, Attorney  
Reece Hiebert, Attorney

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**APPROVE AGENDA**

Vice President Jones asked for consideration of the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. Mark Rude stated that Sean Miller is unavailable to stop by this morning; therefore, we can strike from the agenda. **Clay Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as revised. Randy Hayzlett seconded. The motion passed.**

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

Vice President Jones drew the attention of the Board to consider the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, draft minutes. **Garrett Love moved to approve the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, minutes, as presented. Kent Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**Final Audit Review**

Mark Rude announced that Lewis Hooper and Dick completed the final audit for 2022. The audit went well, with few issues. The auditors advised that there were some yearly cleanup items to take care of. They spoke about the financials being officially approved by the Board of Directors after the statements are reconciled. Kent Dunn asked if the bank statements could be requested earlier. Patty Stapleton advised that they had talked to the bank about that, and they reported that they could not. Kent stated that looking into online banking would be beneficial.

**Management Program: Reports and Recommendations**

**Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee**

Mike O'Brate presented the proposed 2024 budget to the Board. Assessments are being held steady; however, we are starting to cut into our carryover.

**Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met and discussed the Legislative Post Audit with Attorney Mike Ramsey. The committee discussed the updated GMD Bylaws and the Remote Work draft policy. They discussed the Hamilton County Townhall meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, the discussion format, and what everyone hopes to learn from it. The committee agreed to postpone the Board Planning Retreat until maybe the first week of May.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to take from the table.

**New Business**

**Draft Bylaw revisions for Annual Meeting Consideration**

Mark Rude turned the Board's attention to the Draft Bylaws. He reviewed the suggested edits. **Clay Scott moved to approve the draft Bylaws and take them to the annual meeting. Garrett Love seconded. Motion passed.**

**Draft 2024 Budget to Present at Annual Meeting**

**Randy Hayzlett moved to present the draft budget at the annual meeting. Kent Dunn seconded. Motion passed.**

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**Chief Engineer Earl Lewis.**

Earl Lewis advised that last week was the second hearing for a LEMA in GMD1. They are on the clock to get that finalized now. Spent time with legislature recently educating new members. On the whole, DWR is down by about 10-12 people. The backlog of applications is about 400 days; they are working on resolving this issue. Earl stated they have a budget enhancement going through the legislature now and trying to get pay increases for the currently employed people to retain them. A review process is happening to see where they can improve the application review process. Lane Letourneau added that the biggest hurdle is getting all the signatures.

**Board Member Reports**

Mike O'Brate asked if the Board needs to review the Work from Home policy today. Vice President Jones suggested placing it on the March agenda formally for discussion.

**Public Forum**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Randy Hayzlett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike O'Brate seconded.**  
**The meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Garrett Love  
GMD3 Board Secretary

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**Executive Director Report, Mark Rude**

**Travel for Board Members and Staff**

**Western Kansas Delegation and NWRA Conference in Washington, DC, April 16-19**

Mark advised that the Western Kansas Delegation and NWRA Conference is in Washington, DC, April 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business**

Currently, there are no projects in the works at this time. However, the funds are in accounts that earn interest reasonably. Randy Hayzlett stated that we would aim for a meeting in the next month or two.

**Agency Reports**

**KWO / Keadron Pearson:**

Upper Ark RAC met last Friday with good attendance. A response to the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting was discussed and sent to the Kansas Water Authority for their review.

Sustaining Water in the Ark River Basin event will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at the boot Hill Casino and Resort Conference Center in Dodge City, KS. This event is free to the public.

March 31<sup>st</sup> is the next Upper ARK RAC meeting. In-depth detail from Kevin Salter about what is happening with John Martin Reservoir and how things have progressed.

Check out the newly revamped KWO website that Victoria Potts is managing.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date of the WISE Tour that will occur in Montezuma and Dodge City. Panelists for the event are Gina Gigot, Fred Jones, Dr. Bill Golden, and many more.

The next Water Authority is on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**DWR**

**Mike Meyer**

The Garden City DWR field office is still three positions short.

**Jeff Lanterman.**

Jeff Lanterman had no report.

**Jonathan Aguilar.**

Jonathan announced they are working on a new agronomist position.