

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President Rooney called to order the January 11, 2023, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:04 a.m. The meeting was in 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  
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative  
Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative  
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative  
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative

**Directors Present by Phone or Zoom**

Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative  
Ben Amerin, Meade County Representative  
Chad McCormick, Industrial Representative  
Harrison Krey, Morton County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative  
Matt Johnson, Stevens County Representative  
Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative  
Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative

**District Staff Present**

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

**District Staff Absent**

Trevor Ahring, Civil Engineer

**Others in Attendance**

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS  
Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, DWR  
Susan Metzger, Senior Executive Administrator to the Dean  
Keadron Pearson, KWO  
Chris Beightel, KDA-DWR

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**APPROVE AGENDA**

President Rooney asked for consideration of the January 11 meeting agenda. **Kent Dunn made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Clay Scott seconded. The motion passed.**

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

President Rooney drew the attention of the Board to consider the December 9, 2022, draft minutes. **Zachary Gale motioned to amend the minutes by reflecting Mark Rude referenced three-year process for Hamilton County to withdraw from the District. Mark countered and stated he referenced that the Hodgeman County withdrawal from the District took three years. Mark and Patty will review the meeting recording, and the revised minutes will reflect the appropriate wording. Zachary Gale moved to approve December 9, 2022; minutes as revised after the hearing of the recording. Mike O'Brate seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

President Rooney next drew the attention of the Board to review the December 2022 financial report documents. Mark announced that the auditors from Lewis Hooper and Dick would be in the office this Friday for the final 2022 audit review. The Finance Committee will meet soon after. Zachary Gale asked what income goes into the Miscellaneous Income account. The Miscellaneous Income is a line item for selling a vehicle or other payment that doesn't have a specific line item. A question was asked about the expense in the Water Conservation Projects account balance of \$107.03. Mark responded that it is the expense for the Point of Concept. Swords & Smith for \$22.31 (formaldehyde) and reimbursement to Jason Norquest for \$84.72 for the pump. **Randy Hayzlett motioned: Approve the financial reports and payments for December 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**

There were none to bring to the table.

**Management Program: Reports and Recommendations**

**Water Commissioners Report, Mike Meyer, DWR**

Water Commissioner Meyer reported there were 74 MYFAs for 2022. Many said they would rather take the penalty than apply for an MYFA. 2018 was the highest year of water penalties; however, 2022 may beat that. In 2022 there were 170 Point of Diversion changes and 350 total change applications. Mike announced the Garden City DWR office is down three staff. DWR and KGS completed well measurements. Finney County was down three feet on both sides of the river; Gray County was down 3.2 feet, the significant declines were in Kearny County with five feet, Grant County with 6.5 feet, and Haskell was down 7 feet. Chief Engineer Earl Lewis even came out and assisted in some well measurements. A few areas had neighboring wells running, which could affect the measurements. DWR mailed out Water Use Reports in the first part of January. Mike reminded everyone that the PIN is always new and that there is a fee for filing with paper.

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**Committee Reports**

**Research and Development**

Research and Development met last Thursday, January 5, 2022. The committee asked Susan Metzger if she could help the committee/board focus on RFP board goals, the updated model currently being worked on, and ideas for the Master Irrigator program. Susan is available to help with the model's outcome and is happy to help in any way. The Master Irrigator Program proposal was submitted to USDA from a collective of States to get the program funded and steering committees together. In Kansas, and it doesn't have to be the same in each District or even across one District, we don't think the master irrigator program necessarily has to work the same. In the meantime, pull together stakeholder groups and start brainstorming about the Master Irrigator Program.

**Policy and Legal**

Mark gave a timeline for the Topeka Legislative Retreat, which will be on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. He and the other agencies have talked about changing the Wednesday meeting to discuss Rules and Regulations with DWR. Mark had sent the By-law edits to the attorney for review. As of today, we are still awaiting a response from our attorney.

There will be a Planning Retreat on January 19 at the Finnup Center. The Executive Committee needs to work on goals for the year.

In several slides, Mark demonstrated the calculations that Trevor Ahring and Brownie Wilson had worked up for townships and compared Q stable. The calculated numbers show that conservation in the area is happening.

Mark discussed the Kansas Water Congress, stating that we have been a supporting member for many years. The real challenge is the need to have them, so we are a part of the NWRA. The membership for NWRA runs through KWC, GMD3, or the Kansas Aqueduct Coalition has been supporting the NWRA membership. Can we get other GMDs to support membership in NWRA? Do we still want to support the membership to NWRA to stay active? The invoice for 2023 is \$14,632.00

**Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee did not hold a meeting. However, one will be soon.

**Sean Miller, Capitol Strategies**

Sean was unable to attend by phone today. Mark updated the Board that there is a New House Water Committee with 11 new members.

**Hamilton County Petition, GMD3 Town Hall meeting February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Fairgrounds**

Hamilton County Town Hall meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2023, at the Fairgrounds starting at 1:30 MT. Zachary Gale thought notices would be going to the paper tonight or tomorrow. Bret asked what the discussion points could be in this meeting. Mark stated that this would be an informative meeting with Q and A. Mark is planning on mailing to all who pay assessments in Hamilton County. Earl Lewis clarified that the GMD boundary is from a petition, and the IGUCA Boundary, the Chief Engineer, can draw.

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**Old Business**

There was no old business to take from the table.

**New Business**

**Draft Bylaw revisions for Annual Meeting Consideration**

The Board reviewed the proposed edits to the By-Laws. The Board suggested a few improvements throughout the By-Laws. Mark will complete the modifications and have the committee finish them. **Clay Scott moved to submit completed By-Laws 30 days before the annual meeting on March 8. Kent Dunn seconded. Motion passed; Zach opposed.**

**Travel to Four States Irrigation Council, Ft. Collins**

Mark asked for travel approval for Trevor to attend the Four States Irrigation Council in Fort Collins, Colorado. Trevor has participated in the Four States for several years. **Kent Dunn moved to approve travel for Trevor to Fort Collins, Colorado, to attend the Four States Irrigation Council. Fred Jones seconded. Motion passed.**

**Mark Rude Travel**

Mark requested travel approval to attend the Four States Irrigation Council in Ft. Collins and the Colorado Water Congress meeting. Mark stated he has family living in the Fort Collins area that he could stay with. **Randy Hayzlett moved to approve travel to the above meetings. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed. Garret Love stated that staying with the family would be helpful on the budget and advised Mark to do that if it works for the family.**

**Bureau of Reclamation meeting in Washington D.C.**

Clay asked for travel approval for him and two others to attend the Bureau of Reclamation meeting in Washington, D.C. **Randy Hayzlett moved to approve travel for Clay Scott and two others to attend the Bureau of Reclamation meeting in Washington D.C. Garrett Love seconded. Motion passed.**

**Kansas Water Congress Sustaining Membership**

Mark brought a bill from the Kansas Water Congress for the membership fee of \$5,000 up for discussion. **Kent Dunn moved, and Mike O'Brate seconded to approve paying the membership fee of \$5,000 to the Kansas Water Congress. Motion passed.**

**KWC Support Payment to cover NWRA Membership**

Mark asked to consider paying the KWC support payment to cover the NWRA membership dues for \$14,632.00. **Kent Dunn moved to support NWRA membership through Kansas Water Congress for \$14,632.00. Garret Love seconded. Motion passed. Fred Jones opposed it.**

**Executive Director Report, Mark Rude**

**Report on Colorado River Water Users Association Conference and Presentation.**

Mark and Clay Scott attended the conference along with approximately 2,300 other people. Mark was on a panel addressing the water shortages. Clay added that it looks like Arizona has signed a \$750 million deal with an Israeli company to import water. That water is going to push over \$3,000 an acre-foot delivered.

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Water Authority / Water meetings January 24/25, Topeka

Mark will attend the Kansas Water Authority meeting, while Jason Norquest will attend the GMDA conference. Jason could be the next GMDA Vice President, and typically, the person who holds that position is also the host for the winter GMDA conference the following year. So if that is the case, Jason and other GMD3 staff will be working on that project.

**Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business**

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

**Legislative Report**

Mark reported sending the 2022 Legislative Report to the Kansas Water Office.

**Agency Reports**

**KWO / Keadron Pearson:**

- The Kansas Water Authority meeting will be held at the Topeka Public Library on January 25 starting at 9:30 a.m.
- March 23 WISE Tour. Everyone is cordially invited. Fred Jones, DFA Representative, Financial Institutions, and Producers are on the agenda. Looking at doing a second event in Fall. More details to come.
- Keadron will do a Doodle Pool to RAC members on the best date for a meeting.

**Board Member Reports**

Randy Hayzlett acknowledged various articles regarding the actions of the Kansas Water Authority meeting in Colby on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition, he handed out a letter that shared his version of the meeting and the outcome.

Keadron would like to remind everyone to pass their concerns on to the RAC Representative in their area.

**Public Forum**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Fred Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred Jones seconded.  
The meeting adjourned at 12: 11 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Garrett Love  
GMD3 Board Secretary