

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 14th, 2023

DRAFT

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President McCormick called to order the June 14th, 2023, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:02 a.m. The meeting was in the GMD3 Board Room.

Directors Present in Person

Chad McCormick, President, Industrial Representative
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative
Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative
Fred Jones, Municipal Representative
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative
Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative

Directors Present by Phone or Zoom

Clay Scott, Grant County Representative
Randy Hayzlett, Vice-President, Surface Water Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Ben Amerin, Meade County Representative
Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative
Dave Casterline, Ford County Representative
Matt Johnson, Stevens County Representative
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative
Harrison Krey, Morton 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
Joscelyn Monarrez, Summer Intern

Others in Attendance

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS
Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office
Chase Larsen, VandWater, Inc.
Scott Waring, VandWater, Inc.
Hal Scheuerman, Producer

APPROVE AGENDA

President McCormick asked for consideration of the June 14th meeting agenda. Mark asked to move *6 D Irrigation's voluntary online water conservation reporting* down to Executive Director report E. **Fred Jones made a motion to revise the agenda as stated. Mike O'Brate seconded. The motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & GENERAL MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President McCormick drew the attention of the Board to consider the May 10th, 2023, draft minutes. **Kent Dunn moved to approve the May 10th, 2023, minutes, as presented. Kyle Maddux seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

President McCormick next drew the attention of the Board to review the April and May 2023 financial report documents. **Mike O'Brate made a motion: Approve the financial reports and payments for April and May 2023 as presented at this meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Fred Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed**

Kent Dunn asked why there were so many service charges from the bank. Patty Stapleton explained that it is on the new account we had to open due to fraud issues; however, those service charges are being credited into our account.

Are the sweep accounts making money similar to a CD or money market? Patty Stapleton noted that the interest rate as of today was 2.575. Mark added that we will review it and report to the Board next month.

Zachary Gale also asked why we are over budget for Professional Assistance. Mark responded that it was probably due to the modeling and might need to rearrange the budget lines.

President McCormick signed and submitted the financial documents.

Correspondence / Recognitions / Public Comments

Letter-Maddux Farms Ogallala Conservation

Kirk Maddux of Maddux Farms submitted a letter to the Board of Directors and DWR regarding the use of surface water and the savings of the Ogallala Aquifer from this practice. Randy Hayzlett noted that the letter should be presented to the Kansas Water Authority, showing them one of the conservation practices happening in Southwest Kansas.

Garret Love noted there are several opportunities for grants, thinking NRCS has a grant coming up with a deadline of August 18th that may be appropriate.

Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Financial Report

Mark Rude drew the Board's attention to the March Financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and the activity of the advisory committee. **After discussing with the Board, Mike O'Brate moved to accept the April and May Financial Reports and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Randy Hayzlett seconded.** Fred Jones asked what the status is on the tax refund issue. Mark responded that it is still in the works. Connie needs more information regarding the overage cost on the headgates. **Motion passed.**

Management Program: Reports and Recommendations

Water Commissioners Report, Mike Meyer, DWR

The Garden City office is still looking to fill two positions. They are working through the 2022 over-pumping list; approximately 175 orders have been mailed, with more to go. Processing of applications is still about a year out; however, local change applications have slowed down a bit.

Clay Scott asked Mike Meyer about the outcome of the review request the Board reviewed last month for Ross Koehn Change. Mike stated it is at the State level, a waiting process.

GMD3 Mailing, I-CARE & Iced Tea Meetings

Mark reviewed the I-CARE report, which should arrive in the mail to the producers within the next week. GMD3 will hold 6 I-CARE and ICED TEA informational meetings in the following towns: Garden City, Lakin, Johnson, Montezuma, Sublette, and Hugoton.

USDA-GMDs Master Irrigator Grant Proposal. Joscelyn Monarrez

GMD3 Intern Joscelyn Monarrez presented a slide presentation on the USDA-GMDs Master Irrigator Grant Proposal. Fred Jones asked if we need a formal motion or a resolution from the Board. He would rather see a proper budget before voting on it. The Board discussed how this would affect our audit. A single audit would be required each year in which the District spent more than \$750,000 in federal monies. However, we could stay under the single audit threshold if the funds were spent evenly over the five years.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee did not meet; therefore, there is no report.

Finance

The Finance Committee did not meet; therefore, there is no report.

Old Business

Zach asked about the Hamilton County AG Review. Mark plans to discuss this topic during the Executive Director Report.

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New Business

There was no new business to bring to the table.

President McCormick reminded the Board that we have one year to pick priority areas. The staff looks at it like the other Western GMDs, where the whole District is a priority and then hits sub-areas harder. Staff and the Policy and Legal Committee will review and get with the local area for input on their site.

Executive Director Report, Mark Rude

Hamilton County

Mark Rude reported that there is not much to say this month. The GMD3 attorney has forwarded a letter to the Attorney General.

Colorado-Kansas

Colorado – Kansas Water Quality Summit was in La Junta, Colorado; some staff and Directors from GMD3 attended. The summit will be in Kansas next year and should focus on the recharge of poor-quality water. Keadron added that there were 95 in attendance.

Colorado Water Congress Panel-August 22nd, Steamboat Springs

Mark would like travel approval to attend the Colorado Water Congress Panel on August 22nd in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Zachary Gale asked what the conference would be about/its purpose. Mark replied that keeping communication open with its partner states on interest benefits both. Travel approval for Mark will be on the July meeting agenda. Fred Jones added that he would like to see an effort to build the Kansas Water Congress.

State Activity-KGS Natural Resources Tour Report

KGS Natural Resources Tour was also well attended, even by Kansas Legislators. Fred Jones added that there were good conversations on many topics.

Federal Activity- 2023 Farm Bill Title 2

Mark spoke about the promotion of groundwater easements. Colorado Democratic Senator Bennet's office is promoting it and working with Kansas Congressional Offices.

Irrigation voluntary online water conservation reporting

Kelly with KGS has the basic format completed; however, she needs feedback to develop the questions and information required. The tool would be mainly drop-down or checkboxes with explanation boxes at the bottom of the pages. If this reporting is done by water right, it could take a person a long time to complete. More work needs to be done, along with input from the Research and Development Committee.

Agency Reports

KWO

Keadron Pearson with Kansas Water Office announced that RAC member enrollment is occurring until the end of June. A Regional RAC meeting will be held at the end of July to discuss budget recommendations for each RAC.

Registration is open for the KAWS tour on July 13th, 2023.

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Mark announced on behalf of KGS that there seems to be interest in starting a water quality network again, along with projects along the Arkansas River, if funding could be found. Mark wrote a letter of support on the Gigot Farm, installing solar panels on the corners for renewable energy and draining any rain directly for recharge.

Board Member Reports

Mike O'Brate advised that there was a meeting at Midwest Feeders to form a possible LEMA. He was unable to attend. We might need staff at the next meeting to help answer questions. This LEMA could be a reasonably large area.

Public Forum

VandWater

Chase Larsen and Scott Waring attended the meeting today and stated they have set up many producers with their tool as of today. This excellent water management tool has been out for about four years and was rebuilt last year to be more robust in the field. The goal is to have it submit Water Use Reports at the end of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

Chad McCormick adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Garrett Love
GMD3 Board Secretary