

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 11, 2023**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President McCormick announced that the October 11 meeting would proceed with informational announcements due to the absence of a quorum.

Directors Present in Person

Chad McCormick, President, Industrial Representative
Randy Hayzlett, Vice-President, Surface Water Representative
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative
Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative

Directors Present by Phone or Zoom

Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative
Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative (joined at 10:34 a.m.)

Directors Absent with Notice

Fred Jones, Municipal Representative
Harrison Krey, Morton County Representative
Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative
Matt Johnson, Stevens County Representative
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative
Vacant, Ford County Representative
Vacant, Meade 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
Dave Brenn, Kansas Water Congress
Gary Bolt, Cimarron RAC
Carl Clawson, Producer
Chris Beightel, DWR
Keadron Pearson, KWO
Cory Keller, City of Dodge City, KS
Jonathan Aguilar, KSU

At 9:10, the GMD3 Board had not reached a quorum, and President McCormick began an unofficial discussion pending reaching a quorum.

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Correspondence / Recognitions / Public Comments

There was no correspondence to bring to the table.

Management Program: Reports and Recommendations

Water Commissioners Report, Mike Meyer, DWR

Water Commissioner Mike Meyer stated that there has not been much new to report since last month. The office is still working through last year's MYFA applications. Applications to redrill wells are picking up. At the field office, there are three vacant positions. Across the State, there are 21 open positions.

Draft revised Management Program document.

Executive Director Mark Rude walked through the main changes of the Official Management Program and highlighted the changes. Clay Scott stated that it is ready to present to the Board for approval.

Executive Director Report, Mark Rude

WaterSMART Grant Applications

Mark brought attention to the two grants that Trevor handed out earlier. Trevor continues to work on grants and has drafted up those two grants. One grant is for GMD3, applying under the Water Strategy Grant, for developing a new water strategy for action plans to address concerns within high-priority areas. The second grant is for the City of Deerfield, securing a reliable water supply.

Reschedule the November Board Meeting

Mark announced that the NWRA Conference is the week of the November board meeting. Those in attendance agreed that November 3 was the best date.

Research and Development Spotlight

Mark discussed the need to fill a vacancy on the Research and Development Committee due to the resignation of a board member. The committee comprises Fred Jones (Chairman), Kent Dunn, and Matt Johnson.

Mark reviewed that the committee has been working on the Hydrological Model and scenarios. The deadline for the WaterSMART grant is October 15. There are a couple of GMD3 water conservation programs in the development stage: GMD3 Voluntary Online Irrigation Water Conservation Reporting and Master Irrigator.

At 10:34, Brett Rooney joined the Meeting via Zoom.

The GMD3 Board reached a quorum, and the meeting was officially declared in session.

APPROVE AGENDA

President McCormick asked for consideration of the October 11 meeting agenda. **Mike O'Brate made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Garret Love seconded. The motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND GENERAL MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President McCormick drew the attention of the Board to consider the September 13, 2023, draft minutes. Randy Hayzlett suggested, making notice in the minutes when President McCormick handed the gavel over to Vice President Hayzlett. **Garret Love moved to approve the September 13, 2023; minutes as revised. Randy Hayzlett seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

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President McCormick next drew the attention of the Board to review the September financial report documents.

Randy Hayzlett motioned to Approve the financial reports and payments for September 2023 as presented at this Meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Mike O'Brate seconded the motion. Motion passed

President McCormick signed and submitted the financial documents.

Distance Limit Waiver. City of Dodge City. File 17,329
Cory Keller was present

- Dodge City proposes to move the authority from one of the seven wells over two miles away while keeping the existing well as a standby for the city system. This move is farther from the river channel of the Ark River IGUCA and away from a poor water quality area.
- Nearby Well owners to the proposed well locations were notified, along with an announcement in the local paper provided by the City. The minimum well spacing portion of the rule is met but the ½ mile move limit is significantly exceeded.
- Analysis shows there could be critical well conditions if full authority is pumped as proposed, mainly due to the low saturated thickness of the aquifer area.
- Policy Committee recommends a waiver of KAR 5-23-3 distance restriction and approval of the portion of the application to move authority to the well under the same water right, 17,329, but deny stacking on 34,536.

Mike O'Brate asked if the wells would be able to pump this quantity. Mr. Keller stated that a couple of wells will last until around September/October each year.

Garret Love made a motion to recommend approving the application to move authority to the well under the same water right 17, 329, but denying the stacking of authority on the second well under 34,536. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed.

Spacing Waiver. SW Heights School. File 13,858

- Southwestern Heights Consolidated School is in a rural setting and maintains its own water supply system from groundwater wells. The applicant proposes this change to meet the need for more authorized supply from their well to improve efficiencies and save pumping costs to school facilities.
- All nearby wells are under the same water right (13,858)
- **Policy Committee Recommends**
 - Action of the governing body to recommend a waiver of KAR 5-23-3 and approval of the application.

Garrett Love moved to approve recommending a waiver of KAR 5-23-2 and approval of the application. Randy Hayzlett seconded. Motion passed.

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Spacing Waiver, Copeland Cemetery, File 50,918

- New Appropriation Application 50,918 and authorize a response to the KDA/DWR staff of the effects on members and the public interest in implementing the official Management Program.
- Copeland Cemetery needs the new appropriation to maintain the area turf and not exceed the current senior water rights authorized amount. Senior rights on this well currently don't meet the well spacing rule.
- Spacing is not met to the neighboring well under water right 26,453. 1,600 feet is needed by rule.
- **Policy Committee Recommends**
 - An action of the governing body to recommend a waiver of KAR 5-23-3 and KAR 5-23-4 and approval of the application, subject to expressed support from the neighboring well owner.

Garrett Love added that the committee would like to review the rules in the future to implement a past board resolution for an offset requirement policy; if you add 4 or 5 acre-feet of new appropriation in a closed area, an offset amount of existing appropriation would need to be found.

Garret Love moved to recommend a waiver of KAR 5-23-3 and KAR 5-23-4 and approval of the application. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

Consider a Resolution to adopt an MP Review and Revision Policy

Tabled to next Meeting.

Consider a Resolution to revise the Management Program.

Tabled to next Meeting.

Travel Request, CRWUA Annual Meeting.

Mike O'Brate moved to approve travel for the Board and staff (Jason Norquest and Mark Rude) to attend the CRWUA Annual Meeting. Garrett Love seconded. Motion passed.

Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Financial Report

Mark Rude drew the Board's attention to the September Financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and the activity of the advisory committee.

After discussing with the Board, Randy Hayzlett moved to accept the September Financial Reports and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Garrett Love seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

There was no old business to take from the table.

Agency Reports

KWO

The Kansas Water Authority Meeting is next week in Lawrence, KS, on the 19th. The Governors Water Conference will be on November 15 and 16 in Manhattan, KS; encouraged to reserve rooms if going.

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Upper Arkansas Watershed

Trevor announced the Upper Arkansas Watershed Group will have a fundraiser at Hidden Trail Brewery. The fundraiser will kick off on November 1 and end on November 18. A person can submit a photo by or on November 1. The photo will be placed on a jar, and patrons will have two weeks to vote (by putting money in the jars) for their favorite photo.

Mike Meyer:

Kevin Salter will present at the Finney County Museum for John Martin Reservoir 75 Anniversary.

K-State

Jonathan Aguilar announced that a new director was hired. He was the TAPS Program Director in Nebraska. He will be based in Manhattan but will focus on Western Kansas.

Keadron Pearson noted the date on the back of the agenda for the KWC Revamping meeting was November 15. Mark thanked Keadron for catching the typo and stated the meeting is on the 14th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan.

Board Member Reports

There were no board member reports.

Public Forum

There were no public forums announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike O'Brate made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Garrett Love seconded.
The Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Garrett Love
GMD3 Board Secretary