

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
February 7th, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President McCormick called to order the February 7, 2024, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 8:10 a.m. The meeting was at The Beacon, Topeka, KS.

**Directors Present in Person**

**Chad McCormick, President, Industrial Representative**  
**Randy Hayzlett, Vice-President, Surface Water Representative**  
**Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative**  
**Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative**  
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative  
Fred Jones, Municipal Representative  
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative  
Harrison Krey, Morton County Representative  
Matt Johnson, Stevens County Representative

**Directors Present by Phone or Zoom**

Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative  
Jacob Harshberger, Ford County Representative  
Carl Clawson, Meade County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative  
Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative  
Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative

**District Staff Present**

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

**Others in Attendance in person or by Zoom**

Kevin Salter, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS  
Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office  
Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey  
Scott Satterthwaite, Watershed Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Michael Beezhold, Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Jonathan Aguilar, Kansas State University

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**APPROVE AGENDA**

President McCormick asked to consider the agenda for the February 7, 2024, meeting. **Clay Scott 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 January 10, 2024, draft minutes. **Kent Dunn moved to approve the January 10, 2024, minutes, as presented. Fred Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

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

**Clay Scott made a motion: Approve the financial reports and payments for January 2023 as presented at this meeting and submit them for the annual audit. Garret Love seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

President McCormick signed and submitted the financial documents.

**Correspondence / Recognitions / Public Comments**

None announced at this time.

**Management Program: Reports and Recommendations**

**NWQI Grant for Upper Ark.**

**Michael Beezhold and Scott Satterthwaite**

NWQI Grant for the Upper Ark, Scott Satterthwaite & Michael Beezhold

Scott Satterthwaite, Watershed Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Michael Beezhold, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, was in attendance to speak about the NWQI (National Water Quality Initiative). Michael Beezhold stated they have participated in this program for some time and have it in three areas of the State. Water Quality is as important as Water Quantity. If you don't have quality water, then quantity doesn't really matter. Colorado / Kansas Water Summit was held in La Junta last year. This year, April 18-19, it will be in the Lakin-Garden City area.

Scott Satterthwaite added that NWQI came out of EQIP. EPA and NRCS got together about ten years ago and formed a big pot of money just for water quality, and that is where NWQI came from. However, they had to create a way to prioritize focus areas, so they went to EPA and used their 9-Element for the planning process. This particular grant requires a Watershed Plan of some type, so that's what this grant is about. There are funds for GMD3 to administer the grant, do some modeling, and also best management practice scenarios. Since GMD3 is the local, Scott hopes that GMD3 takes the whole thing. Once the Resolution is signed, we will start work on the agreement.

Trevor Ahring added that KDHE is asking us to administer this grant. Staff time would be around 100 hours, and reimbursement for that time would be less than \$50,000. Resolution 2024-1 is written up to support NWQI; we will get that reviewed as soon as Mark arrives.

After some discussion, the Board of Directors showed consensus support.

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**Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee did not hold a meeting.

**Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee did not hold a meeting.

**Policy and Legal Committee**

The Policy and Legal Committee did not hold a meeting.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business to take from the table.

**New Business**

There was no New Business to present to the Board of Directors.

**Executive Director Report. Mark Rude**

**Annual Legislative Report Feedback**

There was no report.

**Annual Meeting draft agenda to the committee**

There was no report.

**Travel Approval**

**Chris Law, Four States Irrigation Council, Ft Collins, Co**

Travel approval is needed for the Four States Irrigation Council that Chris Law already attended in Fort Collins, Colorado. Chris Law stated the office has been attending this meeting for years, and is a great one to attend. **Garret Love moved to approve travel of the Four State Irrigation Council. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed.**

**Board and Staff. NWRA Policy Conference. Washington, DC. April 9-11**

Clay Scott would like approval for the Board and Staff to attend the NWRA Policy Conference, April 9 through 11<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. This is always a great opportunity to visit the Congressional delegation and meet with permanent staff at the House and Senate. **Garret Love moved to approve travel for the Board and Staff to attend the NWRA Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., April 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed.** Jason added that we may need to change that month's board meeting due to the NWRA Conference.

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**Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business**

**Financial Report**

President McCormick drew the Board's attention to the financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and the activity of the advisory committee. Randy Hayzlett noted no projects are coming up in the future. **After discussing with the Board, Randy Hayzlett moved to accept the January Financial Reports and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Clay Scott seconded. Motion passed.**

**Board Member Reports**

There were no Board Member Reports.

**Agency Reports**

**KGS**

**Brownie Wilson**

Brownie Wilson noted the annual well measurements that KGS and DWR complete every year were done before the weather hit. The Groundwater Model is coming along and on schedule.

**KWO**

**Keadron Pearson**

Keadron Pearson with the Kansas Water Office announced several meeting dates:

- Water Authority will meet in Garden City on April 17, 2024. The location will be announced later.
- The Ogallala Aquifer Summit is meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Liberal, Kansas; the location will be announced later.
- The Water Summit is April 18-19<sup>th</sup>.
- May 29 will be the WISE event in the GMD1 footprint.

**Chief Engineer, Lewis**

Chief Engineer Earl Lewis announced the bill for additional flexibility will be heard this week. There is a hearing on Water Bank AC tomorrow for some minor changes. DWR had around 100-120 MYFA applications this past year, down from previous years. DWR hired some folks for the Garden City office, and they started about two weeks ago.

**Board Member Report:**

Garret Love asked to consider the Spring Break schedule when scheduling the GMD3 Annual Meeting.

Fred Jones would like the presentation of the proposed Bylaw revision to be organized and informative when presented at the annual meeting.

President McCormick stated the Annual Committee needs to meet to review the details.

Mark Rude handed out Resolution 2024-1 for all attendees to view. The consensus of the Board was to strike the word "creating" and change the date appropriately. Clay Scott moved to approve Resolution 2024-1. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion died. **Fred Jones moved to approve Resolution 2024-1 with the noted corrections (striking the word "creating" and appropriately changing the date). Garret Love seconded. Motion passed.**

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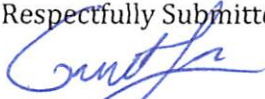
**Public Forum**

There were no Public Forum announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Randy Hayzlett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred Jones seconded.**  
**The meeting adjourned at 9:19**

Respectfully Submitted,



Garrett Love  
GMD3 Board Secretary