

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 13th, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President McCormick called to order the March 13, 2024, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 1:19 p.m. The meeting was at the Seward County Activity Center, Liberal, 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  
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative  
Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative  
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative  
Reid Shrauner, Morton County Representative  
Andy Moser, Stevens County Representative  
Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative

**Directors Present by Phone or Zoom**

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Fred Jones, Municipal Representative  
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative  
Carl Clawson, Meade County Representative  
Jacob Harshberger, Ford County Representative  
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative

**District Staff Present**

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

**Others in Attendance**

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS  
Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office  
Eresay Alcantar, Water Conservationist Specialist, DWR

**APPROVE AGENDA**

President McCormick asked to consider the agenda for the March 13 Regular Board Meeting. Randy Hayzlett suggested having an executive session after the board member report for HR concerns. **Clay Scott motioned to approve the revised agenda by adding an Executive Session after the Board Member Report. Bret Rooney seconded. The motion passed.**

President McCormick thanked everyone, especially the new ones, for committing their time.

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**Approval of Minutes and General Financial Reports**

President McCormick drew the attention of the Board to consider the February 7<sup>th</sup> draft minutes.

**Randy Hayzlett moved to approve the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024; minutes as presented. Mike O'Brate seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

President McCormick drew the attention of the Board to consider the draft minutes of the March 6<sup>th</sup> Special Finance meeting. **As presented, Bret Rooney moved to approve the March 6th, 2024, minutes. Kyle Maddux seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

President McCormick next drew the attention of the Board to review the February 2024 Financial report. Mark commented that Nex-Tech has not started the new contract pending the changeout to new equipment for GMD3. Mike O'Brate asked about the GMDA conference budget. Patty Stapleton said we would have a full report next month.

**Clay Scott moved to approve the February 2024 finances and submit them to the annual audit. Randy Hayzlett seconded. Motion passed.**

**Board Reorganization: Officer Elections**

**Board President**

**Bret Rooney moved to nominate Chad McCormick as Board President. Clay Scott seconded. Bret Rooney moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Garret Love seconded. By voice vote of all in favor, Chad McCormick is the Board President.**

**Vice President**

**Garret Love moved to nominate Randy Hayzlett as Board Vice President.**

**Bret Rooney seconded.**

**Clay Scott moved to ceased nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Bret Rooney seconded. Randy Hayzlett is the Board Vice President by a voice vote of all in favor.**

**Treasurer**

**Randy Hayzlett moved to nominate Mike O'Brate as Board Treasurer.**

**Clay Scott moved to ceased nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Garret Love seconded. By voice vote of all in favor. Mike O'Brate is the Board Treasurer.**

**Secretary**

**Bret Rooney moved to nominate Garrett Love as Board Secretary.**

**Randy Hayzlett moved to ceased nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Andy Moser seconded.**

**By voice vote of all in favor, Garret Love Is the Board Secretary.**

**Board Committee assignments (President's option to act or to table)**

President McCormick brought to the table for discussion the Annual Meeting Committee revamping it to be 1: more utilized and 2: worth the time. At the next meeting, there will be a discussion about what that committee can do over the next year, with multiple meetings to be held within the year and not just for the annual meeting. **This will be on Old Business for the April meeting.**

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**Old Business**

There was no old business to take off the table.

**New Business**

There was no new business to bring to the table.

**Executive Director Report-Mark Rude**

**Permission to hire a temporary Groundwater Conservationist Position**

**Review of individual pay for nonelected GMD3 Personnel**

Mark Rude advised that he would like permission from the Board of Directors to proceed with hiring a temporary Groundwater Conservationist. He believes this could be discussed in the General Session, while pay raises for the non-elected GMD3 Personnel should be addressed in the Executive Session.

Garret Love said he would like a better idea of the district's budget before adding this expense. Mike O'Brate advised that there may be a meeting with Mark Rude to get a detailed job description of the proposed new hire of a groundwater conservationist. After some discussion, this topic was tabled.

**Kansas Water Congress reorganization and NWRA Dues**

Mark Rude announced that a steering committee must still be created for the Kansas Water Congress. Randy Gilliland is a prospective to lead the KWC; he is a long-time advisor and was also involved in the initial building of the Kansas Water Congress.

Mark, in angst, brought up the NWRA invoice that is due now. NWRA is open to quarterly or biannual payments. Mark asked the board to consider providing the funds to pay half the bill to the Kansas Water Congress of about \$7,500.

**Garret Love moved to pay half of the bill to NWRA via the Kansas Water Congress. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed. Zachary Gale opposed.**

Bret Rooney asked when the second half is to be expected. Mark said that the other half must be paid by July 1, 2024. Garret Love noted there could be a level we could drop to in the future, but at this point does not want to mess up Clay Scott's position on the NWRA Board.

**Reschedule April Board Meeting due to the NWRA DC Policy Conference: April 9-11**

Mark Rude brought to the board's attention that the NWRA Policy Conference is the same week as the April board meeting. **Randy Hayzlett moved to change the April 2024 meeting to the 12th. Clay Scott seconded. Motion passed.**

**Ogallala Summit, March 18 and 19, Liberal, KS**

Mark Rude announced that the Ogallala Summit is next week, March 18 and 19, in Liberal, Kansas. It is a multi-state event of the nine states over the Ogallala Aquifer to network during breakout sessions. Keadron Pearson will provide a soft agenda to President McCormick.

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**Status of Grant Submittals**

Mark Rude reminded those in attendance that Trevor Ahring did a presentation at the annual meeting in the morning that detailed the submittals. However, he wants them to be aware of them again and to remember the resolutions they will need to support in the future.

Trevor Ahring detailed the following:

- ✓ NWQI= Getting a contract in April.
- ✓ SmartPlan Grant= If unsuccessful, there is a resubmittal period.
- ✓ Deerfield Grant=Deerfield is the applicant, so GMD3 will not need a resolution.
- ✓ Master Irrigator = Grant is due early May.

**Agency Report.**

**KWO, Keadron Pearson.**

Keadron Pearson announced the following important dates:

- ✓ May 29<sup>th</sup> WISE TOUR in the GMD1 footprint.
- ✓ March 18 – 19<sup>th</sup> Ogallala Summit in Liberal, KS
- ✓ April 17<sup>th</sup>, KWA, Ogallala Subcommittee will meet at the Clarion.
- ✓ April 18-19, ARKWIN
- ✓ March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Upper ARK RAC will meet.
- ✓ Cimarron RAC will meet soon. Date to be announced.

**DWR, Mike Meyer.**

Water Commissioner Mike Meyer introduced their new employee. Eresay Alcantar, Water Conservationist Specialists. Eresay is a native of Garden City and has a degree in geology. They are looking to hire for their second position, along with an Engineering position, for which they have not received any applicants.

Water use reports are now late and come with a fine of \$250.00 until June. Afterward, letters and a fine of \$1,000 per water right will be mailed. There was more success in reports being filed online this year before the due date. Online reporting is still active until July.

**Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business**

**February Financial Report**

There are no new announcements on the Western Water Conservation Projects. **Randy Hayzlett moved to accept the financials and send them to audit. Mike O’Brate seconded. Motion carried.**

Mark brought to the table that \$25,000 is earmarked for the replacement gage for the Garden City Ditch. The other project is wrapping up the Farmers Headgate Ditch Lining Project. GMD3 spent its time and efforts to get state taxes back to stay on budget. Those funds were received; however, the Director of the Water Office wants final approval to release that payment. Keadron Pearson noted that the Director needs more clarification, but she will double-check.

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**Board Member Report**

Chad McCormick announced that he will be going to the Ogallala Summit. Vijay has reached out to him, wanting to have a fifteen-minute discussion with the Governor before the start of the Ogallala Summit. Also, President McCormick will meet with Lindsay Vaughn on Sunday at the feed yard.

Keadron added that when she was in Topeka, everyone commended the water efforts happening in the area.

Mark added that he speaks with Vijay monthly, and the next meeting is Friday the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Executive Session.**

**Garret Love moved to a ten-minute executive session with the Board of Directors only to discuss individual employee performance HR matters to protect the right to privacy of those non-elected personnel. Bret Rooney seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**The board announced they would be in executive session for another ten minutes on the same matter.**

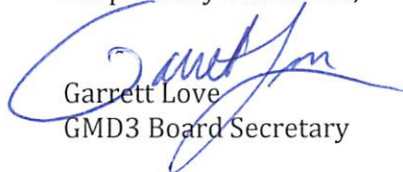
**No action was taken during or after the Executive Session.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Andy Moser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Reid Shrauner seconded.**

**The meeting adjourned at 2:19 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Garrett Love  
GMD3 Board Secretary