

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 14th, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President McCormick called to order the June 14, 2024, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:03 a.m. The meeting was at the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management Board Room.

Directors Present in Person

Chad McCormick, President, Industrial Representative
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative
Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative
Randy Hayzlett, Vice-President, Surface Water Representative
Carl Clawson, Meade County Representative
Fred Jones, Municipal Representative

Directors Present by Phone or Zoom

Reid Shrauner, Morton County Representative
Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative
Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative
Andy Moser, Stevens County Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative
Jacob Harshberger, Ford County Representative
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative

District Staff Present in person or VIA Zoom

Mark Rude, Executive Director
Jason Norquest, Assistant Manager (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
Kevin Salter, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS
Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, Director of Kansas Department of Agriculture
Vijay Ramasamy, Governor's Advisor on Kansas Water

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APPROVE AGENDA

President McCormick asked to consider the agenda for the June 14th Regular Board Meeting. Mark Rude advised to add in a Public Feedback Meeting announcement for the Kansas Water Plan Implementation Strategic Planning under Board Member Reports. **Randy Hayzlett made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Mike O'Brate seconded. The motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes and General Financial Reports

President McCormick drew the attention of the Board to consider the May 8, 2024, draft minutes. Garrett suggested revising, "Garrett Love stated that we are where we are because the state over-appropriated it: consider pursuing the incentive base voluntary retirement for smaller water rights." on page 3 of 7. **Kent Dunn moved to approve the May 8th, 2024, minutes as revised. Garrett Love seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

President McCormick next drew the attention of the Board to review the May 2024 Financial report. **Randy Hayzlett moved to approve the May 2024 finances and submit them to the annual audit. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed.**

Correspondence / Recognition / Formal Comment to the Board of Directors

There was no correspondence, recognition or formal comments submitted.

Management Program: Reports and Recommendations

DWR Report: Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, reminded everyone that June 19th is a state holiday. The office is working through water use reports and received the over-pumping list, which is a small list. Continue to work through nonreported meter readings on water use reports. Finding broken meters in the field, still from last year. The Meter Summit had good discussions and coordination. Hearing from repair facilities and meter companies was beneficial—it provided valuable information for installers to know what they are installing and the guidelines. Mark added the agenda for the Meter Summit is in the board book.

Other Agency Reports

Keadron Pearson with KWO:

Keadron Pearson with Kansas Water Office was via Zoom and thanked GMD3 for maintaining the zoom link and the good set-up they have. June 18th, 2024 is one of the planning meetings, which will be held in Dodge City, KS at the Boot Hill Conference Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. R.S.V.P.'ing is recommended. Individual RAC meetings will take place in the last weeks of July. Dates will be announced soon. Last month was the second WISE Tour. There were about seventy-five people in attendance for the meeting. There was a Water Authority meeting last Tuesday, June 11th. On June 26th there will be a hearing on the High Plains. The topic is combatting drought with innovation. The primary topic may be the Republic River.

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Kevin Salter, water engineer with DWR

Snowpack run-off is underway. Reminding us how much capacity Colorado has with the senior water rights to use up water between Leadville and the State line. We are running at 4,000 CFS, more than 4,000 CFS at Canyon City, and Parkdale. They are releasing all the inflows into Pueblo Reservoir out the bottom end of the system. Avondale briefly peaked at 6,000 CFS earlier this week and we have a little better than 2,000 CFS going into John Martin Reservoir. Division 2 stated this morning, that water is now being passed through as native water or that it is being stored near the Hemby Creek Plains, and there is some storage occurring in the multipurpose account in John Martin.

Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer

Chief Engineer Lewis added to the report from Keadron on the hearing on the High Plains event taking place in Burlington, Colorado on Wednesday, June 26th. A couple of different panels are on the schedule, and he is on one of them. That panel will address questions about drought under USDA and how successful they have been. This is primarily preparation for their work on the Farm Bill. Randy Hayzlett suggested the 'drought monitor' could be a topic of discussion.

Notes on Recent Member Meetings

Mark Rude asked the board if they would be interested in the questions that were captured by Patty Stapleton at the Producer Meetings. The consensus was they would like to see the notes. Mark will revamp them and have them available for next month.

HB2279 Compliance-GMD3 Smart Plan Phase I Report Draft

Great discussion occurred regarding the SmartPLAN report. Several committees reviewed and made suggestions on the report that is in front of everyone. The report focuses on positive things in place but then the basics on the concerns of groundwater depletion, quality, and loss of irrigated acres. Looking at the priority areas, it is district wide, but because of the statue language, we also identify the IGUCA. Mark brought the board's attention to the heat map that Trevor created, which is intended to illustrate the water use above Q Stable. We can keep the map or not, but we thought it was appropriate. A couple of edits were recommended: increase the legend key on Figure 3 map, actually put the links on the page for the I-CARE and the interactive maps on page 3, on page 4 correct Figure 2 to Figure 3. Fred Jones suggested adding in the regional breakdown/descriptions and graph of the areas, which would add approximately nine pages. He also would like Figure 6a and Figure 6b source to be identified.

The board and staff discussed if the revised plan after today's meeting should be reviewed by committee or a special meeting. **Fred Jones moved to adopt the SmartPLAN version reviewed and discussed with the following amendments: include the individual descriptions of the areas on page 3 fig. 2, which would total approximately 9 added pages, and allow the Executive Director to make the needed amendments and any other edits as noted by the board in the discussion and no other substantial changes. Mike O'Brate seconded. Zachary Gale opposed.**

President McCormick advised Executive Director Mark Rude as soon as changes were completed send out to the board.

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Committee Reports

Executive Committee

President McCormick stated that the Executive Committee discussion was solely around the SmartPLAN.

Policy and Legal

Committee Member Moser also stated the Policy and Legal Committee worked on the Smart Plan. Mark added the main work for the Policy and Legal Committee was on the Smart Plan, however, briefly discussed the Stock water MYFA, Short move spacing rule exception and the flowmeter summit which have additional work to be done.

Research and Development

The Research and Development also worked through the SmartPLAN.

Old Business

There was no old business to take from the table.

New Business

Approve GMD3 SmartPLAN Phase I report to the Chief Engineer

The approval occurred earlier in the meeting.

Executive Director Report-Mark Rude

Mark Rude plans to attend several meetings soon. The planning meeting in Dodge City, on the 18th of June and the hearing of the High Plain in Burlington, Colorado. There is a lot of work to be done on the budget for July so committee meetings may be held between now and then. Mark advised everyone to look at the calendar in the board book and let him know if there were certain dates that would not work. ICARE reports are about to be finalized. Mike Meyer asked if this is the last year for them and stressed his concern of the public perceiving the report as a step for HB2279. Trevor and the Watershed committee have worked diligently on the restoration plan. Leo Henning will be out to talk to the Western Water Projects Advisory Committee to explore lining the canals.

Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Randy Hayzlett moved to approve the May 2024 finances of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and submit them to the annual audit. Garrett Love seconded. Motion passed.

Board Member Report

Zachary Gale requested to be re-added back to the committee meeting notification email list as he did not receive notification of the meetings that occurred in the last month.

Randy Hayzlett briefed everyone on the Water Authority meeting. Kansas Secretary of Transportation, Julie Lorenz made a presentation like what she presented at the May board meeting. He shared a handout that will be the topic of discussion at the Dodge City meeting on June 18th.

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Fred Jones announced the City of Garden City received approval for their work plan for the water reuse project, which is an EPA Grant. That work plan is all the preliminary engineering we had to do for that project. This afternoon we will be submitting our plan for the grant, so we can release funding and go into the final design. Late 2026, early 2027 we should be moving water. We anticipate 3,000-to-4,000-acre feet that we will be able to reuse out of that project and should have a significant impact on our wells and hopefully help the area reduce. It is going to go initially up to Circle Land and Cattle with an amount still going to Wheatland Electric and by relationship Sunflower, which has reused water for 20 years for cooling. The second phase will be constructing infiltration basins for groundwater recharge to use any excess we have, for example in the middle of the winter when pivots are not running. Andy Moser asked do regulations exist keeping people from using gray water on their lawns. Fred advised yes, and it is mainly used on drip lines for trees.

President McCormick spoke about a meeting he attended that was sponsored by KWO. KLA, K-State and other attendees that consisted of feedlot operators, and farms/irrigators. It was a good question and answer session. The buying of water rights was discussed, some saying it was a waste of funds when you could leverage those funds for water conservation. It was suggested to work closer with the Farm Bureau with GMD3 and HB2270. There is another meeting scheduled for July 9th, 2024.

Constant Contact should be utilized more to announce deadlines and upcoming meetings.

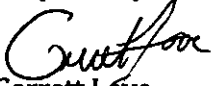
ADJOURNMENT

Fred Jones moved to adjourn the meeting.

Garrett Love seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Garrett Love
GMD3 Board Secretary

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- Still working on activities from the policy side.
- IRS Recognition of water rights donations
- Education, Outreach and Advocacy
 - The board and employees will help implement RCPP.
 - PCAST Whitehouse welcomes public input on America's groundwater challenges.

Old Business

There was no old business to take from the table.

New Business

There was no new business to bring to the table.

Executive Director Report-Mark Rude

HB 2279 Compliance, June 12 Draft Report Development

Mark Rude reiterated the producer meetings scheduled for May 20th and 21st. A draft report on district high-priority areas and comments from the members will be reviewed at the June meeting. Mark will finish the report shortly after the producer meetings and send it to the directors for review before the June meeting.

Consideration to move the June 12th meeting was brought up for discussion due to a conflict with other meetings. **A consensus of the board was to have the June meeting on Friday the 14th.**

January GMDA Conference Host Report

Jason Norquest noted that GMD3 was about \$5,000 short from the GMDA conference. He is working with GMDA to get reimbursement.

GMDA / Groundwater Caucus Summer Meeting

The GMDA will hold its summer meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 17-19 at The Hotel Deco.

NWRA Summer Conference

NWRA Summer Conference will be held the following week in June. More details will be announced later.

Clay Scott moved to approve travel and accommodations on the NWRA trip on July 23 and 25. Andy Moser seconded; the Motion passed. Zachary Gale opposed.

Clay Scott moved to approve registration, travel, and accommodations for the GMDA Summer Conference. Fred Jones seconded. Motion carried. Zachary Gale opposed.

The State Executive for the NWRA is having a retreat in June to address water shortages and cutbacks. June 13 and 14 in Utah, near Salt Lake City. **Clay Scott moved to approve travel for him to attend the State Executive for the NWRA. Andy Moser seconded. Zach Gale opposed.**