

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 12th, 2025**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President McCormick called to order the March 12, 2025, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 1:03 p.m. at Gray County Recreation Center.

Directors Present in Person

Chad McCormick, President, Industrial Representative

Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative

Randy Hayzlett, Vice-President, Surface Water Representative

Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative

Reid Shrauner, Morton County Representative

Andy Moser, Stevens County Representative

Clay Scott, Grant County Representative

Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative

Carl Clawson, Meade County Representative

Jacob Harshberger, Ford County Representative

Fred Jones, Municipal Representative

Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative

Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative

Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative

Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative

District Staff Present

Jason Norquest, Assistant Manager

Patty Stapleton, Office Administrator

Chris Law, Director, Field Services

Brandi Sneath, Office Assistant

Trevor Ahring, Engineer

Others in Attendance via Zoom or in Person

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS

Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office

GMD3 Members

Consent Agenda

The following items were submitted for approval as part of the consent agenda:

- Approve Agenda for March 12th, 2025
- Approve Minutes of February 4th, 2025, regular monthly board meeting
- Approve the General Financial Report for January and February 2025
- Western Water Conservation Projects, Financial Report

Andy Moser moved to remove the Agenda for March 12, 2025, for discussion and approving the remaining items. Kent Dunn seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion regarding items removed from consent agenda:

- Approve Agenda for March 12th, 2025

Mike O'Brate moved to add the Executive Session at the end of the agenda. Clay Scott seconded. The motion passed.

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 12th, 2025

Correspondence / Recognition / Formal Comment to the Board of Directors

There was no correspondence presented.

President's Report

Election of Officers

Board President

Fred Jones moved to nominate Chad McCormick as Board President. Clay Scott seconded.

Carl Clawson moved to cease nominations. Kent Dunn seconded.

Chad McCormick is the 2025-2026 Board President.

Vice President

Garret Love moved to nominate Randy Hayzlett as Board Vice President. Mike O'Brate seconded. Fred Jones ceased nominations. Andy Moser seconded.

Randy Hayzlett is the 2025-2026 Board Vice President.

Treasurer

Clay Scott moved to nominate Mike O'Brate as Board Treasurer. Carl Clawson seconded

Andy Moser ceased nominations. Reid Shrauner seconded.

Mike O'Brate is the 2025-2026 Board Treasurer.

Secretary

Brett Rooney moved to nominate Garrett Love as Board Secretary. Fred Jones seconded.

Clay Scott ceased nominations. Jacob Harshberger seconded.

Garrett Love is the 2025-2026 Board Secretary.

Agency Reports

DWR

Water Commissioner Mike Meyer stated there was nothing to report at this time.

KWO

Keadron Pearson:

Water Authority Meeting April 16th, 2025, in Deerfield. Keadron thanked Jason Norquest and Trevor Ahring for attending last month's Upper Ark Cimarron meeting.

RCPP Program

Jason Norquest announced that the State Funding for the RCPP Program is good; however, Federal Funding is frozen. If the Board of Directors is good with the contract, Jason will forward it to the attorney for review. Chris Law and Trevor Ahring will be the program's head contacts. **Garrett Love moved to approve the RCPP contract. Mike O'Brate seconded. The motion passed.**

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 12th, 2025**

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Reports

President McCormick noted that the Executive Committee met to discuss the Executive Director search. More details will be discussed during the Executive Session later in this meeting.

Policy and Legal Committee

Policy and Legal Chairman Clay Scott reported on the meeting discussion that occurred on February 14, 2025. He met with two members of the Docking Institute to discuss various scenarios and the potential impact on taxes and other factors. He is planning to focus more on this moving forward.

Legislative Report: There were no significant updates. The MYFA was voted on in both the Senate and the House, and the reorganization of the Water Offices bill will more than likely pass both houses this year.

Conservation Initiative. Efforts continue in Washington, D.C., to advance the tax incentive bill that would allow water donations. The Chief Counsel spoke with the Senator who chairs the relevant committee, and it appears we have the approval of the committee chairman. If accepted, this would be a significant step forward.

Lastly, we discussed the annual meeting and key questions to ask.

Finance Committee

The chairman of the Financial Committee, Mike O'Brate, stated that the committee met on February 6th. The 2024 Annual Audit and the Legislative Financials Report were reviewed. The committee also drafted the budget and anticipated costs for the 2026 budget.

Meeting and Outreach Committee

Meeting and Outreach Chairman Jacob Harshberger stated that today's meeting was a great success. He acknowledged Deborah Kohl for her help and hard work for the breakout sessions.

Brett Rooney brought up for discussion changing the annual meeting date to late February. Changing the timing of the meeting could help boost attendance due to the weather and spring break conflicts. However, the bylaws currently set the meeting for the second Wednesday of March with alternating locations. To implement this change, it will need to be added to next year's annual meeting agenda for approval and take effect the following year.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to take from the table.

New Business

NWRA dues were brought to the table for discussion. NWRA dues are \$16,000; however, the City of Hays is joining for \$3,000, taking the district's cost down to \$13,000. Discussion was held on any other GMDs joining. At this time, GMD3 would pay half of the \$13,000 (\$6,500), and if any other agencies/associations join, then the district would pay less on the second half payment. This will give Kansas two votes, and the City of Hays will get one vote.

Fred Jones moved to approve payment for the first half dues of \$6,500. Bret Rooney seconded. Motion approved.

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 12th, 2025**

Interim Executive Director Report

Travel Request, NWRA Policy conference, Washington D.C.

Jason Norquest requested travel to the NWRA Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. **Brett Rooney moved to approve travel for staff and board members to attend the NWRA Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. Mike O'Brate Seconded. The motion passed.**

Western Water Conservation Projects

The Western Water Conservation Projects Committee will be meeting on March 25th at 10:00 a.m. at the GMD3 Board Room. Frontier Ditch wants to discuss a flume project. A meeting with Connie Owen will be held on April 17th to discuss the funds and continued use.

Board Member Report

There were no Board Member Reports announced.

Strategic Planning Discussion

This morning, there were good conversations at the meeting and during the breakouts. Sometimes, it was hard to hear during the breakout sessions. Some questions may have been too challenging, broad, or open-ended.

Executive Session

Fred Jones moved to go into the executive session to discuss staff issues for 15 minutes. Randy Hayzlett seconded. The motion passed.

After 15 minutes the board needed more time. Randy Hayzlett moved to go into an executive session to continue to discuss staff issues for 10 minutes. Brett Rooney seconded. The motion passed.

President McCormick adjourned the meeting immediately following the Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,


Garrett Love
GMD3 Board Secretary