

# WESTERN KANSAS

## GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT #1



Things to find on our Website:

- News and Information
- Programs and Resources
- Weather Program
- Calendar
- FAQs
- Links & Contacts

Check out our **NEW REVISED**  
Website!

[www.gmd1.org](http://www.gmd1.org)

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on Twitter**

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# AT A GLANCE - DATES TO REMEMBER

## December 31, 2011: Emergency Drought Term Permit Deadline

The deadline to file applications for emergency drought term permits is next week. This is a one-time, drought-focused term permit which allows holders of existing water rights the flexibility to borrow a portion of next year's authorized quantity (2012) in order to complete their 2011 growing season. Applications will continue to be accepted through the end of 2011 to allow producers to remain in compliance. So, if you know that you exceeded your authorized amount in 2011 and want to take advantage of this one-time permit, the applications must be filed on or before December 31, 2011, according to the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources (KDWR). The application can be found on the KDWR's website: <http://www.ksda.gov/appropriation/content/114/cid/1787#DroughtApplication>.

## March 1, 2012: Water Use Reports are Due

You should be receiving your Water Use Report for 2011 water usage from the Division of Water Resources, in the near future. The report is due March 1, 2012 and should be filed with the KS Division of Water Resources. Failure to do so can be subject to penalties and fines. You must file the report(s) even if you did not exercise (pump) your water right during 2011. Make sure you fill out your report(s) completely including **beginning and ending meter readings**. If your water right is enrolled in a federal or state conservation program you still need to file a report. This applies to flow meters and hour meters. If you have any questions on filling out your Water Use Report, please contact our office at (620) 872-5563.

**Remember**, if you will be repairing or replacing a meter or already have repaired or replaced a meter during 2011, please fill out a Meter Repair/Replacement Form found on our website: [www.gmd1.org](http://www.gmd1.org) on the Home Page under "Flowmeters". **Also Remember** that according to K.A.R. 5-21-6 (Water measuring devices) if you are using an Hour Meter, anytime you **change your water right** (i.e. re-drilled your well, changed the place of use, changed the use made of water, and/or modified the diversion works or delivery system) you will need to install a water flowmeter and probably can no longer use an hour meter (if this change took place after January 24, 2003). Of course you must also install a water flowmeter if the GMD#1 and/or the Chief Engineer orders that the well be equipped with a water flowmeter. When in doubt, please give us a call before making any changes.

## March 20, 2012: Annual Meeting

The 39th Western KS Groundwater Management District #1 Annual Meeting will be held in Sharon Springs on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in the basement of the Mt. Sunflower Bed & Breakfast located at 229 N. Gardner Street. The Meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. (CDT). Included in the program will be updates on the District, election of the Wichita and Lane County Directors, and the presentation of the 2013 Budget.

## Managers Message

The 2012 Legislative Session will be very interesting. Governor Brownback has made the Ogallala Aquifer a top priority for his administration. He is committed to conserving and extending the useful life of the Aquifer while sustaining the economic viability of the region. Last July he held an Economic Summit on the Future of the Ogallala Aquifer. The KS Water Authority, which advises the Governor, Legislature, and Director of the Kansas Water Office, appointed a 21-member aquifer advisory committee to look at policies related to the aquifer and water management. Input received from the Summit was considered along with other information as they met 4 times to address potential barriers and related issues to help conserve and extend the Ogallala Aquifer. These meetings resulted in proposed legislation to 1) amend the Appropriation Act to eliminate the "use it or lose it" scenario for groundwater rights in areas closed to new water right development in order to protect those rights from unintentional forfeiture, 2) to provide a process for proactive water conservation plans called a "Local Enhanced Management Area" (LEMA), 3) to allow development of additional groundwater Water Banks for a market-based program to relocate water use and provide conservation in water short areas, and 4) amend the Multi Year Flex Accounts to give irrigators expanded capabilities to manage their crop water over a five year period. We will continue to keep you up to date on these and other issues through our website: [www.gmd1.org](http://www.gmd1.org). If you have specific questions, please give us a call: 620-872-5563.

As in the past, the District Office will be closed from Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. However, due to the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for the Emergency Drought Term Permits, please feel free to call my cell phone: 620-874-0475 or 620-874-1824 for assistance. **Wishing all of you a very special Holiday Season!**