



THE WATERLINE

Executive Director

Dave Brenn
wkgmd1@wbsnet.org

Administrative Assistant

Janet L. King
jking@wbsnet.org

Technician

Pat Ryan
wkgmd1@wbsnet.org

Chief Pilot

Kyle Spencer
hangar@wbsnet.org

Meteorologist

Walt Geiger
hailman@pld.com

Board President

Greg Graff, Wichita County

Vice President

Arla Peter, Greeley County

Secretary / Treasurer

Robert Hoeme, Jr., Scott County

Member

Alan James, Lane County

Member

Danny Welsh, Wallace County

District Information:

Address:

906 W. 5th, P.O. Box 604
Scott City, KS 67871

Web site:

<http://www.gmd1.org>

Telephone:

(620) 872-5563

Fax:

(620) 872-7315

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NETA WHEELER RETIRES

After 28 years of dedicated service to the District, public, and water right holders, Neta Wheeler retired on June 23, 2006. Over the years Neta provided much appreciated one-on-one service on water use reports, applications, etc. Neta was honored by the District with a retirement reception and dinner in June. Colleagues, friends, and family celebrated Neta's contribution to the District and Community.



Neta enjoying her retirement reception at the District office

AT A GLANCE

- *Danny Welsh was appointed as the new Wallace County Board Member replacing Kris Young*
- *Jan King is hired as GMD1 Administrative Assistant*
- *For detailed information on the District visit our web site: <http://www.gmd1.org>. We intend to update and include current events on this site in the near future.*
- *This newsletter is planned for quarterly distribution. We welcome your comments and questions.*

SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED

Retired Manager of GMD#1 Keith Lebbin, was honored with the presentation of a 31 year service award on August 3, 2006. The presentation and comments were made by Chief Engineer David Pope at the Kansas Water Authority Meeting in Norton, Kansas. Board Members Greg Graff and Bob Hoeme, Jr. accompanied Keith to the awards presentation. Keith was recognized by the Chief Engineer for being instrumental in the development of the first groundwater management district in Kansas as well as his contributions in the development of the WRCP program and other management plans and policy. Keith is shown here making comments after receiving his award plaque. Also shown standing, is David Pope Chief Engineer, Kansas Division of Water Resources. Congratulations Keith.



NON-COMPLIANT METERING DEVICE GUIDELINES

All non-domestic wells within the District require a water metering device, either approved flowmeter or where applicable, an hour meter installation. For your information, below is a listing of the guidelines approved during the September 8, 2006 GMD#1 Board Meeting: Upon witness of a non-compliant hour or flow meter by GMD#1 Staff, the following protocol will be followed:

1. Contact personally by telephone or other methods the landowner and tenant (if applicable) of the non-compliant condition. They will be informed that a letter will be sent to all relevant parties advising them of the notification of non-compliance.
2. A letter will be sent to all relevant parties.

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- A. The letter will contain a description of the non-compliant condition(s) and recommended remedy.
 - B. The letter will also inform relevant parties the timelines of 15 days for hour meter compliance and 30 days for flowmeter compliance.
 - C. The relevant parties will be requested to notify the District when the non-compliant conditions have been corrected.
 - D. Considerations for justifiable extension of timeline(s) will be handled on a case by case basis.
3. If the non-compliant conditions are not addressed within recognized timelines, a certified letter will be sent to all relevant parties informing them that the non-compliance will be reported to and turned over to the Kansas Division of Water Resources within 10 days of the date of the certified letter.

KANSAS WATER CONGRESS HAS SUMMER CONFERENCE

The 3rd Annual Kansas Water Congress Summer Conference was held on August 10th and 11th, 2006 at the Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center in Hays, Kansas. Program topics included: Cedar Bluff, City of Hays Water Supply, WTAP, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Updates on Basin Issues in Kansas, Water Quality Issues and TMDLs, and Dam Construction and Rehabilitation. Panels were composed of state agency leaders, private sector representatives, association members and individuals with expertise in key Kansas water issues. Tours were provided by the K.S.U. Experiment Station, Sternberg Museum and the city of Hays Water Treatment Plant. The KWC is comprised of a Board with representatives from throughout the state.



VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS TO REDUCE CONSUMPTIVE USE

THE NRCS QUICK RESPONSE AREAS (QRAs)

FY 2007 will be the second year of this program. The QRAs for WKGMD#1 are the same as last year. Water Rights in good standing within a two mile radius of public water supplies within the District are eligible to apply for the program. The program offers \$100/ac/yr for three years to set aside irrigation for 4 years. This is a temporary set aside program and the land may be dry land farmed during the contract period. There were 31 applications submitted in the District in FY 2006 of which 6 were approved and contracted. A total of 1660 acres were contracted in the District with total contract payments of \$498,240. The projected/estimated ac/ft of water set aside for the contract and WRCP enrollment is approximately 7642 ac/ft. To be eligible in FY 2007, the water right must have been used 2 out of the past 5 years, and must have irrigated at least 66% of the authorized acres under the right. A ranking criteria will be used on the applications to determine those for approval and contract. An important new criteria added this year is that at least 6 inches of water per acre must have been applied to the place of use acreage. Enrollment of the Water Right in the 10 year WRCP program lends significant points in the ranking process. All those applicants that had eligible but unfunded applications last year, will be sent a letter from NRCS to see if they want their application re-ranked and considered for FY 2007 funding. If they are considered for re-ranking, the 6 inch minimum use criteria will apply. Also they should update NRCS if they've enrolled into the WRCP, and any other changes pertinent to the application. **THE FILING DEADLINE FOR THE FY 2007 PROGRAM IS DECEMBER 15, 2006.** This program is administered by the NRCS and your local Farm Service Agency.

WATER RIGHT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WTAP)

Approved by the 2006 Kansas Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, WTAP is only for permanent retirement of water rights in priority areas determined by the GMDs and by the Chief Engineer in areas outside the GMD boundaries. It is a program based on reduction of consumptive use, not land use. This is a five year pilot program with funding limited to \$1.5 million per year. The program is administered by the Kansas Soil Conservation Commission. Currently the process of developing rules and regulations is underway and therefore specific program details are not yet available.

WATER RIGHTS CONSERVATION PROGRAM (WRCP)

This program is well utilized in this district and is available from the Kansas Department of Water Resources. The WRCP is a 5-10 year set-aside of full water rights. This program offers no payments, but enrollment protects the water right from dismissal due to non-use. If you have questions on this or other programs, feel free to contact the GMD office.