



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors

March 18th, 2026

9:00 a.m. CST

The meeting will be held in person at the Child Advocacy Center,
212 E 5th St, Scott City, KS, or via a posted Microsoft Teams meeting link.

I. Call Meeting to Order		Action
a. Review & Approve Agenda	Pg.	Action
b. Review & Approve February 18th Board Meeting Minutes	Pg.	Action
c. Review & Approve February Financials	Pg.	Action
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: General Updates		
III. Old Business		
a. Wichita County LEMA – Chief Engineer’s Order & Letter -Next Steps	Pg.	
b. KSA 82a-1044 – July 2026 Deadline -Longterm Goals by Stakeholder Group	Pg.	
c. Wallace County Outreach		
IV. New Business		
a. ITI Program Update & Funding Amendments -2025 & 2026	Pg.	Action
b. GMD1 Cost Share Form & Subscriptions	Pg.	Action
V. Legislative Update		
a. SB 2172 Water Task Force/Working Group Update		
VI. DWR Report – Mike Meyer		
VII. KWO Report – Keadron Pearson		
VIII. Public Comment		
IX. Meeting Adjourn (Goal to adjourn by 11:30am)		Action

Mark Callender Pres
3/18/26



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a. Review & Approve Agenda	Pg. 1	Action
b. Review & Approve February 18th Board Meeting Minutes	Pg. 2-4	Action
c. Review & Approve February Financials	Pg. 5-13	Action
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: General Updates		
III. Old Business		
a. Wichita County LEMA – Chief Engineer’s Order & Letter -Next Steps	Pg. 14-16	
b. KSA 82a-1044 – July 2026 Deadline -Longterm Goals by Stakeholder Group	Supplement	
c. Wallace County Outreach		
IV. New Business		
a. ITI Program Update & Funding Amendments -2025 & 2026	Pg. 17-18	Action
b. GMD1 Cost Share Form & Subscriptions	Pg. 19-22	Action
V. Legislative Update		
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Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

February 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

President – Mark Callender, Lane County
Treasurer – Steve Compton, Scott County - Absent
Vice President - Travis Weaver, Greeley County
Member – Brian Bauck, Wichita County
Member - Ray Smith, Wallace County

AGENCIES PRESENT

Hinkle Law Firm - Tom Adrian *
Division of Water Resources - Mike Meyer *
KWR Consulting - David Barfield
KWO - Keadron Pearson *

Zoom Attendees *

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Manager – Katie Durham
Water Resource Specialist – Tallee Davis
Office Administrator - Toni Palen

GUEST PRESENT

Vandwater - Ashton Redd
Pollination Group - Hannah Ornatowski *
General Mills - Lilly Hancock *
Pollination Group - Alicia Liono *
Pollination Group - Carter Ingram *
Seametrics - John Skolaut
Seametrics - Galen Staley *
Seametrics - Scott Yakel *

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The President of the Board, Mark Callender, called the Board of Directors meeting to order on February 18, 2026, at 8:06 a.m. The meeting was held at the District Office, located at 906 W. 5th St., Scott City, Kansas.
- **Amendments to the Agenda** – Katie Durham requested to include the 2026 Gap Waiver to the Agenda and asked to table section IV. f) WTAP Review and Ranking until the next board meeting, as the Agenda is quite full. She offered to send the information in advance for the March meeting.
 - **Amendments to the December 18, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes** – There were no amendments made to the minutes.
- a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Travis Weaver moved to approve the agenda for February 18, 2026, with the mentioned amendments to the Agenda. Ray Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b) **Review and Approve the December 18, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes** – Travis Weaver motioned to approve the December 18, 2025, as presented. Ray Smith seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
- c) **Review & Approve December 2025 & January 2026 Financials** - Katie reported that while reviewing the 2026 budget, intended for a revised version for the upcoming annual meeting, two errors were identified requiring correction. She and Toni Palen concurred that the changes made prior to the July budget hearing were probably not saved, resulting in the official 2026 budget sheets being signed and adopted with two inaccuracies. First, the board approved an assessment revenue of \$503,171.65, as stated in the resolution, but the signed budget document shows the previous year's assessment of \$497,454.81. Second, the board approved expenditures of \$655,300.00, which matched the budget sheet, but Toni noticed the amount appeared incorrect when transferring the new budget to the January 2026 financials. She discovered that the total payroll expense in Excel was entered as a hard-coded number rather than calculated. The correct payroll total should be \$377,825.00, changing the previously adopted total expenses from \$655,300.00 to \$668,325.00. Additionally, since the board packet had already been distributed before the board meeting, Toni corrected the errors noted and printed a revised January 2026 general fund budget sheet for the board to adopt. Tom Adrian recommended that we adopt the amended 2026 budget at the annual meeting. Katie reported that there has been an uptake in verified claims so far this year. Ray Smith expressed concerns about the negative net income for December 2025 in the general fund budget. Toni explained that the discrepancy could be related to the total income and expense difference in the account ITI classification, since some invoices dated December 2025 were not paid until January 2026. Katie noted that some of the expenditures were a bit over as well. The board discussed acquiring a new vehicle for the district and potentially using ITI funds to purchase Katie's current vehicle, since it would be used by the ITI technician. Brian Bauck moved to approve the December 2025 and January 2026 financials, along with the revised January 2026 General Fund Budget sheet. Travis Weaver seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Staff Report: General Updates from Katie Durham

- Tallee Davis is developing a meter information page on the website that will serve as a one-stop shop for metering information and guidance on responding to different compliance letters.
- Legislative visit - Katie reported there was strong GMD support in evaluating the progress of the ITI program during the session, and that there was a greater emphasis on water quality.
- GMD5 operates an internal lab for water sample testing. The board considered options for acquiring one for GMD1.
- HB 2588 - Katie mentioned that Jim Minnix is developing a bill aimed at increasing funding for water quality improvements in small communities. She will provide more updates as she receives additional information.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- ITI Update - Lee Wheeler delivered his annual report, summarizing five to six years of ITI findings and highlighting around 25 detailed results that show measurable progress impact.
- Wichita County LEMA - Hearing Follow Up - Katie shared that she hasn't heard anything on the WC LEMA renewal yet.
- KSA 82-a-1044 July 2026 - long-term goals - Katie reported that she is developing long-term plans through ongoing conversations and outreach activities.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- LEMA Group 865 & 228 - Two LEMA allocation appeals were submitted by groups 228 and 865, based on corrected historical water use records that account for meter rollover errors. Following the board discussion, Ray Smith motioned to approve the appeal for group 228 based on the corrected data. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The board decided to inform the producer of group 865 that they will approve the appeal once the data corrections are made.
- Pollination Presentation 9:00 CT - The board heard a presentation from General Mills and The Pollination Group on a proposed High Plains Aquifer conservation financing program targeting launch in Q3 2026, which would provide both grant funding and concessional loans for regenerative agriculture practices.
- Seametrics Water Level Monitoring 10:30 CT - John Skoloff, Galen Staley, and Scott Yakel gave a detailed presentation on the Seametrics water level telemetry, including a variety of technical configuration packages available. Katie suggested adding the Seametrics Water Measuring technology as an option to use through the ITI Funding in addition to the \$3500.00 already allocated per pivot. Lee Wheeler advised that wells should be equipped with PVC piping. Mike Meyer volunteered to run a query for Katie to identify newer wells with PVC piping and also suggested that KGS or DOC might assist in pinpointing these wells. Brian Bauck motioned to approve the cost of adding the Seametrics Water Measuring technology through ITI funds in addition to the \$3,500.00 already allocated per pivot if there is PVC piping. Travis Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The board agreed to hold off on purchasing until they receive more information from Mike and Brownie Wilson.
- Verified Claim Form - Katie referred the board to the new verified claim form for assessments. Brian Bauck motioned to approve the new verified claim form as presented. Travis Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- VandWater Proposed Project Executive Session - At 11:58 a.m., Ray Smith motioned to enter executive session for 20 minutes to safeguard VandWater's trade secrets. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Those in executive session were Mark Callender, Travis Weaver, Brian Bauck, Ray Smith, Toni Palen, Katie Durham, Tallee Davis, Lee Wheeler, Ashton Redd, and Tom Adrian. At 12:22 p.m., Ray Smith motioned to remain in executive session for an additional 15 minutes. Travis Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Executive session ended at 12:37 p.m. No decisions were made. The regular session began at 12:38 p.m. The board deliberated on initiating a pilot program with Vandwater to measure actual water-saving efforts. A verbal agreement was granted, contingent upon securing producers who are interested in and willing to cultivate the same crop consecutively for 2 years, a system evaluation after year 1 or 2, and an enforceable contract to ensure their commitment. Once interested producers are identified, pricing will be discussed at a later date.
- WTAP Review and Ranking - Tabled for next board meeting in March.
- Annual Meeting - Katie went over the speakers and vendors that will be attending the annual meeting. David Barfield is giving a pre-recorded presentation because he is unable to attend. The meeting has been announced in the newspapers, and the meal is scheduled at 12:00 p.m. Travis Weaver and Brian Bauck have stated that they will not be attending due to prior commitments.
- Gap - Katie presented the GAP waiver that is due prior to the audit every year. Ray Smith motioned to approve the GAP waiver. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

V. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

a) **SB 2172 Water Task Force/Working Group Update** – No update at this time.

VI. **DWR REPORT** - Mike Meyer reported that GMD3 is holding a public meeting expecting over 300 attendees today, and a 3rd meeting in Johnson tomorrow. He mentioned that the Water Use Reporting deadline is approaching, with about 50% completed, and that they are still short on one position but have received a few applications.

VII. **KWO REPORT** – Keadron Pearson was unavailable for this portion of the meeting, but Katie advised on the date of the Upper Smoky Regional Advisory Committee meeting taking place at GMD1.

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – No comments.

IX. **MEETING ADJOURN** – Ray Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:



Toni Palen – Office Administrator

 3/18/26

Mark Callender – Board President Date