Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 17, 2026

10:00 a.m. CST

The meeting will be held in person at the Kansas Highway Patrol Office, 1821 Frontier Rd, Hays, KS 67601, or via a posted Microsoft Teams meeting link.

I.	**Call Meeting to Order**		**Action**
a.	Review & Approve Agenda	Pg. 1	Action ✓
b.	Review & Approve March 18th Board Meeting Minutes	Pg. 2-3	Action ✓
c.	Review & Approve March Financials	Pg. 4-15	Action ✓
II.	**Correspondence**		
a.	Staff Report: General Updates		
III.	**Old Business**		
a.	Wichita County LEMA Renewal Discussion		
IV.	**New Business**		
a.	DOC Contract No. ITI-CS/2026-01 & ITI-TSP/2026-06	Pg. 16-30	Action ✓
b.	Janitell Appeal WR #15066	Supplement	Action ✓
c.	ITI Bank Account		Action ✓
d.	GMD1 Handbook	Supplement	Action ✓
V.	**Public Comment**		
VI.	**Meeting Adjourn**		Action

Mark Allender Pres
4/17/26

Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

March 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
President – Mark Callender, Lane County
Treasurer – Steve Compton, Scott County
Member - Ray Smith - Wallace County

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
Manager – Katie Durham
Water Resource Specialist – Tallee Davis
Office Administrator - Toni Palen
Part-Time Help - Maggie Morrison

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT
Member – Brian Bauck, Wichita County
Member - Travis Weaver, Wallace County

GUESTS PRESENT
Don Smith

AGENCIES PRESENT
Hinkle Law Firm - Tom Adrian
DWR - Mike Meyer
DWR - Aaron Hess
DWR - Josh Goebel
KWO - Keadron Pearson
NRCS - Dean Kriebel
KWR Consulting - David Barfield *

Zoom Attendees *

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The President of the Board, Mark Callender, called the Board of Directors meeting to order on March 18, 2026, at 9:18 a.m. The meeting was held at The Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, located at 212 E. 5th St., Scott City, Kansas.
   - ***Amendments to the Agenda*** – *There were no amendments to the Agenda.*
   - ***Amendments to the February 18th, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes –*** *There were no amendments to the February 18th board meeting minutes.*

   a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Ray Smith motioned to approve the Agenda for March 18, 2026. Steve Compton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
   b) **Review and Approve February 18th Board Meeting Minutes** – Ray Smith motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mark Callender seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
   c) **Review & Approve February 2026 Financials** - The board reviewed the financials. Ray Smith motioned to approve the February 2026 financials. Steve Compton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

II. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   a) **Staff Report: General Updates** - Katie provided updates on several matters:
   b) Staff reminded producers who haven't submitted their water-use reports to do so by March 1st. HB 2302 has secured extra funding. Katie continues to visit Weskan on the second Monday of each month, which producers appreciate, and she remains busy there. She also informed the board that Pat Ryan is moving to Manhattan after selling his house to be closer to family. The board discussed filling his position and plans to discuss it further at the next board meeting. Additionally, Katie helped GMD3 with their appeals process and their recent meeting, which was attended by over 200 people.

III. **OLD BUSINESS**
   a) **Wichita County LEMA - Hearing Follow Up** - Katie directed the board to a letter from Chief Engineer, Earl Lewis, on the order of Decision Regarding the Wichita County LEMA. The letter states that the District has 90 days to resubmit a plan incorporating the recommended modifications. The board agreed to publish an announcement on the website, send an email blast, arrange a meeting with Earl next week, and hold a special board meeting to discuss options.
   b) **KSA 82-a-1044 July 2026 Deadline - Long-term goals by Stakeholder Group** - Katie reported that she has been working on long-term goals. She and Ray Smith have had some communications regarding Wallace County. Mark Callender commented that, as a board member, he believes the board should help establish objectives for each county.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **ITI Program Update & Funding Amendments (2025-2026)** - Katie reported that the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation, is extending the deadline to December 31, 2027, on contract No. ITI-CS/2025-01 ($275,000.00) and ITI-TSP/2026-01 ($250,000.00), allowing us more time to use those funds. An additional contract for $500,000.00 is also expected in the near future. Katie suggested that these funds could be used for larger purchases or to support stock water and municipalities in expanding our capacity. She suggested that the funds could be allocated for buying a vehicle or hiring a technician. Tallee Davis stated that five applications are complete and ready for system evaluations, and additional applications are expected this spring. Steve Compton moved to approve the amended contracts ITI-CS/2025-02 and TSP/2026-01, extending the deadline to December 31, 2027. Ray Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b) **GMD1 Cost Share Form & Subscriptions** - Katie directed the board to review the current District Cost Share application and suggested doing so every quarter as technologies and trends change. VandWater is listed as a subscription-based technology, for which we paid 50% of the previous year's $100 subscription charge. Now, the subscription costs have increased. There are also questions regarding subscriptions on the Autonomous Pivot and the approach we want to take going forward. After board discussion, Ray Smith moved to approve paying 50% of the VandWater subscriptions and 50% or up to $2,200.00 (whichever is less) for the first year on Autonomous Pivot, and 50% or up to $1,250.00 (whichever is less) for the second-year subscription. Steve Compton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

V. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

a) **SB 2172 Water Task Force/Working Group Update** – Katie reported that the task force will continue to meet throughout this year. They've made many comparisons of water policy development in other states, with a heavy focus on Nebraska and California. Texas is examining how other states develop and implement their water plans compared with Kansas. The aim of that task force and working group is to develop a long-term plan to fund water projects in Kansas. That was a charge of the governor, so it will continue this year. There is a final report that was due by January 27th, which Katie will forward to you if you are interested.

VI. **DWR REPORT** - Mike Meyer introduced Josh Goebel and Aaron Hess from DWR, who accompanied him today. Mike suggested that having a backup device for meters would be useful if the meters fail, since relying on power records can take a lot of time to determine water usage. Lee Wheeler mentioned that he is working on an app with AG Sense to provide this kind of backup. Mike stated that he is dedicated to resolving issues and supporting LEMA's, and mentioned that Earl Lewis suggested holding meetings in Hays or Salina for the convenience of discussing further options.

VII. **KWO REPORT** – Keadron Pearson reported on the water authority meeting next week and that the Ark Watershed will conduct a presentation in Garden City on April 8, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the Refinery. Additionally, she noted that Katie has been appointed as the new chair of the Upper Smoky Hill RAC Committee.

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public Comments were made.

IX. **MEETING ADJOURN** – Steve Compton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. Ray Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Toni Palen

Toni Palen – Office Administrator

Approved:

Mark Callender 4/17/26

Mark Callender – Board President Date