



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 18, 2026

8:00 a.m. CST

The meeting will be held in person at the GMD1 Office,
906 W. 5th St, Scott City, KS, or via a posted Microsoft Teams meeting link.

I. Call Meeting to Order		Action
a. Review & Approve Agenda	Pg. 1	Action
b. Review & Approve December 17th Board Meeting Minutes	Pg. 2-4	Action
c. Review & Approve December 2025 & January 2026 Financials	Pg. 5-28	Action
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: General Updates & Legislative Visits		
III. Old Business		
a. ITI Program Update	Pg. 29-33	
b. Wichita County LEMA – Hearing Follow Up		
c. KSA 82a-1044 – July 2026		
IV. New Business		
a. LEMA Group 865 & 228	Supplement	Action
b. Pollination Presentation – 9:00CT		
c. Seametrics Water Level Monitoring – 10:30CT		
d. Verified Claim Form	Pg. 34-35	Action
e. VandWater Proposed Project – Executive Session	Supplement	Action
f. WTAP Review and Ranking	Supplement	Action
g. Annual Meeting		
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		Action

*Mark Callender Pres.
2/18/26*



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

December 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

AGENCIES PRESENT

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

GUEST PRESENT

Vandwater - Ashton Redd *
Vandwater - Chase Larson *

* Zoom Attendees

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The President of the Board, Mark Callender, called the Board of Directors meeting to order on December 17, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the District Office, located at 906 W. 5th St., Scott City, Kansas.
 - **Amendments to the Agenda** – No changes
 - **Amendments to the November 19, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes** – Mike Meyer requested to change under VII., in the first sentence, to mild analysis instead of Q-stable analysis.
- a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Brian Bauck motioned to approve the December 17, 2025, Agenda as presented. Steve Compton seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
- b) **Review and Approve the November 19, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes** – Ray Smith motioned to approve the November 19, 2025, board meeting minutes with the above-mentioned amendment. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
- c) **Review & Approve November 2025 Financials** - Katie Durham discussed building maintenance that needs to be done to the office building, such as repainting and sealing the cracks where the concrete is detaching from the building. Katie will meet with Steve Compton in the next few months to start preparing a proposed list. Ray Smith motioned to approve the November 2025 Financials. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
- II. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a) **Staff Report: General Updates from Katie Durham**
 - Katie reported that the recent outreach meetings in Dighton, Scott, Weskan, and Sharon Springs were successful and had good attendance. Topics included water variability across counties, establishing a township-focused LEMA in Wallace County, interest in AEM mapping, stockyards, concerns about small pumpers, and the need for more region-specific data to find Q-Stable individually. A discussion also took place during the Sharon Springs meeting about a Level Scout device from Seametrics, a telemetry unit that measures water levels in real time, enabling producers to self-regulate. KGS supports this as well. Further discussion on PVC access to the well for installation and cost was had. The consensus was to have a Seametrics Representative attend a board meeting to learn more information.
 - Katie reported that several producers have signed up with Upterra and are willing to share their experiences once information is available.
 - Katie mentioned that the ITI funds could cover the cost of the new computer and a field iPad that is needed.
- III. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a) **ITI Update** - Katie reported that Lee Wheeler has done an incredible job with the producers and is encouraged by the impact it has had on them. Tallee reported that she has producers lined up for spring to conduct system evaluations, and that funds are being drawn from all three contracts.
 - b) **Wichita County LEMA - Hearing Scheduled for January 13th** - Katie reminded the board that the hearing would be at the 4H building in Leoti on January 13th at 9:00 a.m., and gave an overview of what to expect. Hearing notices were sent to individual producers this week and published in the Wichita County Native Sun. David Barfield recommended adding the LEMA renewal document to the GMD1 website.

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- c) **Staff & Board Portal** - Tallee reported that she is organizing and checking links on the Web page and that there were approximately 15,000 viewers in December.
- d) **KSA 82-a-1044 Implementation from DWR** - Katie reported that she attended a meeting in Manhattan, KS, yesterday that included all GMD Managers, Mike Meyer by phone, Jeff Lanterman and other Commissioners, Lane Letourneau, Chris Batel, Earl Lewis, and their legal counsel, as well as Carolyn McGinn, the Special Advisor to the Governor on water. There was a list of concerns, some of which were addressed jointly and others separately. Katie reviewed the items discussed and noted that it was a good opportunity to clarify concerns with the implementation of KSA 82-a-1044. She felt the meeting was productive and stated that meeting annually would help with communications in the future.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Mileage Report & Approval** - The board reviewed the mileage report. Ray Smith stated he was not at the August meeting and asked that the mileage be removed. Brian Bauck motioned to approve the mileage report with a correction to Ray Smith's. Ray Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b) **Vandwater Proposed Project - Executive Session** - Ray Smith motioned to go into executive session to protect trade secrets of Vandwater for 20 min at 10:03 a.m. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Those in executive session were Mark Callender, Travis Weaver, Brian Bauck, Steve Compton, Ray Smith, Katie Durham, Tallee Davis, Toni Palen, Ashton Redd, Chase Larsen, and Tom Adrian. Executive session closed at 10:23 a.m. The open meeting resumed at 10:24 a.m. The board discussed future technology opportunities with Vandwater. The consensus was to notify Lee Wheeler and discuss options regarding VandWater, and table the discussion for the next board meeting.
- c) **Employee Reviews - Executive Session** -
- Brian Bauck motioned to go into executive session at 11:11 a.m. for 15 minutes for the purpose of the privacy of employee information. Steve Compton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Those in executive session were Mark Callender, Travis Weaver, Steve Compton, Ray Smith, Brian Bauck, and Katie Durham. At 11:26 a.m., Steve Compton motioned to extend the executive session for 10 more minutes. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Executive session ended at 11:36 a.m. There were no decisions made. The regular meeting resumed at 11:37 a.m. The board discussed a salary increase for Tallee Davis for her annual review. Brian Bauck motioned to approve a 5% increase in Tallee's salary, a one-time bonus of \$5,000, and a technology allotment of \$1,000 per year, subject to manager approval. Steve Compton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
 - Ray Smith motioned to go into executive session at 11:38 a.m. for 15 minutes for the purpose of the privacy of employee information. Steve Compton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Those in executive session were Mark Callender, Travis Weaver, Steve Compton, Ray Smith, Brian Bauck, and Katie Durham. Executive session ended at 11:53 a.m. There were no decisions made. The regular meeting resumed at 11:54 a.m. The board discussed a salary increase for Toni Palen's annual review. Brian Bauck motioned to approve a 2% increase in Toni's salary, a one-time bonus of \$2500.00, and a technology allotment of \$1,000.00 per year, subject to manager approval. Steve Compton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

V. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- a) **SB 2172 Water Task Force** - Katie reported that there are some proposed bills that may come out, as there's a lot of talk about reorganization.

VI. **DWR REPORT** - Mike Meyer reported that there will be a meeting on the drafted rules and regulations on January 8th. He said their office is down one employee and just wrapping up the end of the year, completing forms, changing orders, and perfection period reminders. He shared that KGS would begin well measurements on January 2nd, water use reports have been sent to the printer and will be mailed out on the first of January, and new pin numbers are available. They have been fielding questions about draft rules and regulations, working through a backlog of fieldwork, and ensuring meters are compliant and completed. Lastly, he reviewed a list of ongoing non-compliance meter issues encountered with producers who are not staying in compliance with the rules and regulations.

VII. **KWO REPORT** - Keadron Pearson reported that a Water Authority meeting is scheduled for the 27th of next month. This date also coincides with their legislative visits. They're approaching it differently this year. Typically, the trip to Topeka spans two days: on the first day, Water Authority members and regional advisory committee members meet with legislators, usually the day before the Water Authority meeting. However, this year, they plan to hold the Water Authority meeting first, followed by the legislative visits on the second day. Additionally, Northwest Kansas Water Day will be held on January 14 in Colby. The event is hosted by GMD4, with assistance from KWO and the Kansas Rural Water Association. GMD4's focus is on ITI, KWO has Jay Stale discussing livestock wastewater management, and Holly Dickman with the City of Hays will talk about municipal water conservation. Stacie Minson with KSU KCARE will discuss water quality and what's in your water. Bernadette Mills, who is new to KACD's Tomorrow's Water, will speak on Playa's connections to the aquifer and the programs she is helping to get started.

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VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – David Barfield announced to Burns and McDonnell that he will not be continuing his role as a part-time contingent employee. He may continue working with them as a subconsultant, as he did before. He also provided an update on a 2019 case he was involved in that went before the Kansas Supreme Court involving Edwards County.

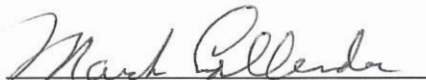
IX. MEETING ADJOURN – Steve Compton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:



Toni Palen – Office Administrator



Mark Callender – Board President

2/18/20

Date