



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors

November 6th, 2024

8:00 am. CST

The meeting will be made available in person at 906 W. 5th St. Scott City, KS or by posted zoom meeting link.

I. Call Meeting to Order		Action
a. Review & Approve Agenda	Pg. 1	Action
b. Review & Approved Minutes of the August 13 th Board Meeting	Pg. 1-4	Action
c. Review & Approve Minutes of the September 6 th Board Meeting	Pg. 5-6	Action
d. Review & Approve August 2024 Financials	Pg. 7-15	Action
e. Review & Approve September 2024 Financials	Pg. 16-24	Action
f. Cost Share Reconciliation through September 30 th	Pg. 25-27	Action
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: Board Calendar & General Updates	Pg. 28	
b. EPA MAR Workshop Attendance		Action
c. Renee A Cure, CPA	Pg. 29	Action
d. PLJV Mailers		
e. WC LEMA Allocation Mailers & DWR Portal		
III. Old Business		
a. Wichita County LEMA Renewal – Proposal Summary for November Outreach Meeting	Supplement	Action
IV. New Business		
a. High Plains Aquifer Regional Conservation Partnership Program (Grant) Update & Steps Moving Forward - Project Description & Irrigation Specialists - Lee Wheeler & Weston McCary	Pg. 40-51	Action
V. Legislative Update – Vijay Ramasamy @ 9:00 a.m.		
VI. DWR Report – Mike Meyer		
a. Review of Temporary Permit Recommendations	Pg. 52-61	
VII. KWO Report – Weston McCary		
VIII. Public Comment		
IX. Meeting Adjourn		Action

Mark Callender Pres.
11/6/24



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Manager – Katie Durham
Office Administrator – Toni Palen

AGENCIES PRESENT

Adrian Law, LLC – Tom Adrian*
Division of Water Resources – Mike Meyer
KWR Consulting – David Barfield
Kansas Water Office – Keadron Pearson*
Kansas Geological Survey – Brownie Wilson*
Governor Laura Kelly's Office – Vijay Ramasamy

GUEST PRESENT

Cobalt Cattle – Jamie Kratzer

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – The Board President, Mark Callender, called the August 13th, 2024, Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. at the District Office at 906 E. 5th St., Scott City, Kansas.
- ✓ **Noted changes to the August 13th, 2024, Agenda** – Katie advised the Board that Vijay Ramasamy would join the meeting to give his update at 8:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m.
 - ✓ **Noted changes to the July 17th, 2024, Minutes** – Katie Durham pointed out that under I.e), it should say there was NO increase to the land use assessment charge of \$0.05.
 - a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Travis Weaver motioned to approve the August 13, 2024 Agenda as corrected and noted above. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b) **Review & Approve the July 17th, 2024, Budget Hearing Minutes** – Travis Weaver motioned to approve the July 17th, 2024, budget hearing minutes. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
 - c) **Review & Approve the July 17th, 2024, Minutes** – Travis Weaver motioned to approve the July 17th, 2024, Board meeting minutes as corrected and noted above. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - d) **Review & Approve the July 2024 Financials** – The Board reviewed the financials. Travis Weaver motioned to approve the July 2024 financials. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - e) **Cost Share Reconciliation** – The Board reviewed the Cost Share reconciliation report ending July 2024. Travis Weaver motioned to approve the Cost Share report. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - f) **Adopt 2025 Budget and Resolution Setting Assessments for 2025** – Travis Weaver motioned to approve the total assessments at \$497,454.81 for 2025. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- II. **CORRESPONDENCES:**
- a) **Staff Report: Board Calendar Review & Updates** – Katie Durham reviewed the 2024/2025 Board calendar and general updates with the Board.
 - **Colorado Coordination/Ethos Connected** – Katie Durham reported that she and Mark Callender met with Julie Bushell at the AimPoint meeting in Garden City. Julie is with Ethos, an Iowa

company similar to VandWater, creating a monitoring network system. She has worked in Nebraska and is the current President-Elect of the Irrigation Association. Katie stated that Julie is currently working with the Kansas Livestock Association.

- **Internal Hiring Update (Water Resources Specialist Position)** – Katie Durham advised the Board that the full-time position has been posted on our website, included in the monthly newsletter, and is in several newspapers. There are three applicants so far.
- **Manager's Update** – Katie Durham stated that she will be in Manhattan next week at the Governor's Ag Summit Conference and expects that there will be more discussions on the Governor's Strategic Planning Process, long-term funding, and other various water projects. Keadron Pearson added that this meeting will be similar to what was presented at the previous outreach meeting, except for a few additional slide shows that will cater more towards agriculture communities. Katie discussed Steve Compton's Technology Farm and the opportunities she, Steve, and Weston McCary are discussing to bring technology, education, and other resources to local producers and surrounding communities. As requested, Katie gave an update as to her recent certification to change various Seametrics meter batteries, and that she is pursuing becoming certified to flow test meters as well.

III. **OLD BUSINESS:**

a) **Wichita LEMA Renewal Discussion**

- **LEMA Renewal Summary & Recommendations** – Katie Durham reported that Brownie Wilson and David Barfield have diligently compiled water use and water level data for the WC LEMA outreach meeting scheduled for August 28th. David presented an update on the WC LEMA review for 2024. The Board discussed the WC LEMA in comparison to the FC LEMA regarding water usage, allocations, renewal requirements, appeals versus allocation, economic value, carryover, and flexibility. Katie added that she would like another outreach meeting in November with Wichita County stakeholders to communicate any feedback the producers might have had from the last meeting in August and to then submit a final LEMA renewal request to the Chief Engineer in December.
- b) **House Bill 2634 – Amendment to FCL** – The Board discussed this under the LEMA Renewal Summary agenda item. Katie mentioned that she has had conversations with Earl Lewis regarding the flexibility the Board wants to add to the WC LEMA renewal as well as possibly an amendment to the FCL.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **GMD1 Long-Term Goals – Brownie Wilson (KGS)** – Brownie Wilson presented a slide show on the data (which was included in the Board packet) collected in GMD1 with a focus on the WC LEMA. Katie added that Brownie's presentation will be presented at the WC LEMA Outreach Meeting and will also be helpful for the Board to use in setting long-term goals for the district.
- b) **RCPP Grant Update** – Katie reported that the RCPP Grant is still in the negotiating process. Each district will have two technicians once those jobs are advertised between January and March of 2025.
- c) **Discussion – Irrigation/Groundwater District Collaboration at State & Federal Level** – Katie discussed the potential of getting involved with a larger collaborative group such as Family Farmers Alliance, Irrigation Association, or NWRA. Katie will review and report on these groups at the next board meeting.

- V. **Legislative Update – Vijay Ramasamy** – Vijay Ramasamy reported that there was a separate engagement opportunity meeting geared more towards stakeholders in the agricultural industry set for 9:00 a.m. August 13th (*same time as the GMD1 Board Meeting*), which will be recorded for anyone who cannot attend. He stated that there will be eight in-person local consulting meetings across Kansas starting in the middle of September and another agriculture webinar in October. They are trying to complete all their engagements

before the state budget cycle for the 2025 legislative session. Then, they will review the compiled feedback and any concerns prior to submitting it to the Legislature in December. Vijay added that they are still working on their website and should have it up and running by the end of the month.

VI. **K-State Update** – No update at this time.

VII. **DWR Report** – Mike reported that they have been in the field doing LEMA related work and will be sending letters with updates to landowners on LEMA water usage. Mike stated that broken meters were found in places, and urged producers to check their meters as accurate water use tracking in the LEMA is imperative. Their office has been updating its records and has a new employee starting Monday who will be working specifically on LEMA and WCA'S.

VIII. **KWO Report** – Keadron Pearson reported that KWO had reviewed Mark Callender's application for the Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) position. Keadron stated there was a RAC meeting held last month regarding the Governor's Strategic Planning Process, and some of the feedback from producers was to keep things simple, "get it done", "too many meetings to go to", "keep things at a local level", "increase funding for more research", and "address a lack of accountability seen in some situations". Keadron stated that a Kansas Water Authority meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday and a Bottom-Line conference is scheduled for next Thursday and Friday in Lakin, KS. Also, a Soil Health Field Tour will also be stopping in Healy if anyone is interested.

IX. **Public Comment** – No public comments were made.

X. **Meeting Adjourned** – Travis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

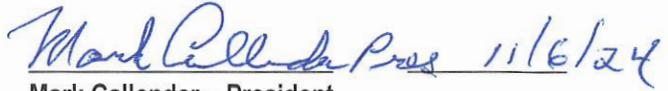
Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Date:



Toni Palen – Office Administrator



Mark Callender – President