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Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1



**FORAGE & GRAIN
PRODUCTION**

- Irrigated and Dry Land production of Corn, Milo, Wheat & Triticale
- Sunflowers and Alfalfa



**BEEF & DAIRY
INDUSTRY**

- Over 20 Feed yards
- 3 Dairies including a major supplier for Dannon Yogurt



PORK

- Farm operations of Seaboard Foods & Pork



COMMUNITY

- Collaborative coordination with communities & domestic water users in GMD1
- Dighton, Scott City, Leoti, Weskan
- 4,104 Population of Scott City

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GMD 1 Overview

- 1973
- Wallace, Greeley, Wichita, Scott & Lane
- 1.1 million acres
- 2,379 WR (2,120 IRR, 286 STK, 20 STK/IRR)



SCOTT COUNTY
 RANKS NO.2 IN THE STATE AND NO. 26 IN THE USA FOR TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD

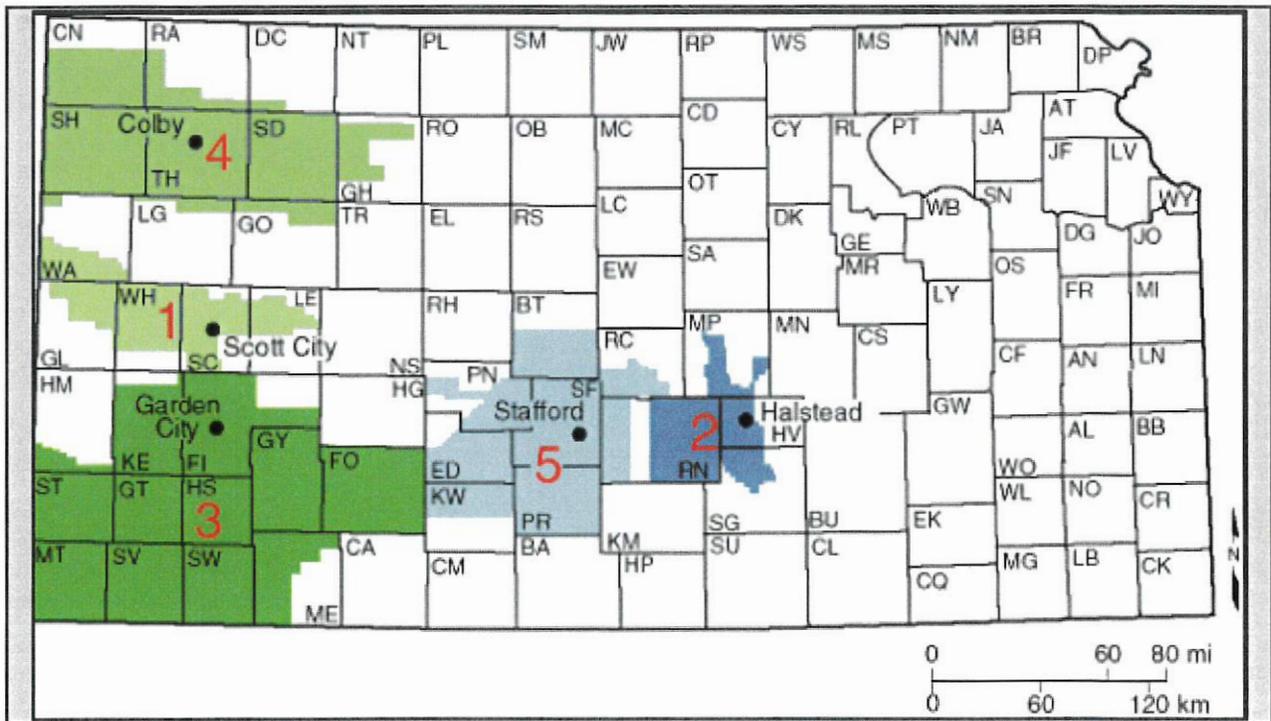
What is the Historic Role of the GMD1?

- Promoting Conservation!
- Weather Modification
 - Cost Share of Irrigation Efficiency Technology
 - LEMA Development and Implementation
 - Education and Public Outreach

2023

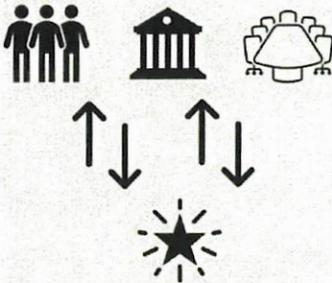
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PROMOTING LOCAL CONTROL & STRENGTHENING GRASSROOT SOLUTIONS



2023

LEMA – Local Control

In LEMAs, GMD develops a plan to address groundwater declines, including goals and proposed regulation to reduce use. The Chief Engineer conducts hearings to determine if the GMD’s plan should be adopted.

The heart of LEMAs is its **“corrective controls,”** typically water use **allocations** that works to achieve groundwater savings.

LEMA typically **provide flexibility** in use of allocations (multi-year, and at times, allowing allocations to be grouped or moved around)

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CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN GMD1

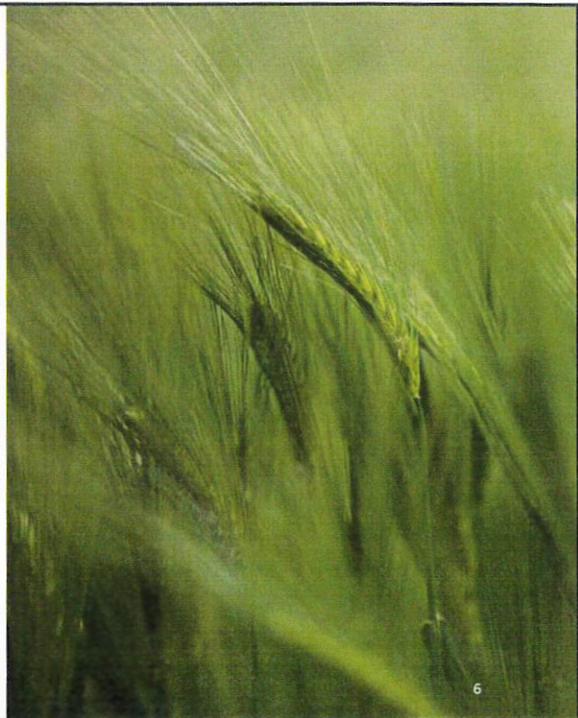
The GMD 1 Board Has Long Supported Water Conservation

- Cost-share programs, education/outreach & research
- Support Wichita County WCA development

2012 Amendments to the GMD Act to allow for the creation of

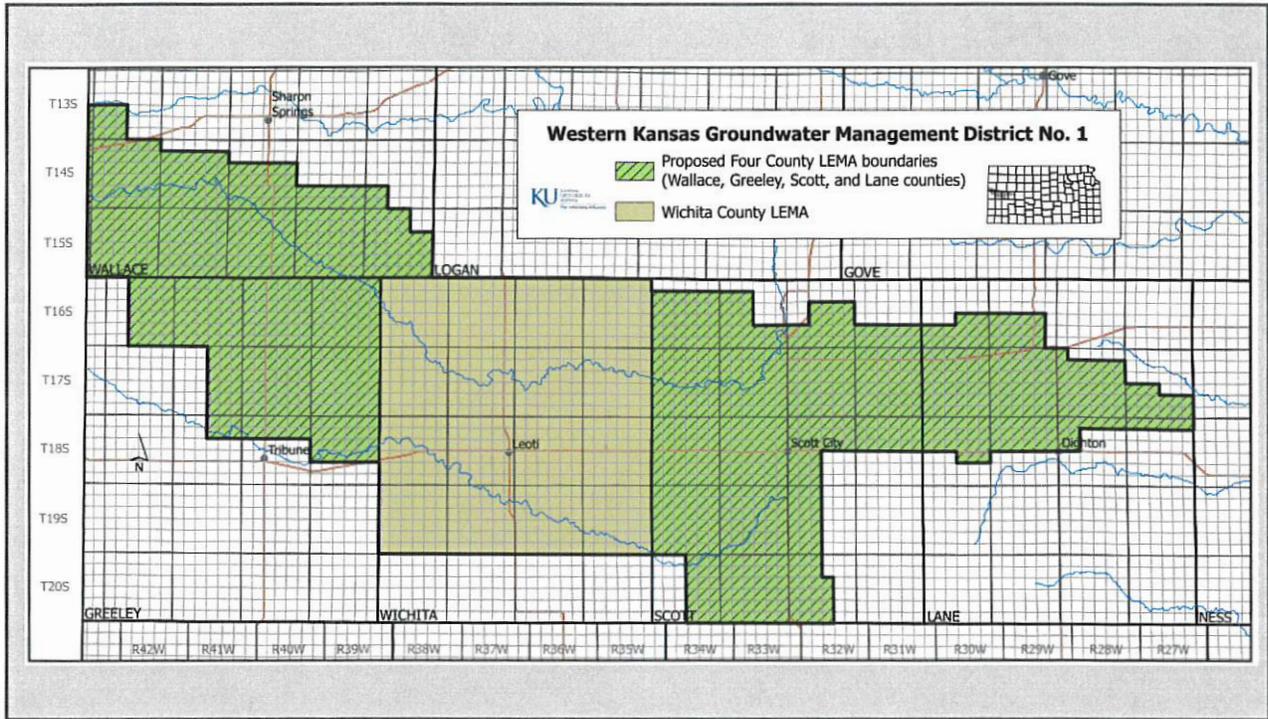
Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMAs).

- GMD 4 LEMA efforts in Sheridan 6
- **2013-2014:** District-wide LEMA development; total vote count showed insufficient support for the proposed plan
- **2016-2017:** Wichita County Water Conservation Area (WCA) developed
- **2018-2020:** The Board again discusses LEMAs for the District; decided to move forward with Wichita County LEMA first as it had the greatest support, the most urgent need, and to gain experience in LEMA processes.
- **2021: Approval and implementation of Wichita County LEMA for 2021-2025**

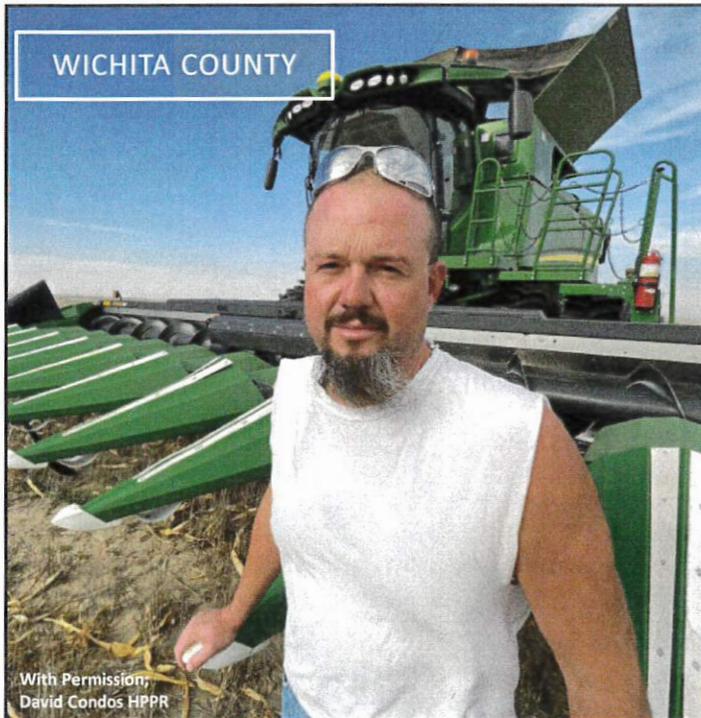


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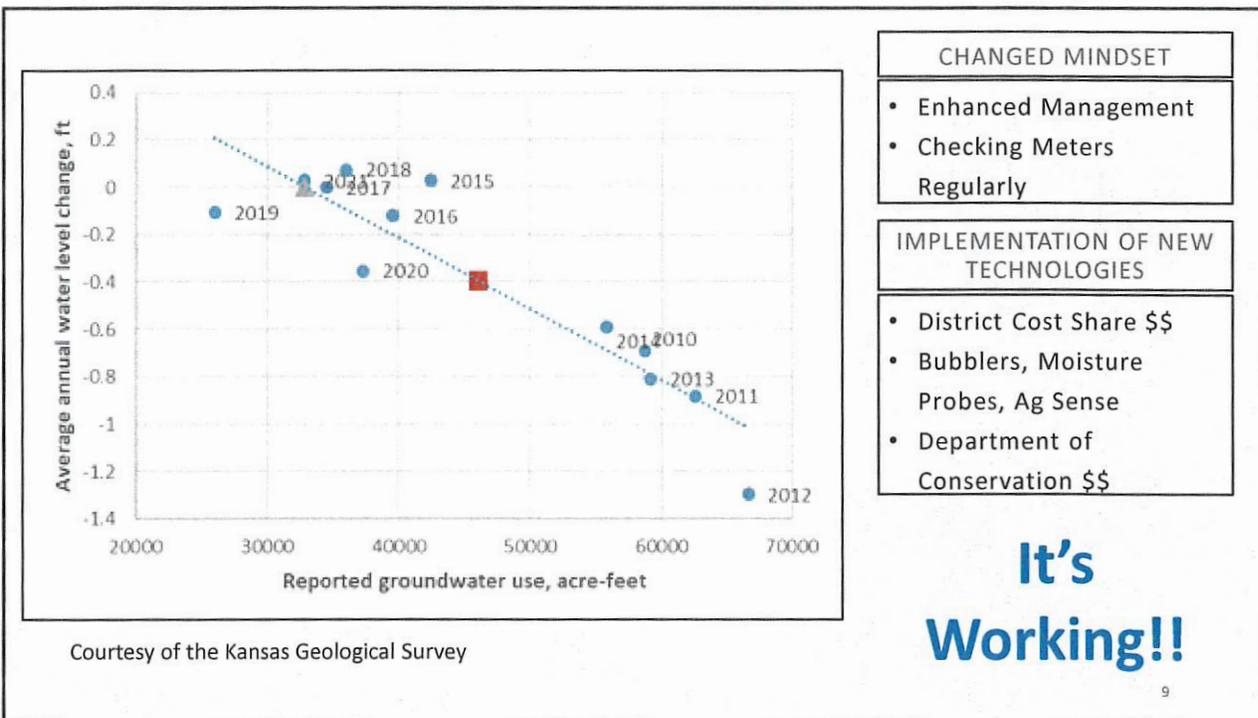


Wichita County LEMA

- Started as a WCA (Water Conservation Area) in 2017.
- LEMA began 2021
 - 25% Reduction from 2021-2025
- Due consideration for voluntary conservation!
- Unused LEMA allocation recommended for carry-over to a new 2026 LEMA
- 2023 is the 3rd year of the Wichita County LEMA

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Wichita County LEMA Status?

- Change of Mindset & Exploration of New Technologies
- Ongoing Outreach and Education – What tools are available?
- Reductions Needed for Approximate Stability
 - Normal Year = Approx. 29% (Needed)
 - LEMA set at 25% currently seeing trends of approximately %28
- Past Decline of -0.54 ft/year from 2010 – 2017
- Current Decline of -0.09 ft/year from 2018 – 2021





2023

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Should the Four County LEMA be Approved by the Chief Engineer, all 1.1 million acres of GMD1 would be in a LEMA starting 2023.



UPCOMING FOUR COUNTY LEMA

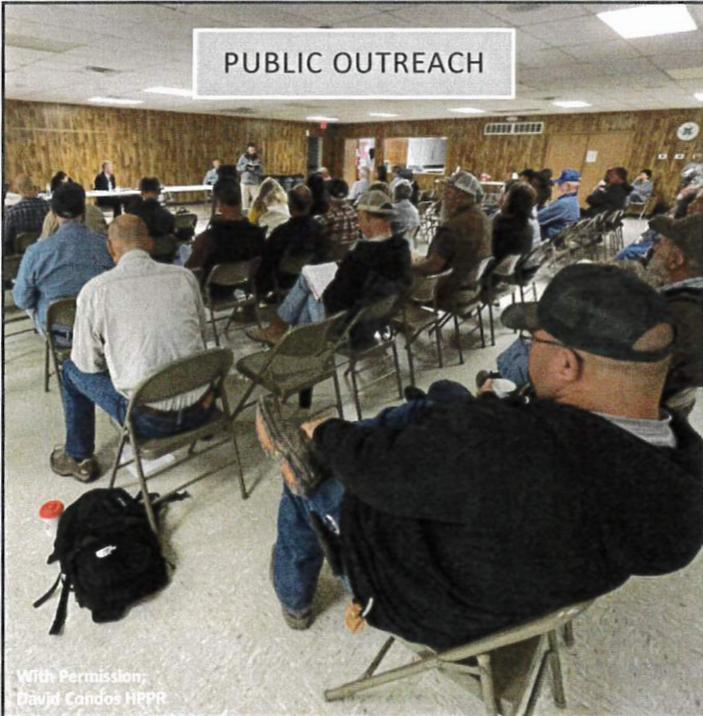
- Unanimously approved by the GMD1 Board of Directors & submitted to the Chief Engineer on July 1st, 2022
- First Public Hearing October 17th, 2022
- Second Public Hearing February 2nd, 2023
- Proposed Four County LEMA
 - 2023-2027
- Allocations based off historical use with an applied sliding scale reduction
 - 2011-2020
 - Due Consideration for Voluntary Conservation

Greater use = Greater Reduction
0% - 25% Reductions

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PUBLIC OUTREACH



With Permission: David Condos HPPR

IMPORTANCE OF OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

What Resources Can GMD1 make Available to Our Producers?
“Leadership Through Service”

MAY 2022 COUNTY OUTREACH MEETINGS
WALLACE-SCOTT-LANE COUNTIES

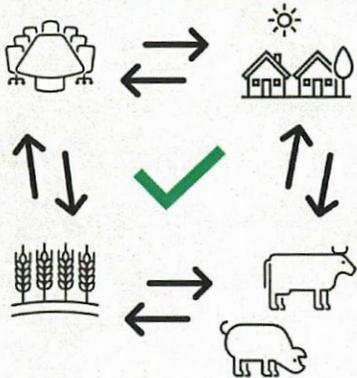
FOUR COUNTY LEMA 1ST PUBLIC HEARING

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KEY TO
GRASSROOTS
SOLUTIONS?

~OUTREACH~



2022 – Launched Municipal Outreach and Coordination with Local City Representatives

2023 – More than 14 public outreach events planned for the year!

March & November Round Table Visits - One in each 5 Counties of GMD1 with assistance from Northwest Kansas Technical College

March Board Meeting & Stock Water Right Holder Roundtable March 15th, 2023

April Board Meeting & Municipal Roundtable April 26th, 2023

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OTHER PLANNED OR
DISCUSSED OUTREACH

- DOC/NRCS TRAINING DAY
- ENHANCED COORDINATION WITH LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
- TECHNOLOGY FARMS
- POSSIBLE GRANT WORK
- PLANS TO ENHANCE EXISTING COST-SHARE PROGRAM
- DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF A RURAL WATER DISTRICT AND ENHANCEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE



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Grassroot Solutions to Support and Protect our Local Communities and Economy

Photos Courtesy of Scott City, City Administrator

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Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Thank you for your time today!

Katie Durham
 District Manager
 O: (620) 872-5563
 C: (303) 514-7068
GMD1@wbsnet.org
www.gmd1.org



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