



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

51st Annual Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2024

The Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, 212 E. 5th St, Scott City, KS 67871

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Callender – President, Lane County
Travis Weaver – Vice President, Greeley County
Steve Compton
Ray Smith
Brian Bauck

STAFF PRESENT

Katie Durham - Manager
Toni Palen – Office Administrator
Pat Ryan - Technician
Maggie Morrison – Part Time

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Mike Meyer – Division of Water Resources
Josh Goebel – Division of Water Resources
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Tom Adrian – Adrian & Pankratz Law Office
Reece Heibert – Andrian & Pankratz Law Office
Keadron Pearson – Kansas Water Office
Sheridan Six Panelist – GMD4
Titus Jaeger – PLJV

VENDORS PRESENT

Edward Larson – VandWater
Delci Bowers – Up Terra

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: The 51st Annual Meeting of The Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No.1 was called to order by President Mark Callender at 1:00 p.m. on February 28, 2024, at The Western Child Advocacy Center, with approximately 40 people in attendance.

OPENING REMARKS & INTRODUCTION BY MARK CALLENDER: President Mark Callender welcomed everyone and introduced the Board Members, Staff, Agency Representatives, and Speakers for the 51st Annual Meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Louis Ehmke motioned to approve the February 28, 2024, Agenda. Don Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF 2/28/23 MINUTES: Brian Bauck motioned to approve the February 28, 2023, Annual Meeting Minutes. Don Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORTS & PROPOSED BUDGET: Katie Durham reported on the 2023 treasurer report and the proposed 2025 budget. She mentioned that we have seen an uptake in the cost-share program and explained that the District is leasing the airport hangar to the City of Scott City. Don Smith motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Proposed 2025 budget. Brian Bauck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & DISTRICT UPDATES: Mark Callender reported that the Board is excited about the conservation efforts and results in the Wichita County LEMA thus far and is pleased with the new Four County LEMA implementation and appeals process. Mark reported that the Chief Engineer, Earl Lewis, has approved the District's updated Management Plan. Katie Durham explained that House Bill 2279 requires all GMDs to report financial and high-priority areas to the legislature each year in January. Katie noted that she and Shannon Kennon from GMD4 worked together to add a bill (HB 2634) to give flexibility to future LEMAs. Katie reported that the outreach meetings had great feedback and will continue to have these meetings yearly with producers, stockyards, and municipalities. Katie noted that there will be a website where you can look up your water right number and see what is left on your allocations in the LEMA. Lastly, Katie introduced Titus Jaeger, new to the Playa Lakes Joint Venture team, and

thanked Tallee Davis with Northwest Technical College for using their grant funds to help pay for the meal provided for the annual meeting.

AGENCY UPDATES:

- **DWR** – Mike Meyer with the Division of Water Resources reminded producers that water use reports are due by Friday, March 1st.
- **KWO** – Keadron Pearson with the Kansas Water Office reported that grant funding will be available sometime next year after determining where the funds will go and how much each entity will receive. She also reported on upcoming meetings and encouraged producers to look at their website for more details.

SPEAKERS:

- **Brownie Wilson:** Katie Durham announced that Brownie Wilson wasn't able to be at the meeting in person, but was able to do a prerecorded presentation, which Katie shared. Brownie's presentation showed the different years of precipitation by month, which improved with some added rainfall in 2023. He presented graphs that show precipitation levels from 1991-2020, the UNL Drought Monitor, average changes by wells, and the status of the High Plains Aquifer in Kansas.
- **David Barfield & Katie Durham (Four County LEMA/Wichita County LEMA)** David Barfield presented a slide show that showed how the LEMA's are conserving water, particularly in Wichita County, since there is more data available.

PANEL DISCUSSION:

The introduced Panel guests included Jack Polifka from NWKTC, Mitchell Baalman from Sheridan County, Brent Rogers from Sheridan County, and Lynn Goossen from Thomas County. Producers were encouraged to ask the panelist questions regarding their experiences in LEMA. Comments and responses that were discussed included: rotation of crops, sensors to shut sprinklers off, data management strategies, cost share, nozzle packages, educating yourselves by going to meetings and being involved.

GMD1 ELECTION:

Tom Adrian, the District's Legal Counsel, conducted the Board elections. He announced each of the pre-filed candidates: Brian Bauck (Wichita County) and Mark Callender (Lane County). As there were no other pre-filed nominations, he announced that the ballot was unanimously approved.

COMMENTS:

A schoolteacher asked how we can introduce more information about conservation practices into our schools. Katie replied that we are working on an exhibit at the El Quartejejo Museum featuring water resources and irrigation history throughout Scott County.

ADJOURN:

Don Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 pm. Chris Holovach seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Approved

Date

Toni Palen

Mark Calendar