

WESTERN KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

49TH ANNUAL MEETING



FEBRUARY 23RD, 2022- 1:30 P.M. CT 12:30 P.M. MT

**THE WILLIAM CARPENTER BUILDING
608 FAIRGROUND ROAD
SCOTT CITY, KS**

**Opening Remarks & Introductions..... Mark Callender
President**

**Approval of Agenda
Approval of August 11, 2021 Minutes
Weather Modification 2021 Budget
Treasurers Reports & Proposed 2023 Budget**

Summary and Update of District Activities GMD#1

Agency Updates KDA-DWR/KWO

**District Water Information Brownie Wilson
Kansas Geological Survey**

Additional District LEMA Information GMD#1

**Review of District's Election PolicyTom Adrian
Election Officer
Legal Council to GMD 1**

**Election of Board Members Greeley and Scott Counties Mark Callender
President**

Adjourn

*Mark Callender
Pres 2/23/2022*

WESTERN KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

48TH Annual Meeting Minutes

The William Carpenter Building, 608 Fairground Road, Scott City, KS.

August 11, 2021

Board Members Present

Greg Graff
Bob Hoeme
Mark Callender
Ray Smith
Travis Weaver

Staff Members Present

Kyle Spencer, District Manager
Pat Ryan, Technician
Maggie Morrison, Administrative Assistant

Agency Representatives Present

Tom Adrian, GMD1 Legal Counsel
Reece Hiebert
Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer
Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner
Hunter Hershey
Connie Owen, Director
Keadren Pearson
Jim Butler
Nathan Hendricks
David Barfield
Richael Young

Adrian & Pankratz Law Office – GMD1 Legal Counsel
Adrian & Pankratz Law Office
KDA/DWR, Manhattan
Division of Water Resources, Garden City Field Office
Division of Water Resources, Garden City Field Office
Kansas Water Office
Kansas Water Office
Kansas Geological Survey
KSU Professor of Agricultural Economics
KWR Consulting – GMD1 consultant
Mammoth Water

Call the Meeting to Order

The Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 Annual Meeting was called to order by President Greg Graff at 1:48 p.m. on August 11, 2021 at the William Carpenter Building in Scott City with approximately 60 people in attendance.

Opening Remarks

President Graff welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced State Agency representatives along with District personnel. He also noted the Local Enhanced Management Plan (LEMA) discussion today is just a conceptual plan with nothing finalized with the intention of getting some public feedback today.

Approval of the Agenda

Dennis Bauck made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Tom Adrian to provide a review of the District's election policy prior to the election agenda item. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Approval of the February 19, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Don Smith made a motion to approve the February 20, 2019 minutes as presented. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report & Proposed 2021 Budget

President Graff presented the 2020 Statement of Expenditures & the 2022 Proposed Budget. He advised the 2022 budget would not be finalized until the budget hearing which would be tomorrow. As there were no questions or comments at this time, he encouraged anyone with questions to attend the hearing or to contact a board member prior to the hearing.

Summary & Update of District Activities

Kyle Spencer reviewed the hearing and approval process for the implementation of the Wichita County LEMA (WHCL) and detailed the allocation appeal process, emphasizing the deadline for filing an appeal is prior to March 1, 2022. He then advised that while the WHCL approval process was on-going the board began discussions for additional LEMA plans for the remainder of the District. The District also worked with Nathan Hendricks to conduct a water conservation survey in the district. Lastly, 2021 is the fifth year of the district's irrigation cost share program. The board has budgeted a total of \$565,000 for the five year period and has paid out approximately \$436,000 to date, leaving adequate funds for the remainder of this year. This year Mammoth Water's – TAPP-H2O water tracking and meter reading mobile APP was added to the cost share program, reducing the subscription cost to \$50 per meter per year. The technology vendors in attendance were introduced and the public was encouraged to visit their displays.

Agency Updates

Division of Water Resources (DWR): Chief Engineer for the State of Kansas, Earl Lewis commended the District board and public for their past and present conservation efforts. He emphasized the courage, foresight and effort it takes for

the board and public to come together to develop conservation measures that will define the future of the area. He hit on the roles and good working relationships of the different agencies at the State and local levels that are available to provide assistance, acknowledging that change is never easy but at times necessary. Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner at the local DWR Garden City field office reiterated, they are always available to help as well.

Kansas Water Office (KWO): Connie Owen, Director of the KWO explained the differences between the KWO and the Kansas Water Authority (KWA), noting the KWA is an advisory board made up of 13 voting members. These voting members along with the KWO gather input on water policy and budget priorities from 14 regional advisory committees statewide. The KWO and KWA work closely together to organize these priorities and then provide recommendations to the Legislature and Governor. She noted the State Water Plan is in the final stages of a five year update and should be available for public comment after next week's meeting in Garden City. She encouraged everyone to review the document and provide comments if desired, as the Plan is integral to the process of prioritizing the budget for the State Water Plan Fund, noting there is never enough money to fund all the needed projects.

Richael Young – Mammoth Water – TAPP - H2O

Richael provided a detailed account of the capabilities of the TAPP H2O mobile meter APP. She noted, the APP can simultaneously track annual use limits, multi-year allocations, as well as group allocations and at times detect imminent meter failures. Each enrolled meter is equipped with QR code sticker and the subscriber need only take a picture of their meter approximately every two weeks. The APP has a subscriber dashboard that tracks the amount of water used, quantity remaining, meter reading redundancy records, and sends reminders if it has been too long since the last picture was submitted. The subscription cost is discounted 50% due to District's cost share and assistance with on-boarding a subscriber's water right information.

Nathan Hendricks (KSU) – GMD1 Water Conservation Survey

Nathan presented the key results of a District wide water conservation survey conducted earlier this year. 832 surveys were sent out with a 22% response rate which is well above average for agriculture surveys. The survey questions offered a choice of five different allocation methods and a variety reduction goals with each survey having ten different LEMA scenario choices. Only 23% rejected a LEMA every time while 30% always selected a LEMA and 47% favored a LEMA the majority of the time depending on the scenario resulting in 77% of responses supporting a LEMA of some kind. 84% favored a reduction of 10% or more with a 15% reduction ranking highest of the choices ranging from no reduction up to a 25% reduction. However, there was no clear favorite amongst the five different allocation method choices. This was evidenced by the ranked responses of the five methods which showed that a percentage reduction from average historical use ranked as both the best and worst method. Additional opinion questions indicated that landlords and tenants responded similarly, 77% wanted water rich areas treated the same as water poor areas, and 65% did not want allocations based on water right priority.

Jim Butler (KGS) – District Water Information

Jim provided a two part presentation first addressing current conditions followed by what pumping reductions would be necessary to reach an equilibrium or short term stability. He advised, that 134 wells were measured in the District for the annual water level measurement program. The District's average change was a decline of .59' or 7" and although this was smallest decline amongst the five GMDs this year, the diminished pumping capability district wide limits the ability to decline at higher rates. He then provided updated reduction percentages for the district and each county to achieve a short term stable condition based on 2011 – 2020 average water use. An average reduction of 29% would be required for the District as a whole, with county breakdowns as follows: Wallace 46%, Greeley 30%, Wichita 29%, Scott 18%, and Lane 16%. Lastly, he advised these recommended reductions are data driven analysis = water inflows to aquifer vs. water pumped and these reductions would at best bring the aquifer into balance for the next several years to at most a couple of decades.

Additional District LEMA Information

David Barfield and Kyle provided a joint presentation detailing potential elements for possible future District wide LEMA, primarily focusing on alternative allocation methods. It was made clear that no final decisions had been made by the board and the intent today was to get feedback from the public. Kyle provided a brief review of the District's 2014 LEMA proposal and the board's objectives for future LEMA. David then reviewed all the various allocation methods the board has considered over the last nine months, drilling down to the current preferred method and resulting projected savings for each county. The current preferred method is based on average water use for the ten period of 2011 – 2020. Allocations would be on a sliding scale percent reduction of the historical use based on inches applied to a water group's authorized acres. Average use of less than four inches per acre would have no reduction while use above 16" per acre would have a maximum reduction of 25% with the sliding scale being applied between those values. Additionally any proposal would likely included the following elements: exclusion of vested water rights, group five year allocations for legally overlapped water rights, and recommendations to allow any used allocation to be carried forward to a

subsequent LEMA. The process ahead would be to have county meetings this fall and winter for additional input. Utilize the public feedback to refine the plan and present the plan to the public at the next annual meeting with the intent to submit the plan next spring to begin the approval process. If approved the plan could take effect in January of 2023.

Board Member Elections – Lane and Wichita Counties

District Legal Counsel Tom Adrian reviewed the District's voting policy and the eligible voter requirements, as well as the items to be voted on within the GMD Act. He reiterated there is no proxy voting allowed, however, an eligible voter may cast their one vote, if so authorized on behalf of various entities such as trusts, estates, corporations, and municipalities. Lane County incumbent Mark Callender was unopposed and re-elected. Brian Bauck replaced Greg Graff in Wichita County with a vote count of nine to four. Greg was thanked by the public for his many years of dedicated service to District.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m. by President Greg Graff.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kyle Spencer
Toni Palen

Approved:

Mark Callender
President

Date