



WESTERN KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Board Meeting September 20th, 2023

8:00 a.m. 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. 1-1a	Action
b. Review & Approve Minutes of the August 23rd Board Meeting	Pg. 2-4	Action
c. Review & Approve August 2023 Financials	Pg. 5-14	Action
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: -Board Calendar -2023 Governors Water Conference -El Quartejejo Museum exhibit/KGS -NYT Article -Irrigation Dealer/DWR Reg. Workshop -Coordination/Cost Share with Municipalities	Pg. 15 Pg. 16-19	Action
III. Old Business		
a. VandWater Update b. GMD1 Management Program 2023 Update c. GMD1 Consolidating & Transferring Funds/First National Bank d. Audit Proposals – Executive Session on Contracted Services e. Field Work – 4-Wheeler f. Wichita LEMA Discussion	Supplement	Action
IV. New Business		
a. Cost Share Reconciliation b. 2024 Irrigation Technology Initiative c. GRASP/PLJV Position & Background	Pg. 20-21 Pg. 22-26	Action
V. Legislative Update		
a. Sean Miller – Update on Quivira and Special House Committee on Water (Zoom in at 9:30am)		
VI. K-State Update		
a. Monthly Article Discussion		
b. DWR Report		
c. KWO Report		



d. Public Comment		
e. Meeting Adjourn		Action

Mark Callender Pres
9/20/2023

WESTERN KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors August 23, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Katie Durham – District Manager
Toni Palen – Office Administrator

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT FOR ALL OR A PORTION OF THE MEETING

*VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

Tom Adrian*	Adrian & Pankratz Law Office
Mike Meyer*	Division of Water Resources
David Barfield*	KWR Consulting
Keadron Pearson*	KWO

Changes to the August 23, 2023 Agenda were noted: Katie Durham added Circle C's Four County LEMA appeal to New Business and added LEMA/Christmas party to Correspondence.

Changes to the July 26, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes noted: No changes were made.

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – President, Mark Callender called the August 23, 2023 Board of Directors meeting of the Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No.1 to order at 8:01 a.m. located at the District Office in Scott City, Kansas.
 - a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Travis Weaver made a motion to approve the August 23, 2023 Agenda with the change noted above. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b) **Review & Approve Minutes of the July 26, 2023 Board Meeting** - The Board reviewed the July 26, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Brian Bauck made a motion to approve the July 26, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - c) **Review & Approve Minutes of the July 26, 2023 Budget Hearing** – The Board reviewed the July 26, 2023 Budget Hearing Minutes. Travis Weaver made a motion to approve the Budget Hearing Minutes. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - d) **Review & Approve July 2023 Financials** – Katie Durham stated that the County Assessments were sent to each of the five counties and provided final figures to the Board. The Board reviewed the July 2023 financials. Steve Compton made a motion to approve the July 2023 financials. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- II. **CORRESPONDENCES:**
 - a) **Staff may report on correspondence received since the previous Board Meeting**
 - **Board Calendar** – Katie Durham requested that the Board review the Board Calendar for upcoming dates and events in the Board Packet.
 - **Discuss Changes to the July 2023/2024 General Fund Budget** – Katie Durham reported that the *totals* were all *correct* on the 2023 Revised and 2024 General Fund Budget that was approved last month. However, she noted there was a clerical error in the formulas in excel, but it did not affect the totals that were presented. Katie stated that Tom Adrian and Renee Cure agreed that the Board does not need to readopt the July 2023/2024 General Fund Budget since the Income, expenses, and cash balance totals are correct. The corrections were as follows:
 - a) Under (JAN – JUNE 30 2023 ACTUAL) the cash balance should be \$274,719.55 in the General Fund Checking Account instead of \$249,807.61 as of June 30, 2023.
 - b) Under (JAN – JUNE 30, 2023 ACTUAL) the cash balance should be \$139,771.85 in the Money Market Account instead of \$139,629.55 as of June 30, 2023.
 - c) Under (2023 BUDGET) the cash balance should be (\$102,966.56) in the General Fund Checking Account instead of \$55,533.44 as of June 30, 2023.
 - d) Under (2023 BUDGET) the cash balance should be \$139,468.67 in the Money Market Account instead of \$138,968.67 as of June 30, 2023.

- **Special House Committee on Water** – Katie Durham updated the Board on the meeting that took place yesterday with the Special House Committee on Water.
- **New York Times** - Katie Durham reported that Christopher Felavelle let her know that the article from the New York Times should be going to the final stages.
- **VandWater Update** - Katie Durham reported that Chase Larson has been working on getting stock water right holders signed up on VandWater. Katie stated that Chase was able to get access to the WIMAS platform (public records on water rights) to help in obtaining correct information for setting up a producer. Katie mentions she and Tom Adrian discussed having a waiver in place to protect the District. The Board agreed.
- **KGS** – Katie Durham reported that KGS (Kansas Geological Survey) is funding and pairing up with GMD1 on an exhibit at the museum next door to bring awareness on conserving water. The Board discussed the City of Scott City being interested in the District's Cost Sharing program for a technology called a Rain Machine, that would help conserve water with municipalities, golf courses and schools.
- **LEMA Appreciation** – The Board discussed having an appreciation lunch/supper in November or December with current/former staff, board members and anyone that was involved in developing the LEMA's and the approval on all 5 counties in our District. The Board agreed to schedule this at the next Board Meeting.
- **4-WHEELER** – Katie Durham reported that Pat Ryan mentioned exploring a track motorcycle or a utility motorcycle vs a 4-Wheeler to do site visits, as it would be easier to haul around. After Board discussion, Katie mentions she will check with the District's insurance company to see if there is a big difference in liability between the 4-wheeler and motorcycle. The Board tabled for the next Board Meeting.
- **Ray Smith** – Ray Smith requested that the Board have a Special Meeting to discuss NIR's and the WC LEMA renewal plans. The Board discussed having all five counties in the same LEMA Plan eventually. Katie suggested sending a notice to Wichita County LEMA producers in January 2024 with the data showing how much water has been saved so far. The Board discussed options for the renewal of the Wichita County LEMA. Katie added that Brownie will run a few different scenarios with the data he has collected for future discussions. The Board finished up with a discussion on well retirements and how Colorado is benefiting from these efforts.

III. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) **Revisions to Cost-Share Program** – Katie Durham reported that the new Cost Share Application is finalized and will be posted on the web site.
- b) **General Fund at First National Bank, Scott City** – Katie Durham reported that Toni Palen opened a new account for the General Fund at 1st National Bank in Scott City, KS. and discussed the process of closing the current General Fund account at 1st National Bank of Dighton.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **Review & Approve – GMD1 Bank Accounts (letter of intent/resolution)** – Katie stated after talking with Landon Frank at 1st National Bank in Scott City, she recommends moving all the District's funds to 1st National Bank of Scott City, KS as there is more flexibility and less penalties, if the District should need access to extra funds. Katie proposed to place \$50,000.00 in the Cost Share account, then combine the funds from the Modification account, the Money Market account, and the CD account into 3 separate CD'S with the higher interest rate that was discussed. Katie suggested setting up a 3-month CD, 6-month CD and a 12-month CD with the funds from the 3 accounts stated above. Katie agreed to prepare a draft that would show the amounts that would go into each CD for the Board to review next month.
- b) **Cost Share Reconciliation** – Katie requested the Boards approval on the cost share funds that have been paid since the last Board meeting. Katie mentions that she is working with Aaron Simons on the Cost Share applications he submitted as he didn't understand there was a limit on how many you could submit. Katie reported that there are funds available through DOC to consider, that would match the amount the District would put in towards Cost Share technologies. Also, Katie mentions there are a lot of funds from different agencies that are still working out the process on how those funds will be distributed and made available, along with the possibility of hiring a Field Tech that would benefit the District. Brian Bauck made a motion to approve the Cost Share Reconciliation Report and payments made since the last Board Meeting. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- c) **2023 Management Plan Update – September 20, 2023** – David Barfield shared his revised Table of Contents on the Management Plan that he and Katie Durham are working on together to update the previous Management Plan last dated in the year 2005. David explained that the mission statement needs revised, more up to date descriptions on items, and focus on what the District's plan is for the future. Tom Adrian suggested adding standards and regulations. Katie stated the updated Management Plan is to be submitted by the end of September, followed by a formal hearing. The Management Plan needs to be revised every five years.
- d) **Audit Proposals** – Katie Durham reported she received 2 proposals from Auditors. Katie suggested to the Board that they have an executive session with Tom Adrian to go over the proposals before selecting one. Katie stated that she had reached out to a 3rd Auditor, but he has not responded. The Board tabled for the next Board meeting.

- e) **Appeal on Circle C**- Katie requested that the Board approve her to process the LEMA appeal on Water Right Group 91 and 936 that has WCA's in Lane County and Scott County based on voluntarily conservation efforts. The years that are being appealed are 2011-2015. Mike Meyer questioned the years, so Katie offered to rerun the figures and make sure she and Mike agree on the amount. Travis Weaver made a motion to have Katie approve the appeal once the figures are agreed on with Mike Meyer. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed with four votes. Steve Compton recused himself from voting.
- V. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – Katie Durham reported that the voting criteria could come up again next year and stated that Senator Moran submitted a bill on easements. Also, Katie added that Governor Laura Kelly has requested to be a part of the Conservation Efficiency Fund that has to do with the Colorado River Basin.
- VI. **K-State Update** – Katie Durham reported she is working with Lucas and Jonathan on an article for their newsletter and reminded the Board if they ever have ideas or want to add something to his newsletter to let her know.
- VII. **DWR REPORT** – Mike Meyer reported that things are slowing down enough to where their office has been able to catch up on things that were put aside. Mike mentions there are still 2 positions available at DWR, civil penalties have been mailed, and they are continuing to view water use reports referring to 2022 making sure those reports are accurate.
- VIII. **KWO REPORT** – Keadron Pearson called in by phone and said she really didn't have anything to report on and would have to leave the meeting by 8:30 a.m.
- IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – David Barfield states he's has been doing more municipal work and gave an update on the Hays R9 Ranch water transfer hearing in Hays KS. David mentions he has been working with Brownie Wilson and said he just finished up with updating the models for GMD3 and GMD1 should be next. David also reported that GMD3 is working with KGS on being able to report water conservation on the water use report online. Tom Adrian recommended adding something in the Management Plan on overlapping water rights and about other individuals that may hold rights on the same water right number. Tom also suggested making a public service announcement to prevent auctioneers and producers from buying property without checking titles to see who owns the water right and if there is any overlapping.
- X. **MEETING AJOURN** – Brian Bauck made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:14 a.m. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The next board meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at the District's Office.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:


Toni Palen – Office Administrator


Mark Callender – President

9/20/2023
Date