



WESTERN KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

December 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	Action ✓
b. Review & Approve Minutes of the November 9 th Board Meeting	Pg. 2-4	Action ✓
c. Review & Approve October 2023 Financials	Pg. 5-16	Action ✓
d. Review & Approve November 2023 Financials	Pg. 17-25	Action ✓
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: -Board Calendar -Grant Updates and Recommendation Letters -Irrigation Dealer/DWR Reg. Workshop (January) -KGMDA Meeting -Holiday Schedule	Pg. 26 Pg. 27-30	
III. Old Business		
a. 2024 Annual Meeting		Action
b. GRASP/PLJV Position		
c. Wichita LEMA Discussion – Outreach & Annual Report		
d. January 24 th Annual Report Deadline		
IV. New Business		
a. Cost Share Reconciliation	Pg. 31-34	Action
b. Recommendation Letters		
V. Legislative Update		
a. 9:00 am Zoom with Vijay Ramasamy ✓		
VI. K-State Update		
VII. DWR Report		
VIII. KWO Report		
IX. Public Comment		
X. Meeting Adjourn		Action

Mark Callender Pres.
12/20/23

WESTERN KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors November 9, 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 - Unattended
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
Sean Miller *	Lobbyist
Greg Graff*	

Changes to the November 9, 2023 Agenda were noted: Katie Durham added Sean Miller to the Agenda under Correspondences, who will give the Board a Legislative update once he has a chance to sign in by zoom.

Changes to the September 20, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes noted: No Changes were made.

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – President, Mark Callender called the November 9, 2023 Board of Directors meeting of the Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No.1 to order at 8:13 a.m. located at the District Office in Scott City, Kansas.
 - a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – The Board reviewed the November 9, 2023 Agenda. Ray Smith made a motion to approve the November 9, 2023 Agenda and the additions mentioned above. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b) **Review & Approve Minutes of the September 20th & October 4th 2023 Board Meetings** - The Board reviewed the minutes. Steve Compton made a motion to approve the September 20th and October 4th Board Meeting Minutes. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - c) **Review & Approve September 2023 Financials** – The Board discussed the September 2023 financials, Assessments rates and Verified Claims. Ray Smith made a motion to approve the September 20th financials. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - d) **Reconciliation of GMD1 Consolidating & Transferring Funds to First National Bank** – The Board reviewed the supplemental sheets provided showing the funds that were transferred to First National Bank of Scott City, KS. Steve Compton made a motion to approve the final transfers into the CD's at First National Bank of Scott City, KS. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously. After discussion on the funds currently at the First National Bank of Dighton, Brian Bauck made a motion to approve a transfer of \$132,503.18 out of the General Fund at First National Bank of Dighton to be moved to the new General Fund at First National Bank of Scott City, KS and to close the account in Dighton, KS once all the outstanding checks have cleared. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- II. **CORRESPONDENCES:**
 - a) **Staff Report:**
 - Board Calendar** – Katie Durham went over the Board Calendar and the events coming up. The Board agreed to have the next Board Meeting on December 20, 2023, and a Holiday/Appreciation meal for all the related staff and Board members that were involved in working on the LEMA's. Katie confirmed she will be attending the House Committees sessions on January 23-24, 2024. The Annual Meeting was discussed and scheduled for February 21, 2024. Mark Callender and Brian Bauck are up for re-election. Tom Adrian suggested going over the voting criteria before the Annual Meeting. Katie will contact vendors from last year and invite them back to the annual meeting. Katie stated that in March she will be doing more outreach meetings, and that Northwest Tech will help with meals again through their grant. Lastly, Katie reported that the Ogallala Summit Conference is in Liberal on March 18-19, 2024.

-RCPP Grant Update – Katie Durham gave a brief update on the RCPP Grant Funding opportunities and progress.

-2023 Governors Water Conference – Katie Durham mentions that she and Mark Callender will be attending the 2023 Governor's Conference next week in Manhattan Kansas.

-Legislative Post Audit Request – The Board discussed the revised Management Plan dated November 9, 2023. Katie explained that the Board will need to adopt a policy to "review the Management Plan every year in August" according to the State Statute. However, if there are any changes to the Management Plan it will have to be approved by the Chief Engineer, which would require a Hearing to be held. The Board will need to give a report to the Producers at the Annual Meeting every year on the Management Plan. Brian Bauck made a motion to approve the revised Management Plan to be submitted to the Post Audit Legislature and to review the Management Plan every year in August. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

-Kansas Water Resources Consulting – David Barfield, who is the District's consultant, presented an amended contract with an increased rate to the Board. Ray Smith made a motion to approve the amended contract with Kansas Water Resource Consulting, LLC., effective January 1, 2024. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

-Irrigation Dealer/DWR Regulations Workshop – Katie Durham reported that she and Mike Meyer are working together to schedule an annual zoom meeting in January 2024 with Dealers that work on wells. The goal is to help educate Dealers on existing rules and regulation or any changes to the policy.

-Coordination/Cost Share with Municipalities – Katie Durham reported that she and Brad Pendergast, the City Administrator of the City of Scott City communicated about the District's Cost Share program in hopes of helping with technologies such as a Rain Machine that connects by the weather underground, that can test the humidity and rain that would automatically shut off your water. Brad is working on a list of technologies and what our role as a District could do to support them. The Board discussed the possibilities of cost sharing items for municipalities in the future with the help of grant funding.

-Review of General Support Letter – Katie reported that she has been getting requests for letters of support from individuals concerning other initiatives, projects and independent companies that are going after grant funds. Katie is filtering them out and only writing letters for the individuals we support.

III. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) **GMD1 Management Program 2023 – Approve for Submittal** – The Board discussed the revised 2023 GMD1 Management Plan. Katie Durham stated that she needed to make some final grammar and format changes before she submits it to the Chief Engineer. Steve Compton made a motion to approve the submittal of the revised 2023 GMD1 Management Plan to the Chief Engineer after Katie makes a few adjustments. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.
- b) **VandWater Update** – Chase Larson reported that he has approximately 300 wells set up on the VandWater software in the GMD1 District and would like to have a refresher course soon in Scott City along with a detailed brochure that would explain how to use the system. The Board agreed and discussed options with Chase.
- c) **GRASP/PLJV Position** – Katie Durham reported that Matt Smith with PLJV will be having interviews for the new position and that she will be on the panel for interviews. Matt would like to expand the program as it is just for Greeley and Wichita Counties currently.
- d) **Wichita County LEMA Discussion – Outreach & Annual Report** – Katie Durham suggested keeping the LEMA discussions on the agenda monthly. Katie stated that the Board will have to submit a draft of the WC LEMA renewal in December 2024 as the actual renewal would be effective on January 1, 2025. The Board discussed collecting data that would show the difference between staying on the WC LEMA versus going to the Four County LEMA. David Barfield stated he has run some numbers and believes the Four County LEMA would be more restrictive than the WC LEMA. Brian Bauck stated that the Four County LEMA has more flexibility than the WC LEMA. Tentative dates were proposed by Katie for Lane County and Scott County outreach meeting to be held together on March 4, 2024, in Scott City at the Child Advocacy Center, March 6th for just Wichita County since the WC LEMA will be the topic held in Leoti, KS at the 4H building, and March 8th for Greeley and Weskan County to be held in Sharon Springs at the 4-H building.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Cost Share Reconciliation** – Katie Durham drew attention to the highlighted areas on the excel sheet that specifically shows who is pending approval and if we are waiting on invoices to make payment. Katie brought up the filter regulators asking the Board for clarification on whether we should cost share them. The Board agreed that the regulator filters would qualify for cost share but to hold off on the regulators. Katie mentioned that she received an application for cost share to help a car wash with their new system that is conserving more water. The Board discussed and agreed to hold off until we know how the grant funding is going to be distributed but are interested in supporting municipal conservation in the future.
- b) **Employee Review – Executive Session** – Ray Smith moved that the Board recess at 12:30 p.m. for 15 minutes for an executive session for the purpose of discussing an employee review. The justification for the closed session is to maintain the confidentiality of personal information. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The open meeting is to resume in this room at 12:45 p.m. Those present in the executive session for all or some of the sessions were Mark

Callender, Brian Bauck, Steve Compton, Ray Smith, Tom Adrian, Toni Palen, and Katie Durham. At 12:45 p.m. Ray Smith made a motion to extend the executive session for another 15 minutes. The open meeting is to resume in this room at 1:00 p.m. Brian Bauck seconded the motion. At 1:00 p.m. the executive session was closed. There were no decisions made, and no votes were taken during the executive session.

V. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- a) **Sean Miller – Update on New Available Grants** - Sean Miller joined the Board Meeting by zoom at 10:20 a.m. Sean gave a detailed breakdown of how the funding from HB 2302 was allocated, indicating that GMD's are mainly being represented by the RCPP office. In addition, Governor Kelly hired Vijay Ramasamy to go to each county and learn what the challenges are, barriers, and strengths in each District to develop a plan of action. Also, Sean mentioned that Steve Frost, who was a GMD3 Manager is now the Director of Water Conservation.

VI. **K=STATE UPDATE** – NONE

- VII. **DWR REPORT** – Mike Meyer reported that they still have 3 positions to fill in their office. Mike suggested to the Board to ask for an extension on the WC LEMA for 2 years, then renew all counties into one LEMA which would require a hearing on both. Mike stated that the WCA regulations will be sent out to Stake Holders and the Board to review hopefully by the next Board Meeting to unofficially receive feedback before the hearing process.

- VIII. **KWO REPORT** – Keadron Pearson stated that all the grant applications can be found on their website. Keadron also mentioned that their office has 2 positions available for a grant specialist to primarily handle the grant programs and other duties as well. She stated the next KWO subcommittee meeting will meet in Garden City, KS on November 29, 2023, and have the WISE tour the day before on November 28th with more information to come. Keadron mentioned that the next Water Authority meeting is on December 13, 2023, in Concordia KS.

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – NONE

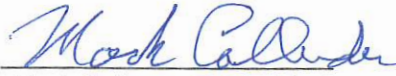
- X. **MEETING ADJOURN** – Ray Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

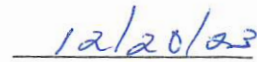
Approved:



Toni Palen – Office Administrator



Mark Callender – President



Date