



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

50th Annual Meeting
February 28th, 2023, at 1:00pm
William Carpenter Building, Scott City KS

Opening Remarks &

Introduction.....Mark Callender
GMD1 President

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of February 23rd, 2022, Minutes
- Treasurers Reports & Proposed 2024 Budget

Legislative Update.....Rep. Jim Minnix

District Updates.....Katie Durham
GMD1 Manager

Agency Updates.....DWR/KWO

Speakers

- Brownie Wilson – GIS Specialist; Kansas Geological Survey
- Dr. Bill Golden, PhD – Economist & Associate Professor; Kansas State University
- Dr. Lucas Haag, PhD – Agronomist & Associate Professor; Kansas State University

Review of GMD1’s Revised

Election Policy.....Tom Adrian &
Reece Hiebert
GMD1 Election Officers
Legal Counsel to GMD1

Adjourn

Mark Callender President
2/28/23

WEATHER MODIFICATION 2021 BUDGET

Mark Callender gave an update on the Weather Modification program, clarifying that all but one airplane has been sold, and the last one is possibly already sold and will be deposited into the modification account. Mark stated the district still has the hangar and tools, which will be discussed at a future date of whether to sell or lease it out. Bob Hoeme stated the Weather Modification was established in the early 1970's.

TREASURERS REPORTS & PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET

President, Mark Callender presented the 2021 Statement of Expenditures & the 2023 Propose Budget. Mark explained that we contracted with David Barfield for his expertise on helping with the LEMA.

Travis Weaver made a motion to approve the 2021 treasure report and the Proposed 2023 Budget. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

SUMMARY AND UPDATE OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Mark explained the District is still currently working on the LEMA for the other four counties, however things shifted toward hiring for positions that needed filled due to Kyle Spencer and Maggie Morrison's resignation. Mark stated that they have hired Toni Palen as the new Administrator Assistant to replace Maggie and was grateful for Maggie's support and helping Toni Palen get familiar with her new job. Mark informed attendees that the District was in the process of hiring a new District Manager, Katie Durham. Mark presented a background on Katie Durham stating she is originally from Ft. Collins, Colorado. She was Assistant Manager at GMD4 in Colby Kansas back in 2015. She graduated from CSU, worked in Montezuma, Colorado Water Institute, and at NRCS in Florida. Katie has her Master's degree in Water Resource Management and is currently working in the Central Valley in California for a Water Consultant Company, where she and her husband Colby currently live. Mark stated the Board Members are excited that Katie Durham accepted the job and are anxious about her experiences she will bring to the District. Mark stated Katie would be moving here to Scott City, Kansas the first week of April. Lastly, Mark thanked Mike Meyers from DWR for sending Mitch French to our District to help with water usage reports.

AGENCY UPDATES – Mike Meyer with DWR gave a brief update commending the Board Members and the community for their efforts in conserving water. Mike reminded the attendees that water usage reports will be due by March 1st and Mitch French would be at the Scott City District Office to help with those on Tuesdays. Mike stated their office is there to help in anyway with questions or concerns.

DISTRICT WATER INFORMATION

Brownie Wilson, with the Kansas Geological Survey started off by sharing the 2021-2022 water level changes. Brownie stated they had measured approximately 136 wells in GMD1 showing a 0.55-foot decline. Brownie continued with a slide show on precipitation levels in each county over the last 10 years. Brownie concurs that Western Kansas is currently in an extreme drought condition. Next, Brownie goes over water use vs precipitation relationships between years 2012-2017 and showing 2019-2020 as a comparison. Brownie stated he would be around after the meeting if anyone had any questions.

UPDATE ON HB2686

David Barfield with KWR Consulting discussed the House Bill 2686 being considered in Topeka Kansas. David breaks it down in four pieces. First, the bill would take various water agencies and put them all under one umbrella. Second, increases for standard funding for water projects. Third, is on voting criteria and how many Board members would be allowed with term limits and voting would go through a general election process which means anyone in the district could vote. Fourth, would be that the GMD's would have to report financials and areas of decline with a plan to improve those areas by 2026. Also, dam safety and giving authority to the Chief Engineer to make decisions on whether to make people fix dams that need repaired. David explained this bill is not the way we want to run our GMD's and is in hopes of some changes. This bill

ELECTION OF MEMBERS GREELEY AND SCOTT COUNTIES

Travis Weaver who was running unopposed for Greeley County was re-elected with 31 votes. Don Smith and Steve Compton were running for a seat on the Board for Scott County representative to replace Bob Hoeme who is retiring. The vote was in favor of Steve Compton with 27 votes and Don Smith receiving 10 votes. Mark Callender thanked Bob Hoeme for his 35 years on the Board and all his hard work over the years.

ADJOURN


Chris Holovach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m. Bob Hoeme seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:



Toni Palen, Administrative Assistant



Mark Callender, President

Date: 2-28-23