



GMD No.1 ANNUAL REPORT for FY 2023

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2023 FINANCES

(Please note that the following reflects the 2023 Fiscal Year and includes the 2022 Audit that has been approved by the Board of Directors. The 2023 audit is being prepared currently by Dirks Anothny & Duncan, LLC CPA and will be completed upon completion.)

The financial report includes.

- 1. End of year (2023) Balance Sheet**
- 2. Profit and Loss Statement**
- 3. 2023 & Revised 2023 Budget vs. Actual for General Funds and the Water Conservation Cost Share Fund**
- 4. Annual Assessments Collected for 2023**
- 5. List of Assets**
- 6. Adopted Budget for 2024**

ACTIVITIES

General Information

The Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD1) is located in Scott City Kansas and encompasses portions of five counties: Lane, Scott, Wichita, Greeley, and Wallace Counties totaling approximately 1,166,920 acres and approximately 170,000 acres of irrigated land. The following report will describe the ongoing work taking place within the GMD1 boundary and address the progress of implementing HB 2279.

How Expenditures Conserve and Reduce Consumptive Use of Water

GMD1 provides continuous support to agricultural producers, stock water right holders, confined feeding facilities, municipalities, and domestic water users. District expenditures assist in providing services to stakeholders that include several outgoing tasks including the development and implementation of Locally Enhanced Management Areas or LEMA's and Water Conservation Areas.

LEMA Based Programs

The primary use of District Staff time has gone to developing the Wichita County Water Conservation Area (WCA), the Wichita County LEMA, and the GMD1 Four County LEMA. In 2023, the Wichita County LEMA finished its 3rd year of implementation, and the Four County LEMA (Lane, Scott, Greeley and Wallace County) finished its 1st year.

- Wichita County LEMA Goal of reducing pumping by 25% based off of historical use, currently exceeding this goal by reducing pumping by approximately 39%. (See Attachment no. 1)
- Four County LEMA aims to reduce pumping by approximately 10% across all four counties.

GMD1 Technology Cost Share Program

GMD1 also maintains a cost share program that works to provide funds for technologies such as bubblers, moisture probes, remote sensing technologies, etc. This program provided over \$75,000 of cost share money to local producers in 2023.

Additionally, to these programs the District works to provide the following on going services Water right information assistance, 5-5-11 compliance checks, ongoing education, Preparation of Multi Year Flex Accounts, Preparation of Water Use Correspondent Changes, Irrigation Management, Monitoring, Assistance with Permitting and Correspondence with the Division of Water Resources, Ongoing Research, Plugging Abandoned Wells, Other Ongoing Partnerships

Prevention of Economic Deterioration

Locally Enhanced Management Areas and Water Conservation areas work to extend the life of the Ogallala Aquifer in GMD1. These efforts help to protect the agricultural production, the municipalities, domestic water users, stock water stakeholders and the overall economic health of our region. Water is the most critical economic factor for Western Kansas, and the implementation of these programs by the GMD, help to ensure these resources will be available for generations to come.

Below is a segment from the recently updated GMD1 Management Program indicating the significant economic impact of agriculture in GMD1. Therefore, re-enforcing the critical importance of these conservation programs.

	Total Annual Market Value of Ag Products Sold	Other Significant Statistics
Scott County	\$ 1,135,039,000	Ranks as 2nd County in the State and 4th in the USA for Cattle & Calves
Wichita County	\$ 555,347,000	Ranks as 3rd County in the State for Hogs & Pigs
Lane County	\$ 266,374,000	Ranks as 12th County in the State for Cattle & Calves
Greeley County	\$ 251,308,000	Ranks as 1st County in the State for Hogs & Pigs. 3rd in the State for Milk from Dairy Cows
Wallace County	\$ 81,786,000	Ranks as 12th County in the State for Hogs & Pigs.

Table 1 2017 Census of Agriculture - County Summaries

Stabilization of Agriculture

GMD1 has long focused on efforts surrounding the stabilization of agriculture, in the form of promoting conservation and good stewardship through programs, outreach, education, partnerships with the Department of Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Playa Lakes Joint Ventures, and other groups. In 2023 an RCPP grant was awarded to the State of Kansas through the Department of Conservation, NRCS, the Kansas Water Office and several others. This partnership will work with the GMD, to establish additional efforts to help provide viable, economically sound resources to all stakeholders in GMD1, including irrigation efficiency technicians.

Other Activities from Management Program

GMD1 Management Program Revised and Submitted in 2023

In 2023, GMD1 revised the Management Program which was submitted to the Chief Engineer's office in November of 2023. Upon approval from the Chief Engineer, the District will hold a public meeting to approve and adopt the new management program. While outreach and education have always been critical priorities of the District, this Program update now makes the following an annual requirement of the GMD; Annual County or Regional Outreach Meetings, Municipal Outreach Initiative Stock Water Outreach Initiative.

Activities Related to Priority Areas of Concern

GMD1 currently considers the entire District as an Area of Concern, therefore, the entire District Boundary is in a LEMA or a WCA. As more data from these programs becomes available, the Board of Directors will continue to review the need for enhanced approaches to conservation. Additionally, the District will be working with the Kansas Geological Survey to have the **GMD1 Hydrologic Model** updated. Kansas GMD's rotate through having this model updated and over the next two years GMD1 will be working to accomplish this update. The last model was developed in 2015, so it is hoped that this will provide a plethora of new data to assess the progress being made by these programs. Please see the table below for additional information.

Wichita County-wide Water Conservation Area (WC WCA)

- WCA Plan developed by local steering committee.
- WCA Plan approved by the Chief Engineer on March 7, 2017.
- Participants committed to a 29 % reduction from the average use of 2009-15 for the first 7 years; increasing to 50% by the end of the third 7-year period.
- There are 26 participants in the WC WCA covering 9433 acres with a minimum of average savings of 2210 acre-feet per year in the first 7-year period.
- Over the first 6 years of the WCA (2017-22) average use has been 69% of the average allocation allowed and 48% of the 2009-15 average use.
- Savings (average use 2009-15 – average use 2017-22) have been twice that projected above, approximately 4500 acre-feet per year.

Wichita County Local Enhanced Management Area (WC LEMA)

- The LEMA plan was developed by the GMD Board (at the request of the Wichita County WCA steering committee) and submitted to the Chief Engineer during early 2020.
- After hearings, the LEMA plan was approved by the Chief Engineer for the years 2021-2025.
- The plan requires most water users to reduce water use by 25% from the 2009-2015 average use.
- Average use for the first two years of the Wichita County LEMA (2021-22) was 66% of the average LEMA allocation.
- The non-vested irrigation use within Wichita County in 2022 was 82% of the 2011-20 average, compared to 111% in the rest of the District.

Four County Local Enhanced Management Area (FC LEMA)

- The LEMA Plan was developed by the GMD Board and submitted to the Chief Engineer on July 1, 2022.
- After hearings, the LEMA plan was approved by the Chief Engineer for the years 2023-2027.
- Request water use reductions of 0-25% from the 2011-2022 average use, depending on historic use.
- The Plan required an overall reduction in water use from the 2011-20 average use of a minimum of 10%.
- The Four County LEMA covers Lane, Scott, Greeley and Wallace counties.