

GMD1 Monthly Newsletter

Lane, Scott, Wichita, Greeley, Wallace Counties

General Updates:

The 2024 Water Innovation Systems and Education (WISE) Tour –

This event will be in the heart of Groundwater Management District #1, taking place at Bellwether Barn in Scott City, KS on Wednesday, May 29, 2024. This will be an all-day event with a bus field tour, guest speakers and panelists sharing their stories about how they have found success and profitability implementing water saving practices into their operations.

To register for the event, (or) to view the draft agenda and itinerary please go to: <https://forms.gle/Ky5B7xyzHE8g4xe19>

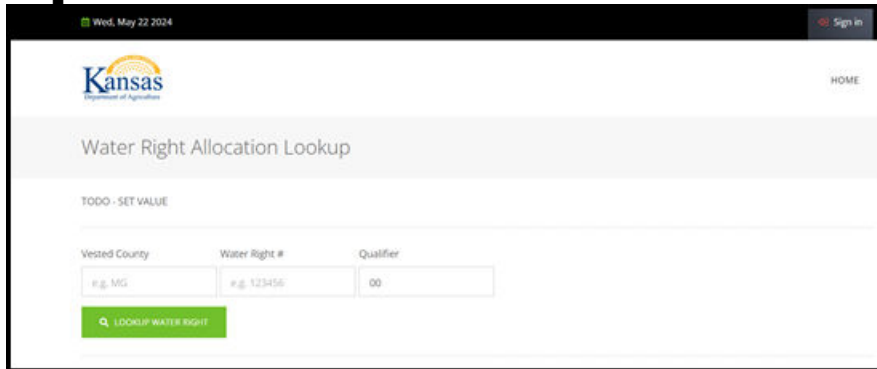
For questions contact: Keadron Pearson

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Looking for an easier way to look up a LEMA allocation? Interactive website tool, coming very soon!

GMD1 and DWR Staff have been working on an interactive website tool that will provide an easy way to check all LEMA allocations via the website portal (see example below). As soon as this website has been launched, a special notification will be sent out to all recipients of this Newsletter and a notice will be posted on the GMD1 Website.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the date 'Wed, May 22 2024' and a 'Sign in' button. The page features the Kansas Department of Agriculture logo and a 'HOME' link. The main heading is 'Water Right Allocation Lookup'. Below this, there is a section titled 'TODO - SET VALUE'. The form contains three input fields: 'Vested County' with the example 'e.g. MG', 'Water Right #' with the example 'e.g. 123456', and 'Qualifier' with the example '00'. A green button with a magnifying glass icon and the text 'LOOKUP WATER RIGHT' is positioned below the input fields.

Legislative Updates

House Bill 2279 - Southwest Kansas GMD3 Outreach Meetings – Per

House Bill 2279 all Groundwater Management Districts are required to delineate High Priority Areas for submittal to Legislature by July 1st, 2024, and must complete and submit Action Plans (LEMA's, WCA's, IGUCA's) to the Chief Engineer by July of 2026 for implementation. GMD3 of Garden City has been holding several outreach meetings, where the GMD3 staff and Board has proposed that the whole District Boundary will potentially be considered a High

Priority Area. Over the next two years they will hold several outreach meetings as they discuss how these High Priority Areas will implement HB 2279 and develop Action Plans (LEMA's, WCA's, IGUCA's, etc.). For more information or to get involved please visit the GMD3 Website at <https://www.gmd3.org/>

Regional Meetings Set for June 2024 - Strategic Planning for the Future of Water in Kansas – In January, Governor Laura Kelly charged the Kansas Water Authority to work with stakeholders to engage in a strategic planning process for the State Water Plan fund. This process will develop measurable goals for the state water dollars and ensure that state programs and initiatives are meeting those objectives. The plan will be presented to the legislature in 2025. The first informational webinar was held on April 3rd and the recording can be accessed by selecting the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFtfBfm-8R0&t=34s>. Statewide regional outreach meetings will begin in June, see details below.

Monday June 17th 5:00pm – 8:00 pm @ the Colby Event Center located at 1200 S Franklin Ave Colby, KS 67701

Tuesday June 18th 9:00am – 12:00 pm @ the Boot Hill Conference Center located at 4100 W. Comanche Dodge City, KS 67801

Agency Updates

(Provided to GMD1 monthly by local agency representatives across all five counties)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Monthly Update – NRCS

- **USDA-NRCS provides Technical and Financial Assistance resources to the producers of Groundwater Management District #1.**
- **Landowners & Operators can work with NRCS to receive Technical Assistance with their projects at any point throughout the year.**
- **Each Fiscal Year, there will be various funding opportunities through NRCS Financial Assistance programs. The best starting point for funding eligibility is to have a Conservation Plan developed and ready for implementation.**
- **Customers are encouraged to work with NRCS to develop a conservation plan at any point in the year.**
 - **These conservation plans are based on the objectives of the customer in relation to the resource concerns applicable to their plan.**
 - **NRCS will work with the customer to provide alternative conservation practice recommendations to meet their objectives.**
 - **Once a plan is developed, customers can sign an application for Financial Assistance program eligibility.**

- A variety of Conservation Practices targeting improvement of ground water resources are offered through NRCS Technical and Financial Assistance.
- Currently no funding pools are available for ranking through EQIP, CSP, RCPP. However, there may be additional funding opportunities in 2024 so be sure to stay in touch with your local NRCS office. GMD1 is working with State and local NRCS staff to update high priority ranking areas to include the GMD1 LEMA boundaries.

Helpful Links

NRCS Kansas Webpage: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/kansas>

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Webpage: <https://www.kacd.net/>

County Conservation Districts

Funding for the July 2024 to June 2025 Fiscal Year State Cost-Share – Accepting Applications!

County Conservation District's will be accepting applications for FY2025 with funding being made available by July 1st. Producers with natural resource concerns on their property are encouraged to visit their local County Conservation District to discuss the possibility of receiving State financial assistance. Applications will be ranked based upon conservation criteria set by the Board of Supervisors and funded based on highest to lowest ranking until all funds are allocated. The cost-share payment rate is set by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Funding is provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan fund.

Kansas Water Office (KWO)

Kansas Water Authority Meeting: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. For more information, please visit the KWO website.

Governor's Water Conference: Save the date for November 13th & 14th. The Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas will be taking place at the Hilton Garden Inn, located in Manhattan, KS. For more information, please visit the KWO website. The Kansas Water Office (KWO) invites professionals and researchers to submit abstracts for presentations at the 13th annual Governor's Water Conference. The deadline to submit is Friday, July 19th. For more information, please visit the KWO website.

Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV)

USDA-NRCS Announces Additional Financial Assistance Available Under the Groundwater Recharge and Sustainability Project

Producers in Greeley and Wichita Counties in Kansas are eligible to receive financial assistance under the Groundwater Recharge and Sustainability Project (GRASP) which is funded by the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). GRASP is a locally led USDA partnership program that will address declining aquifer levels by assisting producers with implementing voluntary irrigation conservation, efficiency practices, and by restoring playas to increase groundwater recharge. Financial and technical assistance is still available for managing and restoring playa wetlands. In addition, through this program there will be annual rental payments that are made for lands devoted to playa restoration activities. When restored, healthy playas can help recharge the Ogallala Aquifer — and the water that reaches the aquifer through playas is cleaner than water that enters through other channels of percolation. [The date to apply for this recent round of FY 2024 funding will be Monday, July 1, 2024.](#) More information about the RCPP-GRASP project can be found on the [Kansas RCPP webpage](#). Applications can be submitted at the Greeley or Wichita County USDA Service Centers. For more information about groundwater recharge through playas, visit [PlayasWorkForKansas.com](#).

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