



GMD3 Board Room, 2009 E. Spruce St. Garden City, 67846
Meeting in person and by Zoom.
May 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order

Secretary Gigot called to order the May 14, 2024, Upper Arkansas River Basin Watershed meeting at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was in the GMD3 Board Room.

Welcome and Introductions

Directors Present

Gina Gigot, Secretary, Groundwater Representative
Hugh Brownlee, Treasurer, At Large
Troy Dumler, Surface Water Representative,
Bill Simshauser, Conservation Representative
Sam Hands, Stock/Industrial Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Abram Lollar, President, Recreation/Environment Representative
Fred Jones, Vice-President, Municipal Representative
Monte Morgan, At Large

Members and others Present in person or via Zoom.

Kevin Salter	DWR, Division of Water Resources
Patty Stapleton	GMD3
Trevor Ahring	GMD3
Keadron Pearson,	KWO, Kansas Water Office
Libby Albers,	KAWS, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams
Callan Izatt,	DWR, Division of Water Resources
Michael Beezhold,	KDHE, Watershed Management
Scott Satterthwaite	KDHE, Watershed Management
Shannon Dick,	Director of Analytics-Finney County Economic Development Corporation
Mike Muirhead,	Director of Public Works & Utilities, Garden City, KS
Tamara Hillman	Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams
Travis Lovelady,	City of Lakin, Lakin, KS
Brian Ellis,	Scoular Grain

Approve Agenda

Secretary Gigot asked to consider the agenda for the May 14, 2024, meeting. [Hugh Brownlee made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Simshauser seconded. The motion passed.](#)

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Gigot drew the board's attention to the March 26, 2024, minutes. [Troy Dumler moved to approve the minutes as presented/corrected. Hugh Brownlee seconded. The motion passed.](#)

Secretary Gigot drew the board's attention to the April 17, 2024, minutes. Sam Hands [moved to approve the minutes as presented. Troy Dumler seconded. The motion passed.](#)

Financial Report

Secretary Gigot drew the board's attention to the Financial Reports. Hugh Brownlee reported on the Clarion cost of the Annual Meeting. The total cost was \$2,848.00. We have already paid \$2,680.00 but have a balance due of \$168.00. The current balance in our account as of May 13th, 2024, is \$2361.71. Bill Simshauser moved to approve the Financials as presented and pay the additional bill to the Clarion of \$168.00. Troy Dumler seconded. The motion passed.

Election of Officers.

Trevor Ahring stated that Abe Lollar would like to step down as president.

Gina Gigot moved to nominate Fred Jones as Board President. Troy Dumler seconded.

Hugh Brownlee moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Troy Dumler Seconded. Motion passed.

Gina Gigot moved to nominate Bill Simshauser as Board Vice President. Troy Dumler seconded.

Hugh Brownlee moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Troy Dumler Seconded. Motion passed.

Troy Dumler moved to nominate Gina Gigot as Board Secretary. Hugh Brownlee seconded.

Hugh Brownlee moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Troy Dumler Seconded. Motion passed.

Troy Dumler moved to nominate Hugh Brownlee as Board Treasurer. Sam Hands seconded.

Gina Gigot moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Sam Hands seconded. Motion passed.

Watershed Restoration Plan

Trevor Ahring reviewed the Watershed Restoration Plan with the group. During the review, edits were suggested. Michael Beezhold, with KDHE, talked about a call with a Water Conservation Sub-committee/technical committee, and Steve Frost proposed that Hamilton County be included in the Source Water Protection area. This comes down to a ranking, which comes down to using source water protection as the ranking tool. This will go in front of the whole state technical committee. Bill Simshauser moved to send a letter of support to prioritize the area as a high priority, which prioritizes this area for EQUIP; Federal funds would have a high priority, allowing Hamilton County a better chance of receiving funds. Hugh Brownlee seconded the motion. Motion passed. Scott recommended that Trevor email Jack to verify when the letter is due. Hugh Brownlee suggested specifying water.

Trevor will make the noted corrections and send them out to everyone for review and feedback. Hugh Brownlee noted an edit on page one: The aquifer is an abundant but limited water resource.

Bill Simshauser reminded everyone to contact the Kearny County Conservation District if they would like their well tested.

Old Business

There was no old business to take off the table.

New Business

Grant Opportunities

There are two grant opportunities coming up:

Reclamation Environmental Water Resources Projects

The first due date is June, and then next spring (March) of 2025—an opportunity to dovetail it with CREP. The goal is to conserve water and have ecological benefits. The second grant is the RCPP Grant.

Public Comment and Announcements

Trevor Ahring announced that GMD3 will have producer meetings next Monday and Tuesday—six different locations. The information can be found on the website if you did not get an email.

Adjournment

Troy Dumler moved to adjourn. Hugh Brownlee seconded. Motion passed.
The meeting ended at 12:04 p.m.


Secretary


Recording Secretary

Projects Roundtable

- Fishpond on Buffalo Reserve
- Public Outreach/Education
- Wildwood Park
- Terrace to refill Hamilton County Lake or use Ft. Aubrey Ditch Right
- Removal of tamarisk
- Saltcedar removal from Dodge City to John Martin (Ducks CIG Proposal)
- City of Garden City feasibility study for water reuse
- Playa Restoration Program (Ducks)
- Repairing breach upstream of Garden City
- Rebates for municipal water conservation
- Creating Recreational Opportunities
- Restore Fort Aubrey / Spring Creek Lake east of Syracuse.
- Assess / Evaluate strategic ditch lining to improve delivery and confine spread.
- Evaluation of produced Water reuse
- Augmenting Basin Water Supply
- Groundwater Conservation
- Managed Aquifer Recharge
- Xeroscape Reduce lawn water use.
- Deficit irrigation on crops
- Saline Water Management
- Livestock Water Conservation
- Expansion of BDA around tributaries
- Soil Health
- Infiltration
- NWQI

Mission Statement

To improve and protect the quality and quantity of the Arkansas River and connected aquifers for the sustainability of life in the basin.

Review of timeline for milestones

- ✓ June 2022: kick-off meeting, allowing stakeholders to be acquainted with each other. (completed)
- ✓ August 2022: advertise the group to potential members. (on-going)
- ✓ October 2022: Develop a Mission Statement. (completed)
- ✓ January 2023: Draft Bylaws and articles of incorporation (completed)
- ✓ February 2023: Submit 270 Day report to the Bureau of Reclamation (completed)
- ✓ April 2023: Finalize Bylaws and articles of incorporation. (Articles of Incorporation completed)
- ✓ June 2023: Select a coordinator/facilitator in accordance with the adopted Bylaws.
- August 2022 through June 2024: Discuss project concepts and the watershed restoration plan.
- June 2024: Pass a final watershed restoration plan, including a prioritized list of projects and goals for the future.