

UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATERSHED GROUP

GMD3 Board Room, 2009 E. Spruce St. Garden City, 67846

Meeting in person and by Zoom.
November 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order

President Lollar called to order the November 13, 2023, Upper Arkansas River Basin Watershed meeting at 10:01 a.m. The meeting was in the GMD3 Board Room.

Welcome and Introductions

Directors Present

Abram Lollar, President, Recreation/Environment Representative

Gina Gigot, Secretary, Groundwater Representative

Hugh Brownlee, Treasurer, At Large

Troy Dumler, Surface Water Representative

Sam Hands, Stock/Industrial Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Bill Simshauser, Conservation Representative

Monte Morgan, At Large

Fred Jones, Vice-President, Municipal Representative

Members and others Present.

Patty Stapleton SW KS GMD3

Trevor Ahring SW KS GMD3

Keadron Pearson KWO

Jason Norquest GMD3

Larry Miller Producer

Tom Stiles Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Emily Vsetecka Sunflower Electric Power Corporation

Approve Agenda

President Lollar asked to consider the November 13, 2023 meeting agenda.

Gina Gigot made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Troy Dumler seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

President Lollar drew the board's attention to the October 17, 2023 minutes. Trevor Ahring reviewed the notes.

Hugh Brownlee moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sam Hands seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

Fundraising Event-Hidden Trail Brewery, November 18, 2023

Trevor Ahring reminded everyone of the fundraising event that was happening on November 18, 2023, at Hidden Trail Brewery. Trevor suggested showing up between 6:00 – 7 p.m.

Website Design

Trevor reviewed the website upperarkwatershed.com. Keep checking the website for additional information, details and links, such as Pheasants Forever.

Watershed Restoration Plan

Trevor presented a Watershed Restoration Plan by PowerPoint and asked for additional items from the group that maybe added on.

Problems.

- Overappropriation of groundwater
- Degraded water quality
- Insufficient surface water to meet demands.
- Invasive riparian species
- Lack of outdoor recreational opportunities
- Species concerns
- Lack of education about water usage issues

Ongoing Work

- Tamarisk removal (Ducks Unlimited)
- Priority areas/action plans in GMD3
- New John Martin Reservoir Account
- CREP Program
- Municipal water treatment in Lakin and Wheatlands
- South Side Ditch Alternate Delivery System
- Water Conservation Areas
- State of Kansas RCPP
- ARKWIN
- Playa-Restoration Work

Potential Projects

- Irrigation Ditch Lining/piping
- Improvement CREP
- Programs to implement improvement of irrigation efficiency.
- Tools to improve surface water deliveries from Colorado.
- Programs for voluntary compensation transition from irrigated agriculture to dryland
- Water quality monitoring
- Master Irrigator Program
- Projects to design or implement water treatment conveyance of clean water.
- Fishing and Hunting Opportunities
- Projects to develop or implement water treatment/conveyance of clean water

Trevor would like to finalize this by March 2024; however, the deadline is June.

President Lollar asked Trevor to send this out to the group so they can review it on their own time and send back suggestions.

Logo Design

Trevor displayed the updated logo and said we would add it to the website.

New Business

Trevor guided the group in discussing the Upper Ark Watershed Annual Meeting. The annual meeting would be a great opportunity to inform the public of water issues, goals, and projects, along with a guest speaker. The Water Quality Summit could be a good meeting to piggyback on. The date for that meeting will be set after December 12, 2023, so more information on that at the December watershed meeting.

Announcements

December 19 is the next Watershed Meeting.

Keadron Pearson announced that Abe Lollar is the President of the Upper Ark RAC. She also reminded everyone that the Governors Water Conference is this week.

Hugh Brownlee announced that the Farm Bureau annual meeting is on December 1. It seems to be a push to do away with prior appropriation. It seems to come from Northwest Kansas and could be a big battle.

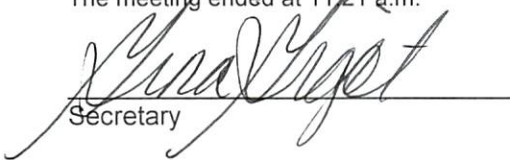
Abe Lollar announced that submission for the CIG Grant could not be completed this year. However, they still plan to apply for it next September.

Keadron announced that the Ogallala Committee will be meeting on November 29 in Garden City, KS.

Adjournment

Gina Gigot moved to adjourn the meeting. Sam Hands seconded.

The meeting ended at 11:21 a.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

It appears that the group is ahead of schedule.

- ✓ 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. (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.