



GMD3 Board Room, 2009 E. Spruce St. Garden City, 67846
Meeting in person and by Zoom.
February 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order

Vice President Fred Jones called to order the February 13, 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

Fred Jones, Vice-President, Municipal Representative
Gina Gigot, Secretary, Groundwater Representative
Troy Dumler, Surface Water Representative,
Sam Hands, Stock/Industrial Representative
Monte Morgan, At Large

Directors Absent with Notice

Hugh Brownlee, Treasurer, At Large
Abram Lollar, President, Recreation/Environment Representative
Bill Simshauser, Conservation Representative

Members and others Present

Patty Stapleton	SW KS GMD3
Trevor Ahring	SW KS GMD3
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Libby Albers	KAWS
Scott Satterthwaite	KDHE
Michael Beezhold	KDHE
Kurtis Meier	District Wildlife Biologist-Garden City, KS
Tom Stiles	KDHE

Approve Agenda

Vice President Jones asked to consider the agenda for the meeting on February 13, 2024.
Gina Gigot made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Troy Dumler seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Vice President Jones drew the board's attention to the January 16, 2024, minutes. Correct adjournment statement from Monty Miller to Monte Morgan.
Gina Gigot moved to approve the minutes as revised. Monte Morgan seconded. The motion passed.

Financial Report

Vice President Jones drew the board's attention to the Financial Reports. Troy Dumler moved to approve the financials as presented. Sam Hands seconded. The motion passed.

Presentation

Overview of Current and Ongoing Projects-Trevor Ahring

Trevor turned the group's attention to the handout that detailed completed and ongoing projects and programs.

Water Conservation Areas:

There are two Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) located within the watershed boundary. One is owned and operated by Circle Land and Cattle, while the other is owned and operated by Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. These two management plans cover a total of 12,642 irrigated acres, 90 irrigation wells, and 14 industrial wells. The conservation goal for both WCAs combined is to save 2,311 acre-feet of water annually. Both WCAs have successfully achieved their conservation goals and have even exceeded them.

Four County LEMA

GMD1 implemented a Four County LEMA (Local Enhanced Management Area) in 2023. The portion of Southern Scott County that falls within the watershed group boundary is also with the boundary of the LEMA.

Garden City Water Reclamation and Reuse Project

Garden City is in the planning stages of a water reclamation and reuse project. This project will play a key role in preserving existing industry and population. The city has advanced discussions to provide reuse water or reclaimed water to a nearby irrigation user in exchange for curtailing the use of groundwater resources during the growing season.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The CREP program benefits producers for land and water conservation in 13 counties along Rattlesnake Creek and the Upper Arkansas River. Landowners who enroll in CREP will receive up to 15 years of Federal rental payments and a state sign-up bonus to put irrigated acres into a conservation planting. The irrigation water rights associated with the enrolled land will be permanently retired.

Southern Alternate Delivery System

The SS Ditch's main stem was restored in 2011. Some parts of the ditch were lined with material from Lake McKinney to decrease water loss due to infiltration. A southern alternative delivery system was built to improve water efficiency and delivery to the Farmers Ditch headgate by using the SS Ditch instead of the Arkansas River during low flow periods.

John Martin Reservoir Alternate Account

The states of Colorado and Kansas have recently worked out an agreement to create an alternate storage account in John Martin Reservoir for Colorado to store water for use upstream. Kansas gets 12.5% AF all water stored credited to the account for evaporation losses.

Old Business

Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting of the Watershed group is on April 17 at The Clarion. We are currently seeking sponsorships in hopes of raising \$2,000 or more. The speaker is Hannes Zacharias.

New Business

Election Discussion

We will hold Board elections at the annual meeting. Trevor advised everyone if they don't want to be on the ballot to let Trevor know as soon as possible. We do need candidates for all positions. At the annual meeting, Trevor will talk about the group and explain how the elections will work, and then Hannes Zacharias will speak for around 90 minutes.

Finnup Foundation Grant Opportunity

Trevor met with the Finnup Foundation to discuss a couple of conservation projects and a multi-use trail between Garden City to Holcomb. The trail would be approximately 6 miles long. Discussion amongst the group and the consensus was to hold off a year to proceed with the grant. Giving more time to discuss with Garden City and Holcomb Recreation Centers, the Economic Development, and look closer into the easements.

Letter of Support-Canal piping on South Side Ditch

Trevor reviewed the letter of support for the Canal Piping on the South Side Ditch. The project would address inefficiencies with surface water deliveries that create issues in delivering water to customers. Reducing the amount of water that needs to be diverted from the main stem of the SS Ditch and Great Eastern Ditch while delivering the amount of water required to the field in a timelier fashion. The proposed project will benefit SS Ditch Irrigation Association. Members of this association have been active in helping to form the Upper Arkansas River Watershed Group and have demonstrated a commitment to improving the watershed. After a lengthy discussion, Troy Dumler moved to approve the letter of Support for Canal Piping on the South Side Ditch. Gina Gigot seconded. Monte Morgan and Sam Hands abstained. Motion passed.

Trevor announced upcoming events.

- ✓ Master Irrigator Lite is February 22 in Ulysses at the Grant County Civic Center
- ✓ GMD3 Annual Meeting is March 13 in Liberal at the Seward County Activity Center
- ✓ Ogallala Aquifer Summit- March 18-19 in Liberal at the Seward County Fairgrounds
- ✓ ARKWIN- Water Quality Summit- April 18-19 in Lakin and Garden City, KS areas
- ✓ Kansas Water Authority is April 17 in GC at The Clarion
- ✓ Upper Ark Watershed Annual meeting- April 17 at the Clarion.

Monte Morgan announced that Kansas Rural Water held an article about the state of Missouri having started a bill to ban transport of water from their state.

NWQI

KDHE successfully got the grant and wants GMD3 to set up a series of four meetings.

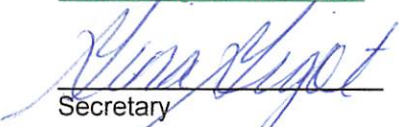
Next Meeting


The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the GMD3 Board Room.

Adjournment

Sam Hands moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m. Troy Dumler seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 11:55


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. (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.