



GMD3 Board Room, 2009 East Spruce St.
Garden City, KS 67846
Meeting in person and Via Zoom

September 23rd, 2025

Meeting Called to Order

President Simshauser called to order the September 23, 2025, Upper Arkansas River Basin Watershed meeting at 10:02 a.m. in the GMD3 Board Room.

Directors Present in Person or Via Zoom

Bill Simshauser,	President, Conservation Representative
Sam Hands,	Vice President, Stock/Industrial Representative
Gina Gigot,	Secretary, Groundwater Representative
Fred Jones,	Municipal Representative
Abram Lollar,	Recreation/Environment Representative
Troy Dumler,	Surface Water Representative,

Directors Absent with Notice

Monte Morgan,	At Large
Hugh Brownlee,	Treasurer, At Large
Bob Price	At Large

Member and Others Present in Person or Via Zoom

Trevor Ahring	SW KS GMD3
Keadron Pearson,	Kansas Water Office
Titus Jaeger	Producer
Kurtis Meier	District Wildlife Biologist – Garden City, KS
Libby Albers,	KAWS
Roy Dixon	Member
Scott Ishman,	KGS
Jonathan Aguilar,	KSU

Approval of Agenda

President Simshauser requested that the agenda for the September 23rd meeting be considered.

Troy Dumler made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Sam Hands seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

President Simshauser drew the board's attention to the minutes of August 19, 2025. Titus requested that the spelling of his name be corrected to Titus Jaeger (not Titas). **Troy Dumler moved to approve the revised minutes. Fred Jones seconded. The motion passed.**

Financial Report

Treasurer Hugh Brownlee was absent, but Patty Stapleton drew the board's attention to the Financial Reports. The balance in the Checking account is \$4,270.42. **Fred Jones moved to approve the financials as presented. Sam Hands seconded. The motion passed.**



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Information Presentation

Update on GMD3 Conservation Initiative- Trevor Ahring

Trevor talked to the group about the district's progress on HB 2279. The Northwest Kearny I-CARE region and the Northern Gray and Ford Counties region are already stable. The plan aims for district-wide stability within five years, with most cuts under 10% except for one area that requires deeper reductions. Regional timelines include 5 years in SW Morton, 15 years in the Sandhills (phased 19% reductions), and 25 years in Southern Stevens, Seward, and Meade. A second scenario was chosen to give producers more time to adjust. Sandhills may be extended to 20 years if needed. The final plan is still in development.

Old Business

There was no old business to take from the table.

New Business

Annual Meeting Discussion

Trevor asked the board to consider a date for the 2026 annual meeting, along with ideas for entertainment and keynote speakers. Keadron will let us know after the October Water Authority meeting whether they will hold a meeting in the Garden City area around the same time.

Also, we should probably send out Fundraiser/Donation letters earlier this year, aiming for November to late November.

Bill Simshauser suggested contacting K-State and doing the TAPS games.

Grant Opportunity Updates

Trevor updated the group on the recent grant movement. Nothing has been released from the Bureau of Reclamation; however, their site shows new funding opportunities under development for the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program, Applied Science Grants, Drought Resilience Projects, and Large-Scale Water Recycling.

GMD3 is involved in two grant proposals to NASA. One proposal is led by GMD3 to utilize OpenET to help irrigators track water use, and the other is led by Kansas State University to utilize gravity-measuring technology for groundwater monitoring. Both full proposals are due in November. A support letter may be requested from this group at the October meeting.

Abe Lollar discussed their grant opportunities, as they remain focused on the February submission, which is already underway. As far as the Bureau of Reclamation and the Build Kansas Fund, they appear to have secured non-federal funding for a research study above Pueblo, though not below. It is unclear whether that would meet the Build Kansas Fund requirements to pursue a BOR grant, and further discussion may be needed. Ultimately, BOR would need to move the program forward before it matters.



Upper Arkansas River Basin Watershed Group

Meeting Agenda

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

Meeting in person or by Zoom

October 21st, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

I. Call to order

- a) Welcome & introductions
- b) Approval of agenda Action
- c) Review and approval of minutes of September meeting Action
- d) Review of financial report Action

II. Old business

- a) KDHE Infiltration Catchments – Watershed Restoration Plan Action
- b) Annual Meeting Discussion

III. New business

- a) Fundraising
- b) GMD3 grant to NASA – Letter of Support Request Action
- c) November meeting

IV. Public comments and announcements

- V. Adjournment** Action





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Trevor announced that the new director of the Kansas Infrastructure Hub will be in town next month, and Trevor plans to meet with her to discuss matching opportunities and programs that could help support.

Public Comments and Announcements

Trevor announced that the ICARE emails had been sent out. He encouraged everyone to create an account and review their reports.

The NRCS is hosting an informational meeting on November 3rd from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Scott City, Kansas, regarding Conservation Easements.

In November, the co-chairs of the Governor's Water Task Force will hold two more meetings on November 3 and 19, likely in Topeka.


The Bottom-Line Conference was a success, with 91 producers, 40 presenters, and vendors, and approximately 18 helpers in attendance. Around 150 people participated, which is typical of this event. It was one of the best conferences we've had.

Fred Jones provided an update on the water recharge program. The 30% design review for the pipeline design is complete. Many agreements still need to be finalized, and efforts are ongoing to secure the pipeline easement within the Wildlife Area and Parks. The project remains on schedule for completion. However, working through the reimbursements from the grant has been time-consuming.

Keadron Pearson reminded everyone about the Governors Water Conference happening on November 12th and 13th. The Kansas Water Authority meeting will take place on October 15th in Overland Park. Additionally, RAC Board positions are open until September 30th. Keadron added that if an application is submitted after this date, it will still be considered; it will not be skipped.

Adjournment

Fred Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at noon, and Troy Dumler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05.


Secretary


Recording Secretary