



GMD3 Board Room, 2009 E. Spruce St. Garden City, 67846
Meeting in person and by Zoom.
January 16, 2024, at 10:00 am.

Meeting Called to Order

President Lollar called to order the January 16, 2024, Upper Arkansas River Basin Watershed meeting at 10:02 am. The meeting was in the GMD3 Board Room.

Welcome and Introductions

Directors Present

Abram Lollar, President, Recreation/Environment Representative
Gina Gigot, Secretary, Groundwater Representative
Troy Dumler, Surface Water Representative,
Monte Morgan, At Large
Bill Simshauser, Conservation Representative
Fred Jones, Vice-President, Municipal Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Hugh Brownlee, Treasurer, At Large
Sam Hands, Stock/Industrial Representative

Members and others Present

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| Patty Stapleton | SW KS GMD3 |
| Trevor Ahring | SW KS GMD3 |
| Jason Norquest, | SW KS GMD3 |
| Keadron Pearson, | KWO |
| Johnathan Aguilar, | K-State Extension |
| Mark Rude | SW KS GMD3 |
| Kurtis Meier | District Wildlife Biologist-Garden City, KS |
| Scott Satterthwaite | Watershed Management, KDHE |
| Emily Vsetecka | Sunflower Electric Power Corporation |
| Tom Stiles | Kansas Department of Health and Environment |
| Luke West | Wheatland Water Treatment |

Approve Agenda

President Lollar asked to consider the agenda for the meeting on January 16, 2024. Bill Simshauser made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Monty Morgan seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

President Lollar drew the board's attention to the December 19, 2023, minutes. Gina Gigot moved to approve the minutes as presented. Troy Dumler seconded. The motion passed.

Financial Report

President Lollar drew the board's attention to the Financial Reports. Bill Simshauser moved to approve the Financials as presented. Gina Gigot seconded. The motion passed.

Presentation

Overview of Water Delivery Systems

During the group's workshop for the Watershed Restoration Plan, the focus was on water delivery systems. The water supply sources for Hamilton, Kearny, and Finney County include the Ogallala, Dakota, Paleo, and the Arkansas River. The residents of Hamilton, Kearny, and Finney County have four water supply options: the local Arkansas River/Arkansas River Alluvium, the Dakota aquifer, the Ogallala aquifer, and the local aquifer known as the paleo aquifer located on the south side of the Arkansas River in Hamilton County. Apart from the thousands of irrigation wells that pull groundwater from the local aquifers, the cities of Coolidge, Syracuse, Lakin, Deerfield, Holcomb, and Garden City utilize local aquifers with varying treatment needs. Hamilton County Rural Water District1 also has municipal distribution systems that withdraw groundwater. Moreover, the Associated Ditches of Kansas, which include the Frontier Ditch, the Amazon Canal, the Great Eastern Ditch, the South Side Ditch, the Farmers Ditch, and the Garden City Ditch, have surface water rights to divert the Arkansas River for direct irrigation use.

Old Business

Annual Meeting

The group discussed the Upper Arkansas Watershed's first annual meeting for April 17, 2024. Trevor had contacted Hannes Zacharias about being a guest speaker. Mr. Zacharias agreed to do it and would apply for payment through the grant. Patty called The Baron's, and a conference room there would run around \$160.00. Regarding buffet food options, we could charge \$40.00 per plate, provide two entrees, and have a cash bar. Keadron added that State Folks will be in town for the ARKWIN event and staying at The Baron's, so we could get some attendance from them. Hannes Zacharias would speak for approximately 1.5 hours and pass out ballots for director voting. If there is a contested race, have them provide a little speech. We can't use the grant money for advertising but could reach out to the Historical Society and have Keadron share it with the RACs. Gina Gigot moved to hold the meeting at Baron's on April 17, 2024, at 6 pm with a dinner, speaker, and business matters. Fred Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Fundraising Event-Hidden Trail Brewery.

Patty announced that the Hidden Trail Brewery fundraising event went over well. Raised \$1,319.00. Stacy Cundiff was the first-place winner, Sam Hands was the second-place winner, and DTP was third place.

New Business

Trevor suggested sending Hidden Trail Brewery a Thank you letter for their support. Patty had one on hand and passed it around for everyone to sign.

Scott Satterthwaite with KDHE spoke to the group about NWQI. KDHE was approved for \$55,000 from the USDA RCS, the monies are in the state fund account. The \$55,000 is to develop a plan to implement practices and protocols to contain uranium. The first task has to have a funding agreement with NRCS and they would like to know if there would be separate modeling or wrapped into one with GMD3. To do this agreement, we have to develop a line-item budget, put together deliverables, and have measurable outcomes. Scott is trying to meet with Jack Fitzgerald, the partnership program manager. The due date for the draft agreement is February 1, 2024.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on February 20, 2024, at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

Fred Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 am. Monte Morgan seconded. Motion carried.


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.