



GMD3 Board Room, 2009 E. Spruce St. Garden City, 67846
Meeting in person and by Zoom.
December 19, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order

President Lollar called to order the December 19, 2023, Upper Arkansas River Basin Watershed meeting at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was in the GMD3 Board Room.

Welcome and Introductions

Directors Present

Abram Lollar, President, Recreation/Environment Representative
Fred Jones, Vice-President, Municipal 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

Members and others Present

Kevin Salter	DWR
Patty Stapleton	SW KS GMD3
Trevor Ahring	SW KS GMD3
Jason Norquest,	GMD3
Keadron Pearson,	KWO

Approve Agenda

President Lollar asked to consider the agenda for the December 19, 2023 meeting. Fred Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Hugh Brownlee seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

President Lollar drew the board's attention to the November 15, 2023 minutes. Gina Gigot moved to approve the minutes as presented. Troy Dumler seconded. The motion passed.

Presentation

Watershed Restoration Plan: Background information – Trevor Ahring
Trevor Ahring spoke to the group about the Watershed Restoration Plan. The group workshopped the background information and sources of concern section of the plan. This included background on irrigation development, dewatering of the Ogallala/High Plains Aquifer, loss of streamflow and water quality degradation of the Arkansas River, and revegetation of the sand hills south of the Arkansas River. The group will continue to workshop sections of the plan at monthly meetings and a final product will be finished by June 2024.



Upper Arkansas River Basin Watershed Group

Meeting Agenda

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

Meeting in person or by Zoom
January 16th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

I. Call to order

- a) Welcome & introductions
- b) Approval of agenda
- c) Review and approval of minutes from the December meeting
- d) Financial Report

II. Watershed Restoration Plan

- a) Overview of water delivery systems – Trevor Ahring

III. Old business

- a) Annual Meeting
- b) Hidden Trail Brewery Fundraiser Report

IV. New business

- a) Thank You letter to Hidden Trail Brewery

V. Adjournment



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.

Old Business

Fundraising Event-Hidden Trail Brewery, Update

Trevor Ahring announced that the fundraiser at Hidden Trail Brewery is going well. The last day will be Saturday, December 23.

Website Design Update

Trevor showed everyone the updated website.

Bank Account Signers

Trevor brought to the board's attention that in a past meeting, the group voted to have the signers on the bank account be Trevor Ahring, Patty Stapleton, Abe Lollar, President, and Hugh Brownlee, Treasurer. Jacob Cunningham expanded on who the signers should be and contacted the bank. He added the Vice President and Secretary. Hugh Brownlee moved to add the Vice President and Secretary to the signers of the bank account. Troy Dumler seconded. Motion passed.

Annual Meeting

The board discussed when the Upper ARK Watershed annual meeting should be. After some discussion, the consensus was to have it on April 17, 2024. Kansas Water Authority is on April 17 during the day, and the ARKWIN conference is on April 18th and 19th; having the annual meeting correspond with these dates could bring in more people. Check with Barons to see if a room with a cash bar is available. High-end speakers could help bring in more attendance. Contact Hannes Zacharias to be a speaker along with Kevin Salter.

New Business

Letters of Support

Trevor Ahring turned the board's attention to the letters of support in front of them. The first one he brought to their attention was the grant that would benefit the Southside Ditch Irrigation Association and the Garden City Company. This project addresses inefficiencies with surface water deliveries that create issues in delivering water to customers. It will reduce the amount of water that needs to be diverted from the main stem of the South Side Ditch and Great Eastern Ditch while delivering the amount of water required to the field in a timely manner. Fred Jones moved to approve the letter of support. Troy Dumler seconded. Motion passed with Hugh Brownlee opposing.

The second letter of support was for the City of Deerfield. A grant under the Kansas Water Office Technical Assistance Fund Grants opportunity entitled "Securing a Reliable Water Supply for the City of Deerfield, KS." This project presents an opportunity for Deerfield to begin work on securing a reliable water supply from the deteriorating water quality in the alluvium and High Plains Aquifer. Troy Dumler moved to approve the letter of support for the City of Deerfield. Sam Hands seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The third letter of support was for Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District NO. 3 under the Kansas Water Office Water Projects Fund Grants opportunity entitled "SmartPLAN; A Plan for Action to Address the Declining High Plains Aquifer in Southwest Kansas." This effort will improve the quality of information the GMD3 Board of Directors and local stakeholders will have to be able to collaborate on a plant that maintains the local economy and improves on resource concerns in the Ark River Basin and elsewhere in the project area. Hugh Brownlee moved to approve the letter of support for GMD3, Water Projects Fund Grant. Gina Gigot seconded. Motion passed.

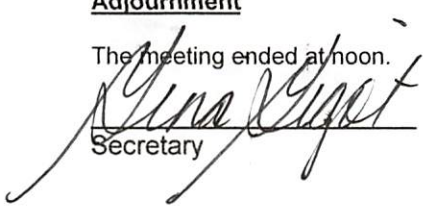
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m

Fred thanked Trevor for getting things set up for the fundraiser and for those who attended.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at noon.


Secretary


Recording Secretary