

UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATERSHED GROUP

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

Meeting in person and by Zoom.
September 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order

President Lollar called to order the September 12, 2023, Upper Arkansas River Basin Watershed meeting at 10:02 a.m. The meeting was in the GMD3 Board Room.

Directors Present

Abram Lollar, President, Recreation/Environment Representative
Sam Hands, Stock/Industrial Representative
Gina Gigot, Secretary, Groundwater Representative
Troy Dumler, Surface Water Representative,
Bill Simshauser, Conservation Representative
Monte Morgan, At Large

Directors Absent with Notice

Fred Jones, Vice-President, Municipal Representative
Hugh Brownlee, Treasurer, At Large

Members and others Present in person or by Zoom

Callen Izatt	DWR
Kevin Salter	DWR
Kurtis Meier	District Wildlife Biologist-Garden City, KS
Mark Rude	SW KS GMD3, Finney County Drainage District #2
Patty Stapleton	SW KS GMD3
Trevor Ahring	SW KS GMD3
Michael Beezhold	KDHE
Steve Frost,	KDA
Scott Satterthwaite,	KDHE
Tom Styles	KDHE

Approve Agenda

President Lollar asked to consider the September 12, 2023, meeting agenda.

Bill Simshauser made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Gina Gigot seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

President Lollar drew the board's attention to the July 11, 2023, and August 15, 2023, minutes.

Bill Simshauser moved to approve the minutes as presented. Gina Gigot seconded. Motion passed.

Presentations

National Water Quality Initiative-Scott Satterthwaite, KDHE

Scott Satterthwaite spoke to the group on the NWQI (National Water Quality Initiative) through NRCS, which is a way for States to partner with NRCS to develop a plan. Scott stated the planning information, which included the HUCK 12 along with budget information, was sent and noted the KGS study would be completed. Scott did send a copy of the planning request to Trevor if anyone would like to see it.

Brief Update on Grant Proposals-Trevor Ahring

Trevor Ahring updated the group on the grant proposal. GMD3 is working on a Reclamation Water Strategy Grant. The City of Deerfield may submit a Project Design Grant. The Project Design Grant is for projects to conduct project-specific design to improve water management or water supplies. Grant proposals are due October 13, 2023.

GMD3 is looking to utilize the hydrologic models completed by the Kansas Geological Survey. They will have the GMD3 model completed by the end of the year. Results from modeling of prediction changes over time in crops grown and acres irrigated, we can build our own statistical analysis. Then, create a production model with K-State researchers to predict surplus and deficit resources to meet economic demands. The Grant Funding will also assist GMD3 in facilitating stakeholder meetings. Any stakeholder interested in seeing conservation plans in SW Kansas and willing to offer facilities contact us. A few suggestions include:

- ✓ Deerfield Community Building, especially working with the City of Deerfield
- ✓ Fairgrounds at Lakin,

Trevor touched base on the City of Deerfield Proposal; this grant opportunity allows them to seek \$400,000 for engineering and project design with no match. They have three municipal wells; one is over the standard drinking water with uranium. They are currently converting that water right to irrigation. This grant would allow them to engineer the water piping or build a facility.

Old Business

Trevor handed out to the group a proposal from USGS identifying contamination sources at Stateline Groundwater Gage. The proposed budget includes four wells in Kansas and four wells in Colorado. There are three scope options to consider. Scope one is continuous real-time data, Scope two is continuously recorded data, and Scope three is discrete measurements. However, note that drilling new monitoring wells is not included in the estimated cost option. The question to the table: how on board is Colorado in finding the source of the contamination? Keadron Pearson stated that based on the water quality initiative (Ark River Water Quality Interstate Network), Colorado is aware of their quality issues and feels they will be open-minded. Kevin remarked that nowhere in the proposal does it show 50-50 cost share, and nowhere does it say co-op, so might want to double-check that.

Bill Simshauser moved to add this to the list of projects. Monty Morgan seconded. Motion passed

Fundraising

Trevor reviewed the fundraising projects, float trip down the river, trap shoots, and Brewery Night at Hidden Trail were a few already listed. The float trip may have to wait for next year due to the weather and getting all the details in order. Trevor and Jason spoke to Hidden Trail about a fun night. They have several ideas and would like to help with a night at the brewery. The Brewery Night would be an excellent fundraiser; it is easy and doesn't have too much upfront cost. What is the financial goal for the group? The beginning goal for monies in our bank account is \$5,000. **Bill Simshauser moved to proceed with the Fundraising event at the Hidden Trail Brewery. Gina Giqot seconded. Motion passed.**

Mark Rude added that if anyone wants to donate funds before the legal paperwork is complete, the funds could be run through the GMD3 account.

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.

Membership

Does the group want dues for the first year or hold off but make it possible to have them in the future? Monty Morgan moved to hold off on dues for the first year. Gina Gigot seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

Website

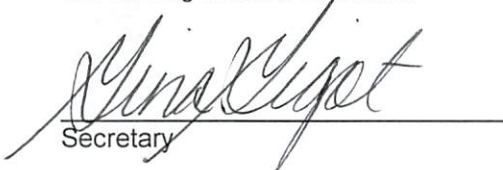
The group discussed Website Design. Trevor checked with WIX Web Design and reviewed the tier options available. Business Elite was \$159 per month, Business was \$32 per month, Core was \$27 per month, and Light was \$16. How often will we update the website, and what information will we have on it? Logo, Past and Present Meetings, Fundraiser Events, and additional informational areas to keep the public informed. President Lollar asked if we could see a website sample at the next meeting.

Logo Design

Monty Morgan stated his daughter does this type of work and offered to ask her to draw up a couple of Logo designs. The consensus was to give Monty's daughter time to create a logo.

Adjournment

Bill Simshauser moved to adjourn, and Troy Dumler seconded. Motion passed.
The meeting ended at 11:28 a.m.


Secretary


Recording Secretary