

August 30th, 2023,

**Arkansas River Litigation Funds Advisory Committee
(620) 275-7147**

Chairman Randy Hayzlett called the meeting of the Arkansas River Litigation Funds Advisory Committee to order on Wednesday, August 30, at 10:04 a.m. The meeting was at the GMD3, 2009 E. Spruce St., Garden City, KS.

Members Present by phone or in person (*Voting):

Randy Hayzlett *	Committee Chairman and South Side Ditch Representative
Stanley Hines*	Frontier Ditch Representative
Shane Knoll*	Garden City Ditch Representative
Kevin Salter	Interstate water engineer, KDA /DWR
Mark Rude	Committee Treasurer, GMD3 Executive Director
Patty Stapleton	Committee Recording Secretary, GMD3 Office Administrator
Keadron Pearson	KWO

Others in Attendance by phone or in person

Trevor Ahring	GMD3
Rachel Duran	DWR

Absent with Notice

Troy Dumler*	Committee Vice-Chairman and Great Eastern Representative
Rodney Kirchoff	Finney County Water Users, Secretary
Larry Miller*	Amazon Ditch Representative
Doug Mai*	Finney County Water Users / Farmers Ditch Representative
Mike Meyer	DWR, Water Commissioner

Agenda Approval

Chairman Randy Hayzlett asked for a discussion on the meeting agenda. Strike off Southside Phase II wrap-up. Stanley Hines moved to approve the agenda as revised. Shane Knoll seconded. Motion passed. Motion passed.

Minutes Approval

Mark read the March 30, 2023; the group made edits. Shane Knoll moved to approve the March 30, 2023, minutes as revised. Stanley Hines seconded.

Financial Report

The committee reviewed the financials from March 30, 2023, through August 30, 2023. Shane Knoll moved to approve the financials as presented. Stanley Hines seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: Active Approved Projects

Garden City Ditch Measuring Station-GC Ditch/GMD3

Mark reported there is nothing new on the Garden City Ditch Measuring Station. The thought was that if there was going to be a ditch, there should be a measuring station, which is why up to \$25,000 had been authorized. Would a dual station, head gate, and measuring station be appropriate either right on the Farmers Ditch or where you check up the wasteway and divert down the ditch? All of this is subject to approval by DWR. The consensus was to continue establishing a path forward for this project.

Farmers Headgate Phase II wrap-up – GMD3.

Randy Hayzlett asked about the sales tax refund of \$20,093.89. Mark remarked that he needs to better explain the funds to Kaw Valley Engineering to the Director of the Water Office.

New Business

There was no new business to bring to the table.

Agency Reports

Associated Ditches

Randy announced that Southside hired a ditch rider and another person, and they have worked hard to get water down through the Southside.

Upper Ark Watershed Group

Trevor Ahring announced the Upper Ark Watershed Group meets monthly. He reported the incorporation process is about completed. Currently waiting for signatures for the bylaws and will get them submitted.

Watershed Invitees:

- Abe Lollar, President, Recreation / Environment Representative
- Fred Jones, Vice President, Municipal Representative
- Gina Gigot, Secretary, Groundwater Representative
- Hugh Brownlee, Treasurer. At Large
- Sam Hands Stock/Industrial Representative
- Bill Simshauser Conservation Representative
- Troy Dumler Surface Water Representative

GMD3

Grant Funding Opportunities

Mark spoke about grants at the federal level. Resources from NOAA that appear to be for habitat and Bureau of Reclamation focused on Planning and Design Grants. Trevor added that GMD3 is looking at their Planning and Design Grants with funding up to \$400,000 and leveraging the work that GMD3 must do under HB2279. The Water Strategy Grant and the Project Design Grant provide funding to disadvantaged communities (that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies). With the City of Deerfield municipal wells reaching their threshold of Uranium, this grant would offer funding with no match for engineering, surveying, and designing a pipeline to Lakin for treatment and then sending the water back to Deerfield. Another Grant is the National Water Quality Initiative Grant, which could assist in utilizing the GMD3 Model.

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Trevor participated with KDHE in submitting a grant to NRCS for the National Quality Initiative. It is soil health-oriented and plans to move into projects in a few years.

Mark added that GMD3 received more totes from the Bureau of Reclamation for bulk water sampling from the Arkansas River. They continue to study options for mining the dissolved solids from the water source. Randy asked if the Conservation District would do private well testing again. Mark stated they had state funds to address water quality concerns through Lakin and neighboring counties.

Stateline Groundwater Gage USGS COOP Study Concept.

Mark mentioned the Stateline Groundwater Gage. In a handout, he discussed the proposed cooperative study between SW KS GMD3 and the U.S. Geological Survey-Colorado and Kansas Water Science Centers, dated August 11, 2023. The proposed study period would run from October 2023 through September 2027 and provide a scope of work and costs for additional monitoring of groundwater levels and water quality in the area to characterize groundwater flow direction and water quality. A review and discussion occurred regarding the graphs that were in the handout.

DWR

Kevin Salter with DWR reported they are on the tail end of the Kansas release, which went well. Due to timely precipitation, the release was not anticipated when the irrigation season started. The water quantity throughout the release was better than expected. All the ditches are taking a share of the rundown. USGS is out-measuring Deerfield to see if there is as much water in the channel as the web shows.

Last year, the multi-purpose account had around 600af stored; this year, there were around 29af stored because of the good exchange potential. A few new sources were recently approved for the Lower Ark Water Management Association (LAWMA). LAWMA will not use this water to replace Stateline depletions; rather, they will use this water to replace depletions in reaches 7 to 14, from upstream of JMR (John Martin Reservoir) to around Lamar headgates.

On October 21, 2023, John Martin Reservoir Dam will hold its 75th anniversary event. It is a good event to take your families to.

KWO

Keadron Pearson reported that the Governor's Water Conference will be at the Hilton Garden Inn on November 15th and 16th in Manhattan, KS. Registration is \$130 per day or \$220.00 for both days.

The Kansas Water Authority Meeting was held last Wednesday. They passed the FY 2025 budget, which will be sent to the Governor for her consideration and additional suggestions before being sent to the Legislature. A copy is available in the meeting materials. The next meeting will be on October 18, with the location to be determined.

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Grant Programs from the HB 2302 Kansas Water Office are still working on getting everything together and out to the public as soon as possible.

The Ogallala Committee meeting will be meeting November 28th and 29th.

Kevin Salter announced the Water Quality Summit will be in Kansas next year. The target audience will be water users of all varieties.

Date of Next Meeting

Tentatively, around November.

Adjournment

Stanley Hines moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m. Shane Knoll seconded.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.


Recording Secretary


Committee Chairman