

July 11th, 2024,

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 Thursday, July 11, at 8:58 a.m. The meeting was at the GMD3, 2009 E. Spruce St., Garden City, KS.

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

Randy Hayzlett *	Committee Chairman and South Side Ditch Representative
Troy Dumler*	Committee Vice-Chairman and Great Eastern Representative
Stanley Hines*	Frontier Ditch Representative
Shane Knoll*	Garden City Ditch Representative
Larry Miller*	Amazon Ditch Representative
Kevin Salter	Interstate water engineer, KDA /DWR
Mark Rude	Committee Treasurer, GMD3 Executive Director
Patty Stapleton	Committee Recording Secretary, GMD3 Office Administrator

Others in Attendance

Jason Norquest	GMD3 Assistant Manager
Callan Izatt	KDW-DWR
Ed Reboulet	KGS
Tony Layzell	KGS,
Scott Ishman	KGS, Associate Director for Geohydrology & Geohealth Division
Leo Henning	KDHE
Robert Knoll	South Side Ditch
Zachary Gale	Frontier Ditch
Connie Owen	Kansas Water Office, Director
Rachel Duran	DWR
Keadron Pearson	Kansas Water Office

Absent

Rodney Kirchoff*	Finney County Water Users, Secretary
Doug Mai*	Finney County Water Users / Farmers Ditch Representative

Agenda Approval

Chairman Randy Hayzlett asked for a discussion on the meeting agenda. Shane Knoll moved to approve the agenda as presented. Standley Hines seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes Approval

August 30, 2023

Mark Rude read through the minutes. Troy Dumler moved to approve August 30th, 2023, minutes as revised throughout the reading. Shane Knoll seconded. The motion carried.

Financial Report

The financials from August 30th, 2023, to July 9th, 2024, were reviewed. Stanley Hines moved to approve the financials as presented. Troy Dumler seconded. The motion passed.

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Old Business:

Garden City Ditch Measuring Station: GC Ditch/GMD3

Nothing new regarding the Garden City Ditch Measuring Station was brought to the table.

Farmers Headgate Phase II Wrap up- GMD3

\$20,093.89 to Kaw Valley Engineers

Connie Owens was on the line and stated she had additional questions.

New Business

Ditch Lining Program Discussion with KDGE, Leo Henning

Leo Henning spoke to the committee on a ditch-lining program. They have investigated ways to prevent poor-quality water from seeping into the groundwater from ditches. One approach is to make the ditches impermeable by ditch lining to keep the water on the surface instead of letting it seep into the groundwater. This can be achieved through various methods, such as using pipes, linings, or chemicals like bentonite to slow down infiltration. We want to determine how much water we are losing from the ditches to groundwater, especially considering the existing uranium contamination. Scott Ishman, Associate Director of the Geo Hydrology Division, Tony Layzell, in the stratigraphy group, and Ed Reboulet, all with the Kansas Geological Survey, are here today. We want to explore the idea of monitoring water loss from the ditches. I spoke with Scott about the possibility of scientifically measuring the amount of water lost from the ditches. GMD 3 did some calculations for the South ditch using the volume of surface water between two points to determine the loss. Find out how much water is being lost to assess the benefits of lining the ditches to prevent water loss into the groundwater. This is important for maintaining water quality and preventing contamination of groundwater. By keeping the contaminants in surface water, we can ensure that the groundwater remains free from pollutants. This approach would benefit everyone by conserving water in the ditches and protecting the groundwater from contamination. The concept is to install wells around the ditches to measure the flux from surface water into groundwater. This study will help us determine the amount of water lost annually and assess whether it makes sense to line the ditches. We need to know if you are interested in this idea and, if so, discuss potential locations for the wells. We have observed high uranium levels in numerous residential and livestock wells, which are still below the drinking water standard. However, some people may not feel comfortable drinking water with any uranium content. The EPA sets safety standards, but personal decisions are important, especially for those using private wells, as the state does not regulate them. We are awaiting the results of the latest round of testing to see if there have been any changes since the previous tests. We welcome your comments and questions. If the farmers remove water from the ditches, they are helping to preserve groundwater. We need to measure seepage and then proceed to phase two to develop a plan to line the most problematic areas. Leo stated they are looking at three areas to place the lining and will sample the wells every quarter. The water out of JMR is good, but the water coming over the state line is the question. Through discussion, the consensus was to take it back to the ditches. Each one will have to figure out the best location along the ditch.

Leo Henning proposed another program to research water quality; he is allowed a \$500,000 budget to install three to four shallow wells and monitor the water quality.

It was also explained that the main water diverted in the ditches is primarily John Matin water, which is typically good quality water; thus, instead of degrading the aquifer, it could improve the water quality with any seepage that might occur.

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Agency Reports

Upper Ark Watershed Group

Trevor Ahring stated that the Upper Ark Watershed Group is still meeting monthly and is getting ready to release the Watershed Plan.

GMD3

- KDHE Grant Submittal to NRCS: was moved to GMD3
- NWQI Grant: been awarded
- Stateline Groundwater Gage USGS COOP study concept: nothing new to report.
- ICARE reports will be mailed out next week.

DWR

Kevin had nothing to report at this time.

KWO

Connie Owen stated the first round of local consult meetings had taken place. The second round may be held in September.

Keadron Pearson added some important meeting dates:

- Upper ARK RAC will meet on the 18th; the location will be announced soon.
- Cimarron RAC will meet at the Sublette Library.
- Water Authority meeting in Wichita, August 21st

House Bill 2302 grant programs are now open; additional information can be found on the website.

Review of Action Items

- Ditch lining/water quality activity with KDHE
- Final Payment to Kaw Valley
- Funding for Webdell Lake Riverbank Repair: *this action item can be removed.*
- Getting GC Ditch in shape to run water

Keadron Pearson also reiterated the importance of meeting every quarter.

Date of Next Meeting

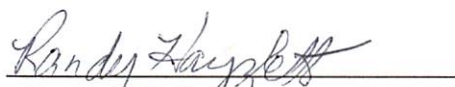
To be determined.

Adjournment

Shane Knoll moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m. Larry Miller seconded.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.


Recording Secretary


Committee Chairman