

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
December 10, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President McCormick called to order the December 10, 2024, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:01 a.m. The meeting was at the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management Board Room.

**Directors Present in Person**

Chad McCormick, President, Industrial Representative  
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Finney County Representative  
Randy Hayzlett, Vice-President, Surface Water Representative  
Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative  
Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative  
Carl Clawson, Meade County Representative  
Jacob Harshberger, Ford County Representative  
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative  
Reid Shrauner, Morton County Representative  
Andy Moser, Stevens County Representative  
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative  
Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative  
Fred Jones, Municipal Representative

**Directors Present by Phone or Zoom**

Kyle Maddux, Kearny County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative

**District Staff Present**

Jason Norquest, Assistant Manager  
Patty Stapleton, Office Administrator  
Chris Law, Director, Field Services  
Brandi Sneath, Office Assistant  
Trevor Ahring, Engineer

**Others in Attendance via Zoom or in Person**

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS  
Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office  
Deborah Kohl, Facilitator, KSU, Community Vitality State Specialist  
Mark Rude  
Hannah Ornutowski, Pollination  
Rachel Barrales, Pollination  
Kevin Salter, DWR.

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**Consent Agenda**

The following items were submitted for approval as part of the consent agenda:

- Approve Agenda for December 10, 2024
- Approve Minutes of Wednesday, November 18, 2024, regular monthly board meeting
- Approve General Financial Report for November - December 2024
- Approve Western Water Conservation Projects, Financial Report for November-December 2024

**Fred Jones moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Zachary Gale seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.**

**Discussion regarding items removed from the consent agenda:**

**Correspondence / Recognition / Formal Comment to the Board of Directors**

Trevor Ahring announced that the Finney County Conservation District annual meeting will be held on January 21st, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. All Board of Directors and staff are invited to attend, and dinner will also be served.

**President's Report**

**DWR Report: Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner / Chief Engineer Earl Lewis**

All water use reports have been sent for printing. If there are any changes, it probably is too late to correct them. Drilled and equipped well reports are due at the end of the year, along with MYFA reports. MYFA reports must include water use this year. KGS and DWR will be out doing annual well measurements the first week of January.

**Other Agency Reports**

**KWO**

Keadron Pearson reported that the Kansas Water Authority is meeting right now primarily to discuss the final report. The next meeting will be on January 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Keadron stated she has been working on many back-burner items to get done before year-end.

**RCPP Program**

Jason, Chris, and Trevor have sat in on several phone calls dealing with RCPP Program. This could be a program that we learn as it progresses. All the practices listed will be 100% funded.

**Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee Reports**

President Chad McCormick stated that the Executive Committee did meet briefly. AG One Source was hired as a headhunter to find an Executive Director. Jason followed up with her, and she stated that it may be a week or two before we heard more. Vijay Ramasamy called Chad to ask about the next round of producer meetings and whether the district would be interested in the State bringing in someone to help the district for a few years. Chad graciously declined the offer.

**Renewable Supply Reports**

Renewable Supply Chairman Randy Hayzlett was currently on the Water Authority call, so Jason provided an update on the committee meeting. The 75<sup>th</sup> annual ARCA meeting will be held this Thursday and Friday at The Clarion. Resolution 2024-10, Upper Arkansas River Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area Moratorium, was denied by the Chief Engineer. He noted there are already regulations in place to prevent such moves. The committee also reviewed the IGUCA and talked over ideas.

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**Old Business**

There was no Old Business to take from the table.

**New Business**

Idaho water users are coming on Monday afternoon. We will meet in the boardroom all day on Tuesday and would like to provide a meal for everyone. Wednesday, we will take them on a tour around the district to visit. **Garret Love moved to provide a meal for everyone on Tuesday, and Bret Rooney seconded. The motion passed.**

**Interim Executive Director Report**

**Draft Retreat Agenda in Topeka, Ks February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>**

Jason Norquest reminded everyone that room reservations are due to Patty by January 2nd. Katie Durham discussed annual district reports with Representative Minnix. These reports can be presented that week, and GMD3 will be presented on Thursday.

GMDA is in Temecula, California, February 25-27.

**Western Water Conservation Projects**

**Finney County Water Users Headgate Project Overage**

The KAW Valley overage application was submitted to Connie Owens this past week. We are looking for a response first to mid-part of January.

**Board Member Report**

The directors took the time to discuss the producers' concerns, which were stated either at the producer meetings or by phone.

- Going off by acres may be a target for board members to avoid losing water in their area.
- Cash Rent land was also brought up with concerns of renegotiation.
- The playing field is not level regarding acres and inches.
- The economic impact on small farms
- Regional economic impact
- QStable

The directors agreed that the meetings went relatively well and seemed to have gotten stronger and more informative as the meetings went on. Criticism, concerns, and suggestions are all welcomed to help us develop the appropriate scenario for the area.

**Strategic Planning Discussion**

**Results from Producer Meetings**

Deborah Kohl attended via Zoom and reviewed the approximate attendance at each meeting: Dodge City 48, Garden City 99, Ulysses 114, and Sublette 104. She discussed the notes from the meetings, and a discussion was held on each scenario: what seemed right, the conditions and support needed for each scenario, and the stated concerns. The economic impact was a much-stressed concern. Her agency could provide resources around the community.

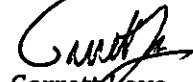
The annual meeting in March could be very well attended, allowing several breakouts to be held. Jason Norquest expressed his appreciation to each director who attended the producers' meetings.

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Hannah Ornutowski and Rachel Barrales with Pollination were also available via Zoom today and are looking to help with program incentives for the future.

**Carl moved to adjourn for lunch. Garrett Love seconded. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Garrett Love  
GMD3 Board Secretary