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The 2024 was not completed and approved at the time of submittal. Once adopted, it can be available upon request.

2024 FINANCES

Income/Expenditures

9:33 AM
01/20/25
Accrual Basis

SW KS GROUNDWATER MGMT Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through December 2024

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Grant Income	44,448.14	0.00
Interest	20,526.40	3,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	19,750.00	0.00
MOU Income	14,808.25	13,000.00
County Assessments	828,433.93	833,332.00
Total Income	<u>927,966.72</u>	<u>849,332.00</u>
Gross Profit	927,966.72	849,332.00
Expense		
Contractual Services	30,875.00	60,000.00
Education and Advocacy	145,717.79	140,000.00
Capital Outlay	863.68	35,000.00
Conservation Projects	110,425.03	155,000.00
Salaries and Benefits	594,734.21	600,000.00
Miscellaneous	7,905.70	0.00
Payroll Expenses	51,806.52	35,000.00
Office Expenses	111,269.77	115,500.00
Total Expense	<u>1,053,597.70</u>	<u>1,140,500.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-125,630.98</u>	<u>-291,168.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-125,630.98</u></u>	<u><u>-291,168.00</u></u>

Assets

The following are the insured property assets of the District:

Furnished office building located at: 2009 E. Spruce St, Garden City, KS

2013 Ford F150

2017 Ford F150

2021 Chevy Silverado

Polaris ATV

Two certified Fuji non-intrusive water flowmeters

2025 ADOPTED BUDGET

SW Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3	Actual 2023	Adopted Budget 2024	2025
Unencumbered Cash Balance	\$401,538	\$371,836	\$172,000
Receipts:			
Assessment Total	\$828,786	\$833,332	\$1,045,332
Interest	\$21,500	\$3,000	\$20,000
Transfers from other funds	\$86,220		
MOU Contract Income	\$13,656	\$13,000	\$13,000
Miscellaneous Income	\$20,650		
Total Receipts	\$970,812	\$849,332	\$1,078,332
Resources Available	\$1,372,350	\$1,221,168	\$1,250,332
Expenditures:			
Conservation Projects			
Special Projects	\$8,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Meter Inspection Program & Technology	\$0	\$55,000	\$55,000
Water Quality	\$9,581	\$5,000	\$5,000
Research	\$0	\$20,000	\$15,000
Vehicle Expense	\$7,109	\$10,000	\$10,000
Experts & Consultants	\$13,392	\$15,000	\$10,000
Total Conservations Programs	\$38,082	\$155,000	\$145,000
Salaries and Benefits			
Salaries	\$472,680	\$420,000	\$510,000
401K	\$25,814	\$30,000	\$35,000
Insurances	\$164,531	\$150,000	\$180,000
FICA	\$38,413	\$35,000	\$40,000
Payroll Contengencies	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total Salaries and Benefits	\$701,439	\$645,000	\$775,000
Office Expenses			
Grounds & Office Maint.	\$9,718	\$15,000	\$10,000
Telephone	\$8,054	\$8,000	\$10,000
Postage	\$3,760	\$4,000	\$4,000
Supplies	\$10,368	\$15,000	\$12,000
Computer Equipment & Maint.	\$38,212	\$35,000	\$40,000
Utilities	\$4,140	\$6,000	\$6,000
Insurance & Bonds	\$15,865	\$30,000	\$20,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,093		\$3,000
Document Archival	\$1,702	\$2,500	\$1,000
Total Office Expense	\$96,914	\$115,500	\$106,000
Education & Advocacy			
Director Travel & Education	\$27,067	\$35,000	\$30,000
Meeting Expense	\$18,729	\$20,000	\$25,000
Employee Travel & Education	\$39,953	\$40,000	\$35,000
Legal & Public Notices	\$3,683	\$5,000	\$10,000
Lobbyist	\$15,887	\$20,000	\$18,000
Kansas Water Congress	\$19,632	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total Education and Advocacy	\$124,951	\$140,000	\$138,000
Contractual Services			
Attorney	\$23,828	\$40,000	\$40,000
Audit	\$15,300	\$20,000	\$18,000
Total Contractual Services	\$39,128	\$60,000	\$58,000
Capital Outley			
Vehicle Acquisition	\$0	\$30,000	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Capital Outley	\$0	\$35,000	\$5,000
Contingencies	\$0	\$69,327	\$23,332
Total Expenditures	\$1,000,514	\$1,219,827	\$1,250,332
Unencumbered Cash Balance	\$371,836	\$1,341	\$0
*Land Assessment Charge \$0.05 Water Assessment Charge \$.022			

PRIORITY AREAS

The Board submitted the required priority area to the Chief Engineer and was approved. After review of the whole District, it was determined that the entire District be made a priority area. We have seen declines and diminished pumping rates to varying degree across the District. By designating the entire District we have given every member a better standing with most State and Federal cost share programs aimed to assist in the conservation of water. There were many discussions among the Board and with a great input from our members that drawing boundaries is not only difficult, but can cause stress in local areas. A common theme we constantly heard was the water issues are not just one person's or one area's problem, it is a shared resource. There was an overwhelming consensus everyone needs to be part of the solution and create more unity to move our conservation initiative forward.

This does not mean we are treating every area exactly the same, but allows for a plan to be flexible to the local area and take all factors into account, including water quality concerns.

ACTIVITIES

Public Outreach.

GMD3 hosted two sets of meetings in 2024. We started in May with a series of 6 meetings over two days, with 205 participants. The main purpose of these meetings was to further educate the public on the Q-Stable standard and to identify which areas of the district would be listed as priority areas in our report to the Chief Engineer. We elected to categorize every area within GMD3 as a priority area due to water table declines, poor water quality, and/or low pumping capacity. We also started the conversation on options to slow aquifer declines across the District. GMD3 held a second set of public meetings in November to gather input and ideas to move our Conservation Initiative forward. This entailed 4 meetings over 2 days. In order to move the meetings along and keep focused, we worked with Deborah Kohl, the Program Lead Coordinator and State Specialist for Community Vitality with K-State Extension. Between the four locations, we had 365 participants. Information was presented on what a conservation plan could entail and gathered valuable feedback for adopting a plan that works best for the District and advances our goals. These meetings were very important to gain support and perspective as to how the District can move forward. The majority of those in attendance strongly agree that changes need to be made and are very active in the process of ensuring local support and control.

At the end of 2024, District staff started a remodel of the GMD3 website. Emphasis on making it more informative to all the issues with the District such as: GMD3 Management Program, various forms our water users might need, notice of upcoming meetings, Arkansas River Compact and important contact information to other agencies. The most important update is the new Conservation Initiative tab which will be the main source of information on past and upcoming meetings along with the information presented to keep the District membership informed as the process moves forward.

The District continued to also work with schools, local organizations and events such as the Ark River Festival, to inform and educate the public of all ages as to SW Kansas main water supply and educate them in the need to preserve our water supply, with discussion pertaining to both water quantity AND quality.

Updated Hydrological Model.

In 2024, in collaboration with KGS, the updated GMD3 hydrological modeling was completed. Using the most up to date data, the updated model allows us to have a more complete understanding of the aquifer and incorporate the best plan moving forward. Part of that update process included an interactive map that the public can access to give general information on the areas aquifer conditions and water rights associated with the land. With this newest information, the board and staff have been able to run numerous models to show how possible programs in the future can benefit the aquifer in the District.

Water Quality

Water quality remains an important aspect of water management in the District. We are working under an NRCS National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) grant and collaborating with KDHE to put together a plan for implementation of practices that will improve water quality in the Arkansas River and underlying aquifers. We are using the GMD3 model and a new Upper Ark Water Quality model developed by the KGS to estimate impacts of various practices. Then we will apply for a grant for implementation funding in 2025 or 2026, depending on when the phase 1 plan is finalized.

I-CARE.

GMD3 started the I-CARE program three years ago with the assistance of a federal grant. After the grant had expired, the Board voted to continue the program as a way to keep producers informed on the aquifer conditions. The reports inform the water user to the area Q-Stable and what the long term goal of stability is and how it changes. The report also lets the user know how they compare with similar producers in their local area. The water user can adjust their own practices to match their farm's goals and offers assistance to programs if changes are needed.

The program also allowed the District to group areas with similar Q-Stable ratings. While our whole District is a priority area, we are striving to treat everyone as much the same as possible and set localized goals for future conservation.

WWCP

The Western Water Conservation Projects Fund did not have any new expenses in 2024. Our office has maintained the funds in a fiscally responsible manner. As the funds diminish, we will continue to work with the advisory committee and the Water Office to utilize them for the most efficient and responsible projects. The committee is dedicated to assist with efficient management of the District's main source of recharge and work that benefit the localized area along the Arkansas corridor.

Upper Ark Watershed Group.

With the assistance of a federal grant, GMD3 was able to establish the Upper Ark Watershed Group that brings local individuals together along the Arkansas River corridor that runs through the District. The group has been very active and gives them another avenue to voice concerns or needed projects along the Ark River. 2024 was the end of the grant, however GMD3 continues to support the group and move it forward with a strong foundation.

Meter Inspection/Flow testing/Field Services.

GMD3 was the first District to implement a plan to require flowmeters on all certified wells. The Board voted to require the flowmeters in 1991, implementing a plan that would have all the wells equipped on a rotational implementation over the next four years. In order to better manage our water supply, there has to be an accurate measurement of what is actually being pumped. This has been a very good tool for the water users to account for the water that is pumped. To assist our water users, GMD3 has a meter inspection program to ensure that the flowmeters are working properly and measuring accurately for the user. With the number of wells in our District, our goal is to visit a quarter of the wells each season. This is done during the pumping season in order to have the best option to perform a timed test on the flowmeter. In 2024 we were able to visit 2575 wells, of which 38 meters were found to have issues that needed to be corrected.

GMD3 also has certified staff capable of performing a non-intrusive flow test to compare the accuracy of the installed flowmeter to our certified flowmeter. These tests are performed when needed or upon request of the water user.

Some of our producers also enter into a monitoring agreement, through a change application process, in order for them to better match their land and water in a more efficient manner. We currently have annual monitoring agreements with the producers on 33 operations with another 3 pending approval.

Application Assistance/Review.

GMD3 has a long history of working with the public to inform and assist with changes to a water users water right. Water rights are a personal property right and have value to the owner. Changes can be made to the water right that could be a benefit to the user and their operation. When a change is needed, we are a source to help direct the owner to ensure it is best for their operation and follows local and state rules. At the same time our office strives to make sure there are no adverse effects to the applicant or the neighbors.

Staff also worked with the City of Moscow on a grant application un the Kansas Water Office Water Projects Fund. The application was to request assistance of drilling a new well and pipeline to mitigate declining well capacity from all their wells. The capacity of their current water system raised concern for fire protection coverage if a major event were to occur.

Along with that, we continue to have a proper working relationship with DWR in reviewing all change applications within the District. We strive to provide proper checks and balances to the work that DWR does and to build a solid foundation for policy for the betterment of both agencies and our membership.

National Participation

In 2024 our Board and staff continued to be active in numerous national organizations and meetings. One common issue across the country is water and ensuring a supply for the future. All areas are different, but by sharing information and programs from other areas, there is the ability to adapt it on a localized level. There is also the ability to gain partnerships for programs that can benefit multiple regions of the country and show a strong political support with federal agencies.

How Expenditures Conserve and Reduce Consumptive Use of Water

The majority of our expenditures are hard to tie to an individual point of view without knowing how all of our programs and activities are interactive. Our current staff along with 5 contract inspectors and one summer intern work together to make everything come together. We have for years started with the basic program of meter inspection in order to ensure we are checking the best data possible on the amount of water being pumped and the history of the rate for the wells also. This data can then be used for our updated hydrological model as well as assist with our Conservation Initiative and our I-CARE program. All of that is then rolled out to our public outreach in order for not only our Board, but every individual water user can make the best decisions moving forward. Combine that with our participation in national organizations allows us to connect with other districts that have some of the same issues in front of them and share knowledge both ways that could be fine tunes for each area. The GMD3 Board has made it a point to try our best to keep assessments down to keep the money in the water users accounts for them to be able to implement what is needed for their operation.

ACTION PLAN (2025)

The District will continue supporting our members with the existing programs offered. At the same time emphasis will be on finalizing our Conservation Initiative. There will be at least six more producer meetings as the focus is narrowed down and everyone has the opportunity to share any concerns or input. The Conservation Initiative will also be a prominent topic on the annual meeting agenda. The District Board has taken on the challenge of implementing a plan that can extend the life of the aquifer in our District while also making sure that it is done in such a way not to have an adverse effect for the area economy. Recent census data shows that SW Kansas is a very important part of the State economy. This is recognition that we are proud of and are striving to continue. We will continue to work on an economic update to determine the value of water and its effects on the local level with any type of conservation.

We continue working on finalizing the implementation of a joint RCPP program in coordination with KDA/DOC and the KWO. This program would allow easier access and assistance to our water users to find and enroll in a cost share program in order to facilitate water conservation.