

**Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 8, 2025**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President McCormick called to order the January 8, 2025, Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at 9:00 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

Zachary Gale, Hamilton County Representative

Andy Moser, Stevens County Representative

Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative

Fred Jones, Municipal Representative

Kent Dunn, Seward County Representative

Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative

**Directors Present by Phone or Zoom**

Reid Shrauner, Morton County Representative

**Directors Absent with Notice**

Garrett Love, Secretary, Gray County Representative

Clay Scott, Grant County Representative

Jacob Harshberger, Ford County Representative

Carl Clawson, Meade County Representative

Kyle Maddux, Kearny 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

Brownie Wilson, KGS

Kevin Salter, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS

Jon Heiman, Producer

Titas Jaeger, Producer

Susan Metzger, K-State

Prathap Parameswaran, K-State

Jonathan Aguilar, K-State

Hannah Ornatowski, Pollination

Mark Rude

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**Consent Agenda**

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

- Approve Agenda for January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Approve Minutes of Wednesday, December 11, 2024, regular monthly board meeting
- Approve General Financial Report for January 2025
- Approve Western Water Conservation Projects, Financial Report for January 2025

**Randy Hayzlett moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Andy Moser seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

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

Trevor Ahring reminded everyone of the Finney County Conservation District annual meeting, which will be held on January 21st at 5:30 p.m. at Finney County Fairgrounds.

Jason Norquest added that Merlin Hager passed away, and the GMD3 District sent flowers.

**President's Report**

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

Mike Meyer, static water level measurements are being wrapped up this month. DWR completed theirs. However, due to the weather, KGS is not done and will finish theirs later this month. Water Use Reports have been mailed out, and as a reminder, this is for the 2024 pumping only. There is still a paper fee of \$20.00.

**Other Agency Reports**

**KWO**

Keadron Pearson asked Mike Meyer to remind everyone that the Kansas Water Authority will be held on January 21 and 22 in Topeka, Kansas.

**K-State**

Jonathan Aguilar updated the board on Kansas State Research and Extension outreach ideas and collaboration with GMD3.

**Prathap Parameswaram: Lagoon Water Reuse Project**

Prathap Parameswaram with Kansas State University was VIA Zoom and talked to those in attendance about circular waste resource recovery and water reuse systems. There is a proposal opportunity with NSF (National Science Foundation) EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) for research on infrastructure improvement. The internal deadline is January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This reuse project involves processing livestock wastewater to create valuable commodities. The wastewater would be treated to provide safe drinking water and be used for crop production before being recycled to support livestock operations. The request before the Board today is to approve a letter of collaboration for participation in an advisory board. The group would provide feedback and identify opportunities for a proposed circular recovery and reuse platform. The advisory board will meet at least twice a year for four years. **Kent Dunn moved to support the group. Andy Moser seconded. Motion passed.**

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RCPP Program

There is no update on the RCPP; however, we have another meeting next week. There are still many questions.

Spacing Waiver, Water Right 11,617 D1, Jon Heiman present

Irsik & Doll Feed Services

- Need: Due to expanding a small feedlot in the area.
- The applicant is stacking the authority from water right 11,617 D1, going from two wells to one. .
- Nearby wells and water rights:
  - The proposed move to authority to the existing well will not meet the minimum spacing to the other wells. Not all wells are operated by the applicant and share overlapping places of use. There has been no response from neighboring notices on wells not owned by the applicant.
- Critical Wells Evaluation:
  - Analysis was completed on the proposed change at the maximum rate and quantity, revealing potential critical wells.

Discussion amongst the Directors, staff, and Jon Heiman continued. The producer clarified that they bought the well and water, moving 146 acre-feet, leaving a balance on the other existing well, which means asking them to maintain an interest or give it up. Zachary Gale reiterated that they (Irsik and Doll Feed Services) are trying to clean up the water right and remove the owner of this water right from Irsik and Doll's point of diversion.

Andrew Moser noted the recommendation of Policy and Legal alternative #2. Allow the applicant to move the allocation only up to the point where the minimum spacing for neighboring wells is still met.

**Kent Dunn moved to recommend Policy and Legal alternative #2. "By consensus, allow the applicant to move the allocation only up to the point where the minimum spacing to neighboring wells is still met."**  
**Andy Moser seconded.**

Andy Moser	yes
Bret Rooney	yes
Fred Jones	yes
Kent Dunn	yes
Reid Shrauner	yes
Chad McCormick	opposed
Mike O'Brate	opposed
Randy Hayzlett	opposed
Zachary Gale	opposed
Seth Nelson	opposed

**Five were in favor and five opposed. Tie vote.**

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**Mike O'Brate moved to recommend waiving the rule and approving the application. Zachary Gale seconded.**

Andy Moser	no
Bret Rooney	no
Fred Jones	no
Kent Dunn	no
Reid Shrauner	yes
Chad McCormick	yes
Mike O'Brate	yes
Randy Hayzlett	yes
Zachary Gale	yes
Seth Nelson	yes

**Six in favor, four opposed. Motion passed.**

**WCA Review, A+ Farms**

**Angell Family WCA**

Jason Norquest reviewed the proposed highlights of the WCA for Angell Family.

- Five irrigated water rights / Five wells in plan covering 1198 acres
- 2025-2034 (10 years)
- 16, 350-acre feet / ten years
  - 15% reduction based on historic pumping (2008-2017)
- All Water Rights are limited to maximum authorized diversion rates
- All Water Rights are limited to an annual authorized quantity
- Up to 105% of the total allowed with prior notification can be requested, not exceeding combined authorized annual quantities.

**Zachary Gale moved to recommend approval of the proposed WCA. Fred Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee Report**

The Executive Committee met briefly on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. They reviewed the January board meeting agenda, discussed the Executive Director search, and discussed the calendar of events.

**Policy and Legal**

Policy and Legal met on December 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. They discussed the Board review for Water Right 11,617 D1: minimum spacing to neighboring wells and the WCA Proposal for A+ Farms. Updates are not complete yet, but the committee discussed the model runs. At the annual meeting, we will investigate breakout sessions to focus on goals in the area.

President McCormick also reminded everyone that Board of Director nomination forms are due by February 10<sup>th</sup>. Finney County, Gray County, Ford County, Kearny County, and Surface Water Representatives are up for nominations at the annual meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Cimarron, KS.

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**Old Business**

There was no Old Business to take off the table.

**New Business**

There was no New Business to bring to the table.

**Interim Executive Director Report**

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

Jason Norquest reminded everyone of the Topeka Legislative Retreat that will be held in Topeka, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Travel Request, GMDA, February 25-27, Temecula, California**

Travel was requested for GMD3 staff and board members to attend the GMDA 2025 winter conference in Temecula, California, February 25-27. **Andy Moser moved to approve travel for Board members and GMD3 staff to attend the 2025 GMDA Winter Conference. Bret Rooney seconded. The motion carried.**

Jason Norquest announced that anyone who wants to attend the GMDA conference should let him know as soon as possible. The registration deadline is January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Western Water Conservation Projects**

**Finney County Water Users Headgate Project Overage**

Finney County Water Users Headgate Project overage application was approved by Connie Owen, Director of the Kansas Water Office. The GMD3 office cut and mailed the check to Kaw Valley Engineer the following week.

Fourth Quarter reports for 2024 were submitted, and the office is currently working on the 2024 annual report.

**Board Member Report**

President McCormick asked about the general fund CD that was cashed in at the end of the year. Patty Stapleton noted that we needed funds to pay bills for the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 and didn't have sufficient funds in the bank account.

**Strategic Planning Discussion**

Jason discussed the feedback the staff received from the producer meetings. Some producers stress caution with the change, while others advocate for an immediate transition to Q-Stable in certain areas. *The board needs to address this confusion, narrow our focus, clearly define our goals, and consider the economic impacts on individuals and the community.* A conversation was held on how aggressive the district wants to be and whether we want a break-in period. Also, the "formula" complicity may need to be simplified. Trevor reviewed additional numbers of the region's goal of Q-Stable. Our members would like to see and understand physical, hard numbers. The board's consensus was that a Five-Year plan would be the best. Discussion continued as the directors ate their lunch. A quorum was lost shortly afterward.

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Items to accomplish:

- ✓ Five-year plan: 1-8-2025
- Flexibility:
- What is Q-Stable?
- % over max
- Distance between furthest wells.
- Wet/allotted

Respectfully Submitted,



Garrett Love  
GMD3 Board Secretary