



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1

HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNTY LEMA MEETINGS—AUGUST 2013

(Local Enhanced Management Areas)

Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 has held their third set of County LEMA meetings for the five counties within the District. The goal is to come up with a plan of action to help conserve & prolong the Ogallala Aquifer for future generations. Each County meeting had similar formats. District Manager Jan King gave a review of previous information followed by the GMD Board's perspective. Brownie Wilson from the KS Geological Survey gave a review of the High Plains Aquifer and the Development of the District's Groundwater Model. Other agencies represented included the KS Division of Water Resources and the KS Water Office. Administrative Assistant Ashley Vondracek took notes of the discussions in Lane, Wichita, and Scott Counties. Arla Peter took notes during the Greeley/Wallace Meeting. Here are some of the comments & highlights from these meetings. **(There is a decision synopsis for your reference, on the back of this page.)**

Wichita County Aug. 6, 2013 — There were 34 people in the audience. Discussion items and comments included: (1) consider raising the maximum inches per acre cap from 13" to 14.4" and the minimum cap from 8" to 10" (2) a straight 20% is not enough savings (3) question was asked as to how many gallons of water it took to produce a bushel of corn. It was decided that it took approximately 2000 gallons of irrigation water. (4) it looks as though this District is conserving but the District to the south is not (5) how many wells are in EQIP? It is not known since the information has not been released by the NRCS. The majority agreed that when voting on a final District wide LEMA, it should be one person one vote tied to a water right, the person should have to be present to vote, the person can attend any one of the 5 County meetings to vote and the GMD Act could be followed. **The next Wichita County meeting will be held on Nov. 4, 2013 at 9 a.m. CST.**

Lane County Aug. 5, 2013 — There were 16 people in the audience. Lane County agreed with the other Counties in the District to recommend a 6 year LEMA instead of a 5 year LEMA. They also decided to use 2008—2012 as the years for comparison instead of 2003—2012, since there was only a 1% difference in average amounts. Discussion items and comments included: (1) having rewards for different types of irrigation methods since some types such as subsurface drip seems to conserve more water than other types such as flood irrigation (2) not penalize people who are already conserving (3) explain the plan that Wichita County has been discussing (has a 14" maximum cap and 8" bottom cap.) Lane County wants to allow water right owners to vote by a show of hands and by whoever is in attendance when the final District wide LEMA vote takes place. **The next Lane County Meeting will be held on Nov. 6, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. CST.**

Scott County August 7, 2013 — There were 31 people in the audience. It was asked if Brownie Wilson's slide presentation would be online. It can be seen on the front page of the District website: www.gmd1.org. Also asked was when the GMD1 Groundwater Model would be finished. Mr. Wilson said that it would be usable by the later part of 2014 and finalized in 2015. Discussion items and comments included: (1) will the RMA be able to implement a program for a District wide LEMA? (RMA has told the Kansas Water Office Staff that they will write special written agreements for individuals if they do not have a program in place by the time a LEMA is established.) (2) how will a LEMA be implemented on multiple wells? (irrigation units will need to be defined) (3) has anyone pointed out to the Counties that a LEMA will affect the appraisal of the ground (The comment was made that if we run out of water it will also have an impact & that if we stabilize water usage it will help land values in the long run). The majority agreed that people who can vote on a final LEMA should be the person who signs the Water Use Report, each Water Right would allow one vote, & each Water Right Owner could vote once. **The next Scott County Meeting will be held on Nov. 7, 2013 at 9 a.m. CST.**

Greeley County and Wallace County August 8, 2013 in Tribune — There were 43 people in the audience. Discussion items and comments included: (1) people did not mind a reduction as long as Seaboard also had to reduce (2) the Weskan area has the biggest water and the fastest decline (3) the two Counties still want to meet together (4) whether or not absentee owners should be allowed to sign a proxy for voting (5) projections for groundwater if nothing is done (no LEMA) and results of economic impacts. The majority agreed that people who can vote on a final LEMA should be the person who signs the Water Use Report, each Water Right would allow one vote, and each Water Right Owner could vote once. **The next meeting is planned to take place in Sharon Springs on Nov. 8, 2013 at 9 a.m. MST.**

Voting Procedure for a District Wide LEMA Plan Each County tally was added together to find the two most popular voting methods for a final LEMA Plan. The top voting method was: Each Water Right Owner would be able to Vote Once during one of the County Meetings held for that purpose. The 2nd top voting method was: To Allow the Person who Signs the Water Use Report to vote.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1, 2013: Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) deadline for 2013. If filed after October 1, 2013, the MYFA will begin the following year (2014). Contact the District Office for more information: (620) 872-5563.

October 24—25, 2013: Governor's Annual Conference on the "Future of Water in Kansas" will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center in Manhattan, KS. For more details see the Kansas Water Office website: <http://www.kwo.org>

November 19, 2013: The Revised 2014 GMD #1 Budget Hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. (CST) in the District Office. The new assessment rate is \$0.50 per verified acre foot of water.

Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

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SYNOPSIS FROM COUNTY LEMA MEETINGS—August 2013

	WICHITA COUNTY	LANE COUNTY	SCOTT COUNTY	WALLACE CO/GREELEY CO
ATTENDANCE	34	16	31	43
VOTING FOR AUG. MEETING	SHOW OF HANDS	SHOW OF HANDS	SHOW OF HANDS	SHOW OF HANDS
LEMA SIZE	DISTRICT WIDE	DISTRICT WIDE	DISTRICT WIDE	DISTRICT WIDE
CONSERVATION FACTOR	20 % Reconsider Maximum and Minimum Cap Inches per acre levels	20 %	20 %	20 %
YEARS FOR LEMA	6 YRS AND REVIEW IN COUPLE YRS	6 YEARS	6 YEARS	6 YRS AND REVIEW DURING LEMA
YEARS FOR COMPARISON	LAST 5 YEARS 2008 — 2012	LAST 5 YEARS 2008 — 2012	LAST 5 YEARS 2008 — 2012	LAST 5 YEARS 2008 — 2012
TRANSFER OF WATER	ADHERE TO CURRENT RULES & DEFINED IRRIGATION UNITS	ADHERE TO CURRENT RULES	DEFINED IRRIGATION UNITS	DEFINED IRRIGATION UNITS
DATE FOR NEXT MEETING	Monday, Nov. 4, 2013 9 A.M. CST LEOTTI	Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013 9 A.M. CST DIGHTON	Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013 9 A.M. CST SCOTT CITY	Friday, Nov. 8, 2013 9 A.M. MST SHARON SPRINGS
VOTING PROCEDURE FOR FINAL LEMA PLAN (most popular each county)	ONE PERSON ONE VOTE TIED TO A WATER RIGHT, MUST BE PRESENT, FOLLOW GMD ACT	MUST BE PRESENT, SHOW OF HANDS	PERSON WHO SIGNS WATER USE REPORT, EACH WATER RIGHT ALLOWS ONE VOTE, EACH WATER RIGHT OWNER CAN VOTE ONCE	PERSON WHO SIGNS WATER USE REPORT, EACH WATER RIGHT ALLOWS ONE VOTE, EACH WATER RIGHT OWNER CAN VOTE ONCE

POPULAR CHOICES AS TO WHO GETS TO VOTE FOR A DISTRICT WIDE LEMA PLAN

***THE MOST POPULAR VOTING METHOD IS TO ALLOW EACH WATER RIGHT OWNER ONE VOTE DURING ONE OF THE COUNTY MEETINGS HELD FOR THAT PURPOSE**

***THE 2ND MOST POPULAR VOTING METHOD IS TO ALLOW PEOPLE WHO SIGN THE WATER USE REPORTS TO VOTE ONCE (if they can't vote as an owner)**