



THE WATERLINE

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VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

<http://www.gmd1.org>

FEBRUARY 2012

39TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Western Kansas Groundwater Management District's 39th Annual Meeting will be held March 20, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. (CST) at Sharon Springs, KS in the basement of the Mt. Sunflower Bed & Breakfast located at 229 N. Gardner Street. Included in the Program will be updates on District activities, presentation of the 2013 proposed budget and the election of the Wichita County Board Member and the Lane County Board Member. Letters of intent to run for these positions should be submitted to the office by February 29, 2012. Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office, will be the Featured Speaker. He will be giving updates on new legislation as well as Ogallala Aquifer initiatives. Brownie Wilson from the Kansas Geological Survey will also be in attendance to discuss the recent water level measurements.

IMPORTANT DATES

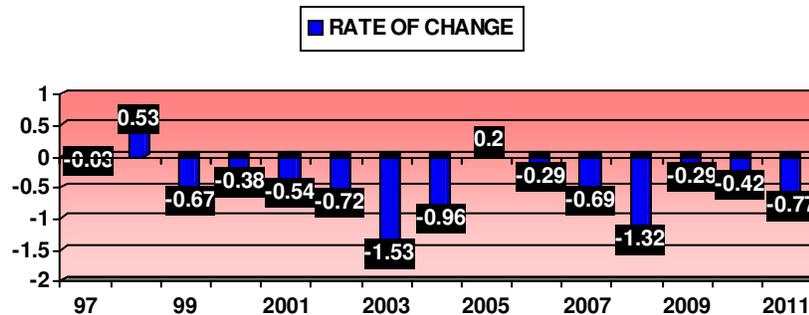
- March 8, 2012 Special Board Meeting at District Office 9:00 a.m. CST
- March 20, 2012 GMD#1 Annual Meeting & March Board Meeting in Sharon Springs, KS, 229 N. Gardner Street
- March 29, 2012 Weather Modification Annual Meeting Lakin, KS
- March 1, 2012 Water Use Reports are due
- March 1, 2012 "Just Add Water" Meeting in Hays, KS
- April 1, 2012 Verified Claims due

WATER USE REPORTS

The 2011 Annual Water Use Reports are due March 1, 2012 to the KS Division of Water Resources (DWR). Failure to do so can be subject to penalties and fines. You must file the report(s) even if you did not exercise (pump) your water right during 2011. Make sure you fill out your report(s) completely including beginning and ending meter readings. If your water right is enrolled in a federal or state conservation program you still need to file a report. This applies to flow meters and hour meters. These forms were sent out to water right holders in early January this year. Your Water Use Report requires beginning and ending meter readings. Those of you with hour meters must also report beginning and ending hour meter readings. If you have any questions on filling out your water use report or justifiable use or nonuse, please contact our office: (620) 872-5563.

WATER LEVELS

Each year the KS Geological Survey and the KS Division of Water Resources measure water levels in approximately 1,400 water wells in 47 western and central Kansas counties. Decline for GMD#1 has been 7.88 ft. from 1997 to 2011 which averages .525 ft. per year.



(Recorded in tenths of a foot.)

2012 LEGISLATION IN REVIEW



There are several water bills being discussed by Kansas Legislators this session:

House Bill 2451 known as the “Use it or Lose it” bill would amend a section of law dealing with the abandonment of water rights by deleting a requirement that groundwater rights in areas declared closed to further appropriation would no longer be required to have a means of diversion available "to put water to beneficial use within a reasonable time" in order to avoid the abandonment process. Since our District is closed to new appropriation, this would mean that groundwater rights in our District would have due and sufficient cause for nonuse and therefore would not be subject to abandonment.

House Bill 2517 would make permanent the Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WaterTap) which was designed to permanently retire all or portions of irrigation water rights. The pilot program is set to expire on June 30, 2012.

House Bill 2516 would amend the statutes relating to the establishment of water banking, which is an optional program to allow irrigators an opportunity to bank water for future use. Specifically, the bill would delete language which limited the number of banks. In addition, the bill would clarify that when a water bank is subject to review after its initial charter, there is a determination made by a review team as to whether the bank's initial charter would lapse or whether the water bank would be chartered.

Senate Bill 310 would establish a process by which a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) could be established within a Groundwater Management District (GMD). Once a LEMA is accepted by the Chief Engineer an "order of designation" would be established which would define the boundaries of the LEMA and include the corrective control provisions as set forth in the local enhanced management plan. Corrective control provisions could include closing the LEMA to any further appropriation of groundwater, determining the permissible amount of groundwater to be withdrawn within the LEMA, with the permissible withdrawal amount to be apportioned by the Chief Engineer among groundwater right holders in accordance with priority dates, reducing the permissible withdrawal of groundwater by any one or more appropriators within the LEMA, requiring and specifying a system of rotation of groundwater use in the LEMA or any other provisions needed to protect the public interest.

Senate Bill 272 would amend the existing law in the Kansas Water Appropriations Act that authorizes and governs multi-year flex accounts. Current law provides for multi-year flex accounts that allow water right holders to exchange annual pumping maximums for a five-year pumping maximum, enabling flexibility in year-to-year usage. SB 272 would also eliminate the current requirement that users must reduce their 5 year quantity by 10% for water conservation.

To follow these or other bills go to: <http://www.kslegislature.org>.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Just a reminder, if you are currently using an hour meter and receive approval to change the place of use, the point of diversion, or the use made of water (or any combination of these) you will be required to install a flowmeter. If you make modifications to your diversion works or delivery system, you may also be required to install a flowmeter. There are a few exceptions to these rules. Therefore, if you make any changes, please call our office to see if you can continue to use an hour meter. Flowmeters like hour meters have specific installation guidelines. There are several types to choose from. Give us a call to obtain a listing of approved meters. If your flowmeters or hour meters have to be repaired or replaced, you must fill out a "Repair / Replacement Form" within 30 days.

A copy of the “Repair / Replacement Form” can be found on our website: <http://www.gmd1.org>



**DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 20, 2012 SHARON SPRINGS, KS**

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE: <http://www.gmd1.org>