



THE WATERLINE

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APRIL 2007

ANNUAL MEETING

The 34th Annual Meeting of WKGMD#1 was held March 20th 2007 at the Community Activity Building in Sharon Springs Kansas. The agenda and program included: a Summary of District Activities, Presentation of the Treasurers Report and Proposed 2008 Budget, as well as an update on the Western Kansas Weather Modification Program and a hydrological update of the district as it relates to retired and dismissed water rights. The election of Board members was also held with Bob Hoeme, Jr. of Scott Co. and Arla M. Peter of Wallace Co. reelected for 3 year terms. There were 23 persons in attendance representing many areas and interests of the District.



GMD1 Executive Director Dave Brenn (right side of picture) discussing items of interest with attendees.

GMD1 Pres. Greg Graff in background on left.

Annual Meeting audience participants before the meeting started.



AT A GLANCE

- Starting on May 2, 2007, listen to Meteorologist Walt Geiger's radio program during the KBUF Farm Show. Tune to 1030 on your AM dial every Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. CST.
- For Detailed information on the District, visit our web site: <http://www.gmd1.org>

Standing (left to right) are Board Members Danny Welsh, Alan James and Greg Graff. Board Member Arla Peter is seated in the right foreground.



NRCS QUICK RESPONSE AREA PROGRAM (QRA)

This program is designed to enhance the regular EQIP program for temporary retirement of water rights and irrigated land in targeted areas of the District. The target areas for 2006 and 2007 in GMD#1 are 2 mile radiuses around public water supply sources. The program is based on criteria to maximize actual retirement of water and reduction in consumptive use. In 2006 a total of 6 contracts were approved in the district with a total of \$498,240 in contract payments. 7 contracts were approved for 2007 with \$528,840 total. Review of the program to date indicates that a significant number of the approved contracts, included enrollment in the 10 year WRCP. This has resulted in a substantial amount of actual water retired over time and reduction in consumptive use on most contracts. The 2008 program is being discussed and deliberated on possible changes. The GMD#1 Board of Directors will discuss the current target areas at its regular board meeting on May 15, 2007. If you have comments and or questions on the target areas of the program contact the District office. Please note that the administrative agency in charge of the QRA program is the NRCS. Questions related to program timelines and applications should be directed to your local NRCS office.

WATER RIGHT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WTAP)



The authorizing legislation for WTAP was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2006. WTAP is a voluntary, incentive based water management tool and is designed to allow the State of Kansas (SCC) to contract with private owners for permanent retirement of water rights while allowing dryland farming. WTAP is limited to an annual budget not to exceed 1.5 million and is authorized for a five year pilot period. Its purpose is to decrease the historic consumptive water use in priority areas as designated in critical need of aquifer restoration and /or stream recovery. This program while initially identified to the Rattlesnake and Prairie Dog Basins, also includes Groundwater Management Districts. Western Kansas Groundwater District #1 as well as GMDS 3, 4 and 5, through the process of The Kansas Water Congress, were instrumental in establishing this program. Two public hearings for rules and regulations for the WTAP have been scheduled. They are:

May 1, 2007, 7:00 P.M. Norton Public Library, Norton Kansas.

May 2, 2007, 7:00 P.M. Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library, St. John, Kansas.

The proposed rules and regulations for WTAP are posted at www.scc.ks.gov.

IRRIGATION WELL FLOW RATE TESTING

Earlier this month, letters were sent out to those owners of wells that are up for flow testing this year and according to our records have hour meter installations. These letters serve as notice of the need to flow test the well(s) in 2007 based on K.A.R. 5-21-6 and the policy that hour metered wells must be flow tested during one of the previous five pumping seasons. If our records are incorrect or you have converted to a flow meter or made other changes in your diversion works, please notify the District office. Proper Flow Meter installation is important for accurate water use reporting. Remember, all replacement or new installation flow meters must be installed according to state specifications. Contact the District office about proper installation methods and criteria for meter installations.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On my Water Use Report, should I report that I irrigated all of my authorized acres even though I only irrigated some of them? **NO. Your Water Use Report should be accurate. Report only the acres that you actually irrigated during the year being reported.**

Do I need to let the Division of Water Resources know when there has been an ownership change if I purchase some land that has a water right on it? **YES. You must notify the Division of Water Resources of the ownership change by sending their office a copy of a deed or other type of legal document that shows the change from the previous owner to you. Also, specify the water right number on the document that it pertains to.**

Could I lose my water right if I don't exercise it at least once every 3 years? **NO. The law has been changed so that abandonment of a water right is now considered only after 5 years of non-use and then only if there is no sufficient cause for the non-use. If you need assistance with any of these questions, you are welcome to contact the GMD#1 Office.**



WESTERN KS GMD1

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[34th Annual Meeting Highlights Inside](#)



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