



# THE WATERLINE

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Vice President

Arla Peter, Greeley County

Secretary / Treasurer

Robert Hoeme, Jr., Scott County

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Danny Welsh, Wallace County

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The 35th Annual Meeting of WKGMD#1 was held March 18th, 2008 at the 4-H Building in Dighton, KS. The Agenda included: a Summary of the District's Activities, Presentation of the Treasurer's Report and Proposed 2009 Budget as well as a power point presentation on the State of the District. This included data on active, inactive, dismissed and Water Rights enrolled in conservation programs and the effect they have on the rate of decline of the aquifer. Mr. David Barfield, Chief Engineer KDWR, (pictured below) was on hand to present a program and



overview of the Division's role in working with the GMD as it addresses issues. Danny Welsh of Wallace Co. was elected to the Board of Directors for a three year term. At the regular scheduled meeting of the Board, the following officers were elected; Greg Graff, President, Arla Peter, Vice President, and Bob Hoeme, Treasurer.

## AT A GLANCE

- Don't miss meteorologist Walt Geiger's radio program on Weather Modification Tuesdays & Thursdays at 12:50 -1:00 p.m. on KBUF 1030 AM Radio Station
- Groundwater Management Districts Association Summer Conference will be held in El Paso, TX June 11-13, 2008. For more information contact Jim Conkwright (806) 762-0181
- For detailed info on the District - visit our web site: <http://www.gmd1.org>

## IRRIGATION WELL FLOW RATE TESTING

Earlier this year, letters were sent out to those owners of wells that are up for flow testing and according to our records have **hour** meter installations. These letters serve notice of the need to flow test the well(s) in 2008 based on K.A.R. 5-21-6 and the policy that the 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 to your diversion works, please notify the District office. It is the Water Right owner's responsibility to get this flow testing completed either through our office or by a certified well tester.

**For scheduling of flow testing, contact the District office at 620-872-5563.**

Pat Ryan, after several years working for the District as our part time technician, has decided to go into the custom harvesting business. We both thank and appreciate



Pat Ryan

the work Pat contributed to the District and wish him well. Alan Stewart has been hired by the District to fill the part time technician position. He has been training and will be focusing on flow rate testing in the District. Alan is a long time resident of the area and we look forward to working with him.



Alan Stewart

## NRCS QUICK RESPONSE AREA PROGRAM (QRA)



This program was designed to enhance the regular EQIP program for temporary retirement of water rights and irrigated land in targeted areas of the District. However, it appears questionable at this time as to whether or not the program will have funding for 2009. This is dependant on the status and the detail of the Farm Bill. The target areas for 2009 in GMD#1, are 2 mile radiuses around public water supply sources. This program had very good participation in 2006 and 2007 and is based on criteria to maximize actual retirement of water and reduction in consumptive use. Please note that the administrative agency in charge of the QRA program is the NRCS. Questions related to the program and funding timelines should be directed to your local NRCS office, if and when the program is announced.

### DISMISSED WATER RIGHTS

First of all, we would like to introduce our summer intern Matt Masters to the District (pictured at right). Matt hails from Wisconsin and is a recent graduate from University of Wisconsin. He comes from an agriculture background and is not new to our area, as he has worked with irrigated agriculture in the area in recent years. We welcome Matt and look forward to his contribution and expertise to the District this summer. As part of the GMD's summer intern program, we will be making well site visits to collect information on location and condition of wells associated with Dismissed and Abandoned Water Rights within the District. This is being done to update our information as well as to get a clearer handle on wells that may need to be plugged for safety and/or concerns of potential direct contamination to the aquifer. This information will be used to help us explore possible assistance programs for well plugging.



### 2008 MONITORING WELL INFORMATION

The January, 2008 water level measurements for Kansas have been completed and summarized and the results vary greatly this year. In western Kansas, where water is pumped primarily from the Ogallala Aquifer, declines were greatest in the southwest where levels dropped an average of 1.65 feet between 2007 and 2008. During the same time period, water levels in west-central Kansas ( GMD#1) dropped an average of 1.1 feet. In the northwest corner of the state from Cheyenne to Graham counties, they dropped 0.91 feet. The year before (2006-2007) average declines were 2.45 feet in the southwest, 0.73 feet in west-central and 0.27 in the northwest. It is important to note that many of the 2007 measurements for GMD#1 were actually taken in late March due to snow and ice. This allowed the water table to recover somewhat more than usual in those wells, therefore making the 2008 levels look a bit more severe. In south-central Kansas, water levels in the Great Bend Prairie Aquifer rose 3.1 feet. In the Equus Beds Aquifer north of Wichita, water levels rose 2.04 feet. In comparison, between (2006-2007) levels dropped 1.19 feet and 2.39 feet respectively. The great variability is due mainly by precipitation differences. Precipitation in south-central Kansas was 150-200 percent above normal in 2007, while most of western Kansas areas had moderate drought to abnormally dry conditions.



**WESTERN KS GMD1**

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