



THE WATERLINE

Executive Director

Dave Brenn
wkgmd1@wbsnet.org

Administrative Assistant

Janet L. King
jking@wbsnet.org

Technician

Pat Ryan
wkgmd1@wbsnet.org

Chief Pilot

Kyle Spencer
hangar@wbsnet.org

Meteorologist

Walt Geiger
hailman@pld.com

Board President

Greg Graff, Wichita County

Vice President

Arla Peter, Greeley County

Secretary / Treasurer

Robert Hoeme, Jr., Scott County

Member

Alan James, Lane County

Member

Danny Welsh, Wallace County

District Information:

Address:

906 W. 5th, P.O. Box 604
Scott City, KS 67871

Web site:

<http://www.gmd1.org>

Telephone:

(620) 872-5563

Fax:

(620) 872-7315

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ANNUAL MEETING IN LEOTI

The 36th Western KS Groundwater Management District No. 1 Annual Meeting will be held in Leoti, KS on March 17, 2009 at the Fairgrounds in the 4H Building, beginning at 1:30 p.m. CST. This year's agenda will include presentation of the Treasurer's Report, presentation of the proposed 2010 Budget as well as updates on the District's programs, proposed legislation and rules/regs that could effect water rights. In addition, there will be an election of board members from Lane and Wichita Counties. The current Board Members for those counties are Alan James/Lane County & Greg Graff/Wichita County. For more information, contact the District Office at 620-872-5563.

AT A GLANCE

- Note that Verified Claims are due in the District Office by April 1, 2009
- Central Plains Irrigation Conference Feb. 24 & 25, 2009 in Colby, Kansas. Contact: Donna Lamm 785-462-7574 donnalamm@yahoo.com
- For detailed info on the District - visit our web site: <http://www.gmd1.org>

2008 WATER USE REPORTS DUE MARCH 1, 2009

The 2008 Annual Water Use Reports that were sent out in early January are due into the KS Division of Water Resources on or before March 1, 2009. Failure to do so can be subject to penalties and fines. You must file the report even if you did not exercise (pump) your water right during 2008. If your water right is officially enrolled in a federal or state conservation program, you **still** need to file a report. If you have questions on filling out your water use report, contact our office. Administrative Assistant Jan King is seen here assisting Earl Smith with his water use report.



NRCS QUICK RESPONSE AREA PROGRAM (QRA) AND REGULAR EQIP

The sign up cutoff date for the QRA program and regular EQIP have been extended to April 10, 2009. The payment rates in 2009 were increased and are set at \$90.00 per acre for regular EQIP and \$150.00 per acre for applications approved in the Quick Response Areas of GMD #1. These incentive programs allow for the voluntary set aside of water rights and irrigated acres for a period of 4 - 10 years. The Quick Response Areas (QRAs) in 2009 for GMD#1 are designated as 2 mile radiuses around public water supplies. Therefore, holders of water rights in good standing within the 2 mile radius are eligible to apply. Questions on program details and applications should be directed to your local NRCS office. These programs have been a successful way to conserve water, protect your water right, and dryland farm the enrolled acreage.

COMPLIANCE ISSUES ON FLOWMETER AND HOUR METERED WELLS



In Groundwater Management District #1 all wells, other than domestic, are required to have a properly installed and operational water measuring device. This is a matter of both the District and State regulations. In GMD#1 this applies to flowmetered wells and wells that have been previously approved for hour meters. It is the responsibility of every water right holder and well owner to make sure that their metering device is installed, accessible, and operating correctly. Failure to do so is subject to non-compliance and possible other penalties. The Kansas Division of Water Resources is doing more random checking of wells and their metering. Take the time to inspect and if needed repair or replace non-functional metering devices prior to the irrigation season. If you have questions or if repair or replacement of the meter is required, **be sure to contact our office. You can also go to our website at <http://www.gmd1.org>** to get information on metering and meter reporting forms.

TRACKING LEGISLATION ON WATER ISSUES

Even though the 2009 Legislature is saddled with very significant State Budget woes, there still are a number of water related legislative bills already introduced or in the process of being written. Of particular interest is House Bill 2065. This is a bill concerning IGUCA or Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas and in part relates to the role of the Chief Engineer and the GMD's in initiating an IGUCA process. Also Senate Bill 65 has been introduced and relates to the use of Eminent Domain in regards to Water Rights. If you are interested in tracking information on water related legislation in the 2009 session you can contact the District office or go to www.kwo.org and click on KWO Legislative Update. This site is regularly updated and provides history, detail and current status of legislation.

KANSAS WATER CONGRESS HAS WINTER MEETING



KWC Attendees

The Kansas Water Congress (KWC) Annual Winter Meeting was held on January 12, 2009 in Topeka, KS. There were presentations and significant discussions by membership and stakeholders in regards to a number of issues and topics. These included IGUCAs, Impairment, and Eminent Domain. Updates were presented on the State's CREP and WTAP programs as well as the use of damage funds received from the KS. vs CO. and KS vs Neb. Settlements. A number of area and Statewide Legislators attended and participated.



Dave Brenn KWC President

FLOWTESTING HOUR METERED WELLS

If you were scheduled to flow test your hour metered well(s) in 2008 but were unable to get this done, or if it has been more than 5 years since your last flow test on your hour metered well(s) and you plan to operate the well(s) in 2009, contact the District office in order to get this accomplished during 2009. You can also get this done by a **certified** flow rate tester. Appropriate documentation is required. Forms are available from the District office and once completed, should be returned to the District office. The well(s) should be tested after they have run at least a few days in order to get a representative test. If you have recently installed a flow meter or made changes to your diversion works, notify the District office.

WESTERN KS GMD1



P.O. BOX 604

SCOTT CITY, KS 67871