



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

June 21st, 2024

8 a.m. CST

The meeting will be made available in person at 906 W. 5th St. Scott City, KS or by posted zoom meeting link.

I. Call Meeting to Order		Action
a. Review & Approve Agenda	Pg. 1	Action
b. Review & Approve Minutes of the May 15 th Board Meeting	Pg. 2-4	Action
c. Review & Approve May 2024 Financials	Pg. 5-13	Action
d. Cost Share Reconciliation	Pg. 14	Action
e. 2023 Audit Report – Mathew Medill		
f. Insurance Update – David Post		
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: Board Calendar Review & General Updates -Building Maintenance -NRCS/DOC/KWO Meeting Recap & Newsletter -AEM Mapping -Governor’s Strategic Planning Meetings Recap (<i>Colby & Dodge</i>)	Pg. 15 Pg. 16	Action
III. Old Business		
a. GRASP/PLJV Update & RCPP Grant Progress/TSP Certification		
IV. New Business		
a. FCL Appeal Group 1179		
b. Wichita LEMA Renewal Discussion -LEMA Renewal Summary		
c. House Bill 2634 – Amendment to FCL		
d. HB 2279 – Report to the Legislature July 1 st		Action
e. NextEra Energy Update		
f. Employee Review – Executive Session		
V. Legislative Update – Vijay Ramasamy (zoom in at 9:00am)		
VI. K-State Update		
VII. DWR Report – Mike Meyer		
VIII. KWO Report – Keadron Pearson		
IX. Public Comment		
X. Meeting Adjourn		Action

Mark Callender Pres
6/21/24



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

MAY 15, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Callender – Lane County – President
Travis Weaver* – Greeley County – Vice President
Steve Compton – Scott County – Treasurer
Brian Bauck* – Wichita County – Member
Ray Smith* – Wallace County – Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Katie Durham – Manager
Toni Palen – Office Administrator

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT

Tom Adrian *	Tom Adrian Law Firm
Mike Meyer *	DWR
Earl Lewis *	Chief Engineer
Lane Letourneau*	Water Appropriation Manager
Stephanie Kramer	Chief Counsel for KDA
Eresay Alcantar Velasquez*	DWR
David Barfield*	KWR Consulting
Keadron Pearson *	KWO
Lindsay Douglas *	Burns & McDonnell
Parker Christian	UpTerra
Greg Graff*	
Don Smith	

- I. **CALLED MEETING TO ORDER** – The Board President, Mark Callender called the May 15, 2024, Board of Directors meeting to order at 8 a.m. at the District Office located at 906 E 5th St, Scott City, Kansas.
 - ✓ Noted Changes to May 15, 2024, Agenda – No noted changes.
 - ✓ Noted Changes to the April 17, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes – No noted changes.
 - a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Steve Compton made a motion to approve the May 15th Agenda. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b) **Review & Approve April 17, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes** – Steve Compton made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from April 17, 2024. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - c) **Review & Approve April 2024 Financials** – Katie Durham stated that she has great appreciation for the Auditors, Rachael Thooft, and Mathew Madill with Madill & Thooft CPA as they did a very thorough job on our 2023 audit. There were concerns that Madill & Thooft CPA discovered in the Previous year's audits completed by Lewis, Hooper & Dick that requires them to contact Lewis, Hooper and Dick which could result in a bill from them to the District in their response to Madill & Thooft CPA. Steve Compton made a motion to approve the April 2024 financials. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - **Re-adopt January – March 2024 General Fund Budget** – Ray Smith questioned the total amounts on the General Fund Budget Sheet for March 2024 at the April Board Meeting. Toni Palen researched the amounts and found that the excel formula was not only incorrect for March but also for January and February. She has corrected the formulas and reviewed the amendments with the Board. Ray Smith made a motion to approve the amended January, February, and March's General Fund Budget Sheets. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- II. **CORRESPONDENCES:**
 - a. **STAFF REPORT: Board Callendar Review & Exp. Farm discussion** – The Board reviewed the Board Callendar prepared by Katie. Katie expanded on the details of the Agenda for the WISE tour in the GMD1 area that is scheduled for May 29th.
 - **Recommendation Letters** – Katie referred the Board to the recommendation letters she has written in support of the USDA NIFA Sustainable Agricultural Solutions Grant and on the proposed changes to K.A.R. 5-5-17.

- **Ark River Water Festival** – Katie Durham reported on the Ark River Water Festival where the District had provided educational presentations on hydrology to 5th and 6th grade students in Garden City.
- **Educational Videos & KACD project** – Katie Durham reported on the project that Kansas Association of Conservation Districts was working on, discussing water resources and conservation in GMD1.
- **2023 Audit Progress** – Katie Durham informed the Board that Mathew Medill from Medill & Thoof CPA will be presenting their annual audit report at the June Board meeting.
- **NRCS/DOC/KWO Meeting Recap** – Katie stated that monthly meetings with local representatives from NRCS, DOC, PLJV and KWO have begun, and have been very productive.
- **Email Newsletter & yearly Recap Mailer/Website Updates** – Katie Durham provided information on the District's monthly emailed newsletter, that provides updates to producers across GMD1. Currently, the newsletter reaches approximately 600 individuals and provides updates on GMD1 activities as well as updates from other local agencies (NRCS/DOC/PLJV/KWO).
- **House Bill 2634 – Discuss Next Steps** – The Board discussed the Four County LEMA and the adaptation of a amendment to the plan allowing flexibility within LEMA groupings per HB 2634.
- **Educational Video Project – Scott Holt** – Katie Durham mentioned that Scott Holt is working on a short educational pilot video, on the history of the District that will potentially be an example for future videos as part of a greater educational project.
- **Mark Callender** – Mark added that GMD3 is starting to have outreach meetings. Katie Durham attended the meeting in Garden City and Lakin.

III. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Grasp/PLJV Update & RCPP Grant Progress/TSP Certification** – The Board had discussion on the High Plains Aquifer RCPP Project Implementation Framework, including considerations underlying principles and implementation strategies.
- b. **Update on Governor's Strategic Plan Water in Kansas – Vijay Ramasamy and Lindsey Douglas (Zoom in at 10:00 a.m.)** – Vijay and Lindsey joined the Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. by zoom. Vijay reported that the next steps in the planning process will include obtaining input from stakeholders and the public through local consult meetings to take place in June. These meetings will benefit in the long-term framework. Vijay introduced Lindsey Douglas with Burns & McDonnell. Lindsey stated that she will assist in identifying high priority areas along with policy changes, ways to improve state water capacity and water management, combining federal, state and local funding, measurable goals and timelines.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Cost Share Reconciliation & Possibly Adding funds** – Katie stated that the \$20,000.00 that was approved at last month's Board meeting has been moved from the 3-mth CD to the Cost Share account. She reminded the Board that the Cost Share Reconciliation sheet is grouped with the financials at the front of the Board Packet and will be approved under the current month's financials at each Board meeting.
- b. **UpTerra Presentation – Parker Christian (10:30 a.m.)** – Katie introduced Parker Christian who is from Western Oklahoma. Parker shared that UpTerra has been in business for 5 years. He gave examples on how they can energize the soil by improving moisture retention with treatments.
- c. **Wichita LEMA renewal Discussion – Planned**
 - **Outreach/Mailers/Status** – This was discussed during "Correspondences" Section II.
 - **WCA Carryover Discussion (under DWR report)** – This was discussed under "DWR Report" Section VII.

V. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – This was discussed under Section III. b.

VI. **K-STATE UPDATE** – None

VII. **DWR REPORT (Zoom in from 8:00am to 9:00am)** – Mike Meyer reported that they have filled their final open position at the Garden City office. Mike Meyer, Earl Lewis, Lan Letourneau, Stephanie Kramer and Eresay Alcantar Velasquez were all in attendance by zoom at the DWR office in Garden City, Kansas. Discussion was had with the Board regarding how to potentially handle allocation rollover from both the Wichita County LEMA and the Wichita County WCA. Public comment was also provided by Don Smith, a producer in the Wichita County WCA.

I. **KWO REPORT** – Keadron Pearson reported that the WISE Tour is on May 29, 2024, and that there is still room on the bus for anyone that may be interested. She also requested input or suggestions for additional panelists for the event, at the Bellwether Barn event center after the tour portion of the agenda and lunch. So far, she has Landon Frank, Doug Claussen, Matt Long, and Gina Gigot.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Don Smith mentioned he had been contacted by a news publication regarding the Ogallala Aquifer and water conservation efforts.

III. **MEETING ADJOURN** – Steve Compton made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 11:57 p.m. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Date:



Toni Palen-Office Administrator

 6/21/24

Mark Callender - President