



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 17th, 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		
a. Review & Approve Agenda	Pg. 1	Action
b. Review & Approve Minutes of the June 21 st Board Meeting	Pg. 2-4	Action
c. Review & Approve June 2024 Financials	Pg. 5-13	Action
d. Cost Share Reconciliation	Pg. 14-15	Action
e. Adopt 2025 Budget and Resolution Setting Assessments for 2025		Action
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: Board Calendar Review & General Updates -Aimpoint Meeting Recap -Upper Smoky Hill RAC Comment Letter -NRCS Meeting Update	Pg. 16 Pg. 17-18	Action
III. Old Business		
a. Wichita LEMA Renewal Discussion -LEMA Renewal Summary		
b. House Bill 2634 – Amendment to FCL		
c. GMD1 Long-Term Goals		
d. HB 2279 Report	Pg. 19-27	Action
IV. New Business		
a. Airborne Electromagnetic Survey Project – Jim Butler, KGS	Pg. 28-36	
b. RCPP Update & Field Work		
c. Discussion – Irrigation/Groundwater District Collaboration at State and Federal Level		
V. Legislative Update – Vijay Ramasamy (zoom in at 9:00am)		
	Pg. 37-40	
VI. K-State Update		
VII. DWR Report – Mike Meyer		
VIII. KWO Report – Keadron Pearson		
IX. Public Comment		
X. Meeting Adjourn		
		Action

Mark Callender Pres
7/17/24



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

June 21, 2024 ~ Regular Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

President – Mark Callender, Lane County
Vice President – Travis Weaver, Greeley County*
Treasurer – Steve Compton, Scott County – Not Present
Member – Brian Bauck, Wichita County*
Member – Ray Smith, Wallace County

STAFF MEMBERS

Manager – Katie Durham
Office Administrator – Toni Palen

AGENCIES OR GUEST PRESENT

Adrian Law, LLC	Tom Adrian*
Division of Water Resources	Mike Meyer*
KWR Consulting	David Barfield*
KWO	Keadron Pearson*
Medill & Thoof, CPA	Mathew Medill
Special Advisor of Water	Vijay Ramasamy*
Rodenbeek & Green Ins.	David Post
Rodenbeek & Green Ins.	Everett Green
	Don Smith*
	Greg Graff*

* Indicates present on zoom

- I. **CALLED MEETING TO ORDER:** The Board President, Mark Callender called the June 21, 2024, Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. at the District Office located at 906 E. 5th St., Scott City, Kansas.
- ✓ Noted Changes to June 21, 2024, Agenda – Katie added that Vijay would join the meeting by zoom at 8:30 a.m.
 - ✓ Noted Changes to the May 15, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes – Mark Callender mentioned that under the staff report that the word Callender should be spelled “calendar” and noticed a typo under the DWR report for Lan Letourneau should be Lane Letourneau.
- a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Ray made a motion to approve the June 17th Agenda. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- b) **Review & Approve May 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Ray Smith made a motion to approve the May 15th minutes with the corrections above. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- c) **Review & Approve May 2024 Financials & Cost Share Report** – Mark Callendar questioned the percentage on the Water Conservation Cost Share Budget Sheet as to why it was so high. Toni explained it was from the carryover that was backed out of 2024 by the auditors and put into 2023 financials, therefore making our budget sheet a bit confusing. Auditor Matt Medill stated he would go over this more in depth when he presents his audit results. Ray Smith made a motion to approve the May 2024 financials and the Cost Share reconciliation report. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- d) **2023 Audit Report** – Mathew Medell from Medell & Throoft, CPA presented the 2023 audit on the District’s financials that they prepared in May. Mathew went over the 2023 audit with the Board and outlined suggestions and comments to be aware of to improve internal and operating efficiencies. Mathew advised the Board that he has looked into the RCPP grant funding and reassured the Board that he is prepared to help with placing funds correctly. Lastly, he advised the Board his fee for auditing is all inclusive including any questions that may arise in the future. The only extra charge would be if he had to travel. Ray Smith made a motion to approve the 2023 audit that was prepared by Medell & Throoft, CPA. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- e) **Insurance Update** – Katie explained to the Board that our current policy with EMC Insurance for the Districts’ auto and general liability insurance was up for renewal which has increased substantially. Therefore, Katie sat down with Everett Green and David Post to inquire about finding competitive rates. David Post stated that Continental Western

Group Insurance was substantially lower with better coverage. EMC was contacted and given an opportunity to view the policy and changes in the District's needs but was unable to compete with Continental Western Group. Everett Green stated that since Iron Insurance Partners has merged with Rodenbeek & Green Insurance, they now have more options to choose from. Everett explained with commercial insurance that the only individuals that can drive company vehicles are the ones listed on the policy. Anyone else would need prior consent from the Board which should be included in the employee handbook.

II. CORRESPONDENCES:

- a) **Staff Report: Board Calendar Review & General Updates** – Katie reminded the Board that she and Steve Compton will be working on the Budget and a hearing is set for July 17th. Katie referred the Board to the Kansas Water Plan Implementations with examples of 10-year aquifer investment scenarios that have been released. Katie stated that in the Kansas Water Plan Implementations that it indicates the possibility of permanently purchasing of water rights from producers to reduce the long-term decline of the aquifer and/or a buy down usage through leasing water rights as an option to achieve reduced use while a permanent solution is developed. Katie emphasized that the producers who are in the LEMA'S should have first rights to these incentives since they have already been conserving. After Board discussion, more concerns were shared, and Katie suggested replying with a letter to address these concerns. The Board agreed.
- **Building Maintenance** – Katie explained that we are still having problems with shared files, emails, and losing data. She reached out to Greg at Palace regarding this who recommended getting our own server which would solve a lot of our computer problems. Katie referred the Board to the estimate from Palace in the Board packet. After Board discussion, Ray Smith made a motion to approve buying a new server for the office. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - **NRCS/DOC/KWO Meeting recap & Newsletter** – Katie shared that they are still working on the preliminary contracts with NRCS regarding the two technicians that will be doing field evaluations on pivot systems and program enrollment. Katie will continue to give updates as they become available.
 - **AEM Mapping** – Katie reported that AEM Mapping is currently taking place in Colby, KS which utilizes a helicopter and performs Airborne Electromagnetic Mapping. Next year this opportunity will be available for GMD1. They will come to the Board meeting to explain how it works. Katie has mentioned this in her monthly newsletter to give a heads-up to producers that this will be taking place next year.
 - **Governor's Strategic Planning Meetings Recap from Colby & Dodge City** – Vijay Ramasamy reported on the local consult meetings that took place in Colby and Dodge City, Kansas. He stated that local control and incentivizing funds, easier access to programs and adding some flexibilities as well were things discussed in his group. Katie stated that if retiring water rights is going to be an option, she hopes that the producers that are already in a LEMA will be given compensation for their efforts in conserving water through the LEMA'S. Katie added that she would be putting together more of a formal recommendation letter that would address some of their concerns. Vijay reminded the Board that the outlined materials are just examples at this time as they will be meeting with other groups and agencies to get more feedback on this first draft of the Governor's Strategic Planning process. David added that he thinks reducing use of water through LEMA'S rather than buying the water rights out would be better for our local economy.
 - **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** Katie reported that PBS is airing the interview she had with them next week. Mark Callender shared that he did go to an Airpoint meeting earlier this month. He explained it's a research group that Kansas State and Kansas Water Office are funding and shared his thoughts from the breakout meetings.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **GRASP/PLIV Update & RCPP Grant Progress/TSP Certification** – No discussion was had.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **FCL Appeal Group 1179** – Katie explained she wanted the Board's input on this appeal since it is a rare situation. The group is limited to 264 acres, received a 25% reduction, and issues with over pumping from the previous owners. After Board discussion, Travis Weaver made a motion to approve the proposed appeal. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Ray Smith recused himself from voting.
- b) **Wichita LEMA Renewal Discussion** – Katie discussed with the Board about where their thoughts were on the renewal of Wichita County LEMA. The consensus was that they are ready to make a proposal to extend the WC

LEMA and add in the flexibility that the Four County LEMA has. Katie will schedule an outreach meeting with Wichita County to show what we are proposing and receive feedback.

- c) **HB 2634 – Amendment to FCL** - Katie stated that she thought the Board should consider setting some long-term goals on the renewals of the LEMA'S. After Board discussion, they agreed to start working on some long-term goals now, so we have them in place going forward. David Barfield agreed that having something to submit to the House in Topeka next January that says here's our success, but we know that we have a long way to go so setting those long-term goals would be very beneficial.
 - d) **HB 2279 – Report to the Legislature July 1st** – Katie reminded the Board that a report on the District's high priority areas is due July 1st. Brownie Wilson is working on giving us some Q-stable numbers to give us an idea of where to start and then build our long-term goals from there. Mark Callender suggested that we share the successes that we have had with the LEMA'S.
 - e) **NextEra Energy Update** – There was a general discussion regarding whether or not the consultant that the District uses can also be used by others within our District and what possible conflicts or benefits that could have on the District. The Board agreed that they see no issues at this time.
- IV. **EMPLOYEE REVIEWS** – Ray Smith moved that the Board recess at 10:41 a.m. for 10 minutes for an executive session for the purpose of discussing an employee annual review. The justification for the closed session is to maintain the confidentiality of personal information. The open meeting is to resume in this room at 10:51 a.m. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Those present for the executive session included Mark Callender, Travis Weaver, Ray Smith, Brian Bauck, Katie Durham, and Tom Adrian. At 10:51 a.m. the executive session was closed. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken during the executive session. The open meeting resumed at 10:52 a.m. Ray Smith made a motion to approve a 3% raise and to add an additional 40 hours of vacation time to Toni Palen for her yearly review. Ray Smith made a motion to approve a 5% raise to Pat Ryan for his yearly review. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- V. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – This was discussed under the Governor's Strategic Planning under correspondence.
- VI. **K-STATE UPDATE** – No update.
- VII. **DWR REPORT** – Mike Meyer had to leave early, therefore there was no update given.
- VIII. **KWO REPORT** – Keadron Pearson thanked Katie, Mark and Ray for all their help on the WISE tour and stated the RAC meeting dates are not set but will be posted on the web site soon.
- IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – No other comments were made.
- X. **MEETING ADJOURN** – Ray Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2024.

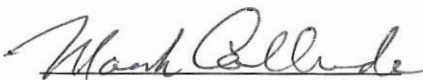
Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

Date:



Toni Palen-Office Administrator



Mark Callender – President

