



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 13th, 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 July 17 th Budget Hearing	Pg. 2	Action
c. Review & Approve Minutes of the July 17 th Board Meeting	Pg. 3-4	Action
d. Review & Approve July 2024 Financials	Pg. 5-16	Action
e. Cost Share Reconciliation		Action
f. Re-Adopt 2025 Budget Resolution Setting Assessments for 2025		Action
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: Board Calendar Review & General Updates -Colorado Coordination/Ethos Connected -Internal Hiring Update (<i>Water Resources Specialist Position</i>) -Irrigation/Groundwater District Collaboration at State and Federal Level	Pg. 17	
III. Old Business		
a. Wichita LEMA Renewal Discussion -LEMA Renewal Summary & Recommendations	Pg. 18-30	
b. House Bill 2634 – Amendment to FCL		
IV. New Business		
a. GMD1 Long-Term Goals – Brownie Wilson (<i>KGS</i>)	Pg. 31-47	
b. RCPP Grant Update		
c. Discussion – Irrigation/Groundwater District Collaboration at State and Federal Level		
V. Legislative Update – Vijay Ramasamy (<i>zoom in at 9:00am</i>)		
VI. K-State Update		
VII. DWR Report – Mike Meyer		
VIII. KWO Report – Keadron Pearson		
IX. Public Comment		
X. Meeting Adjourn		Action

Mark Callender Pres
8/13/24



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

JULY 17, 2024 ~ BUDGET HEARING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Manager - Katie Durham
Office Administrator - Toni Palen

AGENCIES PRESENT

Adrian Law, LLC – Tom Adrian*
Division of Water Resources – Mike Meyer
KWR Consulting – David Barfield*
Kansas Water Office – Keadron Pearson

GUEST PRESENT

Kansas House of Representatives - Jim Minix
Kansas Geological Services – Jim Butler

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – The Board President, Mark Callender called the July 17, 2024, Budget Hearing for Calendar Year 2025 to order at 8:02 a.m. located at 906 W. 5th St., Scott City, KS., at the District Office.
 - a) **Review & Approve the Agenda** – Travis Weaver made a motion to approve the Agenda for the Budget Hearing. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b) **Review Minutes of the 2023 Budget Hearing** – The Board reviewed the 2025 General Fund Budget. They discussed the Payroll Expense column and adding additional funds to it due to the potential of hiring a new full-time employee. The Assessments are currently set at .60 cents per acre foot and were last changed five years ago. The Board discussed increasing the assessment rate per acre foot.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT OF PROPOSED BUDGET** -
- III. **MEETING ADJOURN** – Brian Bauck made a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing at 8:57 a.m. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Date:


Toni Palen – Office Administrator


Mark Callender - President

8/13/24



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

JULY 17, 2024 ~ REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Manager - Katie Durham
Office Administrator - Toni Palen

AGENCIES PRESENT

Adrian Law, LLC – Tom Adrian*
Division of Water Resources – Mike Meyer
KWR Consulting – David Barfield*
Kansas Water Office – Keadron Pearson

GUEST PRESENT

Kansas House of Representatives - Jim Minix
Kansas Geological Services – Jim Butler

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – The Board President, Mark Callender called the July 17, 2024, Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:57 a.m. at the District Office located at 906 E. 5th St., Scott City, Kansas.
- ✓ **Noted changes to the July 17, 2024 Agenda** – Katie advised the Board that Vijay Ramasamy is not going to be able to join the meeting today.
 - ✓ **Noted changes to the June 21, 2024 Minutes** – Toni Palen pointed out that there was a spelling error under I. c). The spelling of Marks Last name should be corrected as “Callender” instead of Callendar.
 - a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Travis Weaver made a motion to approve the July 17, 2024 Agenda as corrected. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b) **Review & Approve the June 21, 2024 Minutes** – Ray Smith made a motion to approve the June 21, 2024 Board meeting minutes as corrected. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - c) **Review & Approve the June 2024 Financials** – Katie stated that the district received a dividend check from EMC Insurance which almost paid for the new policy with Continental Insurance for general liability, commercial, and auto insurance for the year. She also explained that the Cost Share account was getting low in funds and that the 3/MTH CD is up for renewal. After Board discussion, Ray made a motion to approve transferring \$20,000.00 from the 3/MTH CD into the Cost Share Account. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board reviewed the financials. Steve Compton made a motion to approve the June 2024 financials. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - d) **Review & Approve the Cost Share Reconciliation** – The Board reviewed the Cost Share reconciliation report. Ray Smith made a motion to approve the Cost Share report. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - e) **Adopt 2025 Budget and Resolution Setting Assessments for 2025** – The Board reviewed and discussed the 2025 budget prepared by Katie and the assessment rates that the District has had for the last five years. From the discussion at the budget hearing and considering the fact that the District has a full-time position open at this time, Travis Weaver made a motion to adopt the 2025 budget with increasing the gross payroll amount to \$275,000.00, increase assessments from .60 cents to .70 cents per acre foot, and increase the acres of 40 or more acres to .05 cents per acre foot and total expenditures of \$669,300.00. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- II. **CORRESPONDENCES:**
- a) **Staff Report: Board Calendar Review & Updates** – The Board discussed and agreed on hiring a new full-time position to replace Pat Ryan who gave his notice to retire this week. The Board agreed that a full-time employee is needed to assist with Katie’s workload, which has more than doubled over the last year. Katie agreed to produce a job title, responsibilities and send an email to the Board for their approval before running an ad in the paper or posting it to our

website. Katie proposed moving the Wichita County outreach meeting to August 28th with a lunch catered in. The Board agreed.

- **Aimpoint Meeting Recap** – Mark Callender shared his views from the Aimpoint meeting in Garden City last week that he and Katie attended.
- **Upper Smoky Hill Rac Comment Letter** – Katie referred the Board to a letter that she wrote on behalf of the Boards concerns regarding the Governors Strategic Planning Process. The Board reviewed and agreed to submit the letter.
- **NRCS Meeting Update** – Katie reported that the quarterly meetings that include NRCS have helped with communications.

III. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) **Wichita LEMA Renewal Discussion** – Katie stated that David Barfield is traveling today so he is just listening in on the meeting. Katie explained that the data from Brownie Wilson shows that Wichita County is at Q-stable levels.
- b) **House Bill 2634 – Amendment to FCL** – Katie stated that she is working on the collected data with Brownie Wilson and David Barfield for the Boards review to propose an amendment to the FCL in August at the Outreach meeting.
- c) **GMD1 Long-Term Goals** – Katie stated that Brownie Wilson is working on the data which will help the Board start setting some long-term goals for the future of the District's ongoing dedication in conserving water.
- d) **HB 2279 Report** – Katie reported that the Chief Engineer, Earl Lewis received the District's high priority areas per HB 2279, which requires all GMD'S to report their high priority areas by the deadline of July 1, 2024 and yearly thereafter.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **Airborne Electromagnetic Survey Project (AEM) – Jim Butler, KGS** – Jim Butler with KGS gave a presentation on the Airborne Electromagnetic Survey Project that was conducted in Colby, KS last month. They flew a helicopter towing a large hexagonal frame that covered a large portion of GMD4 in recording geologic measurements to learn more information about the Ogallala Aquifer. Jim stated that they would be conducting the same study in GMD1 next Spring of 2025. He emphasizes that we must get the word out in a timely manner through our website, postcards, and press release so the communities are properly informed. Katie stated that this could help us identify high priority areas for our district.
- b) **RCPD Update & Field Work** – Katie gave an update on the RCPD grant and field work. Katie shared that people are becoming more curious about where the water level is currently. She also mentioned that Scott Holt is putting together an educational video that we could post on the website.
- c) **Discussion – Irrigation/Groundwater District Collaboration at State & Federal Level** – The Board discussed and agreed to have Katie pursue involvement at the federal level on water conservations. Katie shared a few groups/organizations that she would be interested in. Jim Minnix agreed and shared his frustrations with crop insurances that are not covering forage sorghum until the third year. He also stated that the Insurance adjusters are telling producers to continue watering even after they have determined that the crop is destroyed.

V. **Legislative Update – Vijay Ramasamy** – Vijay was not able to join the Board meeting.

VI. **K-State Update** – No updates at this time.

VII. **DWR Report** – Mike Meyer stated that their office will be sending out letters to producers notifying them of what is left of their LEMA allocations. He reported that a producer signed up for a WCA in Wichita County with a savings of 16% and that there were three producers that over pumped in 2023 in the GMD1 District. Lastly, Mike stated that they are currently revising their current impairment regulations that help define the statue.

VIII. **KWO Report** – Keadron Pearson shared upcoming meeting dates with the Board that are also posted on the KWO web site. Keadron confirmed that Mark Callender put in his application for Upper Smoky Hill RAC.

IX. **Public Comment** – Katie mentioned that her husband, Colby Durham requested to display his flyers on his ariel imaging with Drones and services that he provides. The Board discussed and agreed.

X. **Meeting Adjourned** – Ray Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The next Board meeting was set for August 13, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Date:


Toni Palen – Office Administrator


Mark Callender – President

8/13/24