



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors

December 20th, 2024

8:00 am. 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 & Approved Minutes of the November 6 th Board Meeting	Pg. 2-4	Action
c. Review & Approve October 2024 Financials	Pg. 5-13	Action
d. Review & Approve November 2024 Financials	Pg. 14-22	Action
e. Cost Share Reconciliation through October 31st	Pg. 23-24	Action
f. Board Travel Reconciliation for 2024	Supplement	Action
II. Correspondence		
a. Staff Report: Board Calendar & General Updates/Title Discussion	Pg. 25	Action
b. EPA MAR Workshop Attendance	Supplement	
c. Recap of December 18 th Outreach Meeting		
d. Recap of Municipal Outreach Meeting		
III. Old Business		
a. Wichita County LEMA Renewal – Review of November Outreach -WCA Discussion & Annual Meetings for Steering Committee		
b. RCPP Update & Discussion	Pg.26-33	
IV. New Business		
a. WTAP Application Review & Recommendations	Supplement	Action
b. Bill Golden Study – Review & Comments	Pg. 34-53	
c. Western Field of Dreams – Annual Home Run Derby	Supplement	
d. GMD1 Vehicle Discussion		
e. Kansas Water Resources Consulting, LLC	Pg. 54	Action
V. Legislative Update – Vijay Ramasamy @ 9:00 a.m. Sean Miller – Capital Strategies		
VI. DWR Report – Mike Meyer		
VII. KWO Report – Keadron Pearson		
VIII. Public Comment		
IX. Meeting Adjourn		Action

Mark Callender Pres
12/20/24



Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1

November 6, 2024 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

AGENCIES PRESENT

Adrian Law, LLC – Tom Adrian*
Division of Water Resources – Mike Meyer
KWR Consulting – David Barfield*
PLJV – Titus Jaeger
Kansas Water Office – Weston McCary

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Manager – Katie Durham
Office Administrator – Toni Palen

GUEST PRESENT

Lee Wheeler
Tammy Simons*
Don Smith

* Virtual Attendees

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – The Board President, Mark Callender called the November 6th, 2024, Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. at the District Office at 906 E. 5th St., Scott City, Kansas.
 - a) **Review & Approve Agenda** – Mark Callender requested that an executive session for an employee review be added to the agenda under new business. Ray Smith motioned to approve the November 6th, 2024 Agenda with noted changes. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b) **Review and Approve Minutes of the August 13th 2024 Board Meeting** – The Board reviewed the August 13th Meeting Minutes. Ray Smith motioned to approve the August 13th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - c) **Review & Approve Minutes of the September 6th, 2024 Board Meeting** – The Board reviewed the September 6th Board Meeting Minutes. Ray Smith motioned to approve the September 6th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - d) **Review and Approve August 2024 Financials** – The Board reviewed the August financials. Katie Durham reported that the desk in the front office was replaced with a new one from Key Office and that she will order another for Tallee Davis's office in the next few weeks. Mark Callender added that the district's financials are looking good, with the interest earned from the CD accounts and the various expenses that have been cut. Katie Durham explained that the funds from the RCPP grant could be available as early as January and would need to be used within four years. The position for a technology field technician would be funded through a separate part of the grant. Ray Smith motioned to approve the August 2024 financials. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - e) **Review & approve September 2024 Financials** – The Board reviewed the September financials. Ray Smith motioned to approve the September 2024 financials. Steve Compton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - f) **Review & approve Cost Share Reconciliation through September 30, 2024** – The Board reviewed the Cost Share report. Steve Compton motioned to approve the Cost Share Reconciliation Report through September 30, 2024. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. CORRESPONDENCES:

- a) **Staff Report: Board Calendar & General Updates** – Katie Durham reminded the Board that the Governor's Conference is next week and that she, Shannon Kenyon, and Lane Letourneau will be on a panel discussion together. Katie stated that the Municipal and Stock Water Outreach meetings are scheduled in December. The Board discussed having a Christmas Party lunch or supper at the Majestic. Katie will send out 3-4 dates to the board once we contact the Majestic for times and dates.
- b) **EPA MAR Workshop Attendance** - Katie informed the Board that she was contacted to participate in a Washington, D.C., workshop on Aquifer Management and give a 30-40-minute presentation on February 25, 2025. Katie said this would be a good time to share the LEMA'S success and provide an overview of the various projects and initiatives in Kansas. Mark Callender suggested that Katie Durham's spouse would accompany her on the trip, and the Board agreed. Katie Durham will work on the details of the trip and will provide more information at the next Board Meeting.
- c) **Renee Cure, CPA** – Katie Durham shared that Renee Cure has joined our auditors Mathew Medill and Rachael Thooff, CPA. Renee will continue to review our financials, but we will receive our bill from Medill & Thooff, CPA, after January 2025.
- d) **PLJV Mailers** – Katie Durham mentioned that a mailer from the PLJV has gone out to all five counties regarding the Wichita County LEMA Outreach meeting and covering additional information on the PLJV.

III. **Wichita County LEMA Allocation Mailers & DWR Portal** – Mike Meyer stated that a letter to producers about what is remaining on their allocations is ready to be mailed out to Wichita County and then provided an update on GMD3's recent LEMA outreach meetings.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Wichita County LEMA Renewal – Proposal Summary for November 20th Outreach Meeting** – Katie Durham reviewed the feedback she has received from the Wichita County outreach meeting and other discussions with producers. Many are requesting more flexibility in the next LEMA, including the ability to carryover of unused allocation. Additionally, there has been feedback on how the WCA participants should be incorporated into the next LEMA, specific to carryover of unused allocation. Some WCA participants currently do not have access to carryover due to the restrictions of the LEMA. The original goal for the WC LEMA after appeals was to save approximately 14.7%. The data shows that 47.2% has been saved. David Barfield presented several options and ideas on how to handle the carry-over for the renewal of the WC LEMA. Katie Durham gave her perspective, commending the cultural shift in the producer's on farm management practices. The Board discussed some of the options and wants to hear more feedback from the upcoming WC LEMA Outreach Meeting on November 20, 2024, before moving forward.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **High Plains Aquifer Regional Conservation Partnership Program (Grant) Update & Steps Moving Forward:**
 - **Project Description & Irrigation Specialists** – Katie Durham referred the Board to the Board packet that describes the position of an Irrigation Specialist and stated that Lee Wheeler would likely train these technicians once the grant was eventually operational.
 - **Lee Wheeler & Weston McCary** – Katie Durham introduced Lee Wheeler, an Agricultural Engineer of 45 years. Steve Compton shared his experiences with Lee while doing a system evaluation on his wells. Lee Wheeler provided background on his experiences and presented on how he approaches performing a system evaluation on an irrigation pivot. Lee discussed the Autonomous pivot, unique rain gauges, and water/energy tracking systems. Weston McCary explained more regarding the RCPP grant funds and KWO contributions. Katie Durham mentioned that producers must have a system evaluation to apply for the funds from the RCPP grant.

- VI. **Legislative Update – Vijay Ramasamy @ 9:00 a.m.** – Vijay Ramasamy reported on the changes to the budget model for the strategic planning process. He discussed how progress will be reported and measured, and how the State will focus on investing in programs of value and will evaluate the effectiveness along the way in order to continue increasing the amount of money available for water projects.
- VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Ray Smith motioned to go into executive session for 20 minutes at 12:49 p.m. to discuss an employee's annual review. Brian Bauck seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Those present for the executive session included Board members Mark Callender, Travis Weaver, Steve Compton, Brian Bauck, Ray Smith, Attorney Tom Adrian, and Katie Durham. At 1:09 p.m. the executive session was closed. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken during the executive session. The open Board Meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m. Brian Bauk motioned to approve the employee salary increase per the terms discussed in Executive Session which was approximately 9.9%. Travis Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- VIII. **DWR Update – Mike Meyer** – Mike Meyer reported that DWR is reviewing and clarifying Water Use Reports that may be inaccurate. Mike Meyer also reminded the Board that the WTAP sign-up period ends on November 15th and that DWR & KGS will start doing their annual well measurements the first week of January.
 - a) **Review of Temporary Permit Recommendations** – The Board reviewed the term Permit Application File Numbers 20249024 and 20249025 for Fairleigh Corporation and had no objections.
- IX. **KWO Report** – Weston McCary reminded the Board that the Governor's conference is next week, and that registration for the event is at maximum capacity. He stated that KWO will meet in Manhattan next Tuesday to focus on the Governor's Strategic Planning Process.
- X. **Office Space** – The Board discussed trading in one of the District's vehicles and possibly adding more office space to the building if necessary given future employee expansion.
- XI. **Public Comment** – No public comments were made.
- XII. **Meeting Adjourn** – Travis Weaver motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 p.m. Ray Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Date:



 Toni Palen – Office Administrator



 Mark Callender – President


