



**Board Meeting Minutes
Marriott Salt Lake City University Park
Salt Lake City, Utah**

The Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA) meeting was called to order by President Everett Kissler at 6:59 AM. The Board Members and Advisors whose names are underlined below were in attendance. This board listing represents the 2019 GMDA board following Caucus actions:

State	1-Yr Director	2-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	Advisor
California	John Woodling	_____	_____	_____
Colorado	<u>Don Rosenbrock</u>	<u>Everette Kissler</u>	<u>Jim Reasoner</u>	Randy Ray
Kansas	Tim Boese	<u>Jason Norquist</u>	<u>Orrin Feril</u>	<u>Mark Rude</u>
Louisiana	Nelson Morvant	William Daniel	Mark Frey	<u>Tony Duplechin</u>
Mississippi	Daniel Shannon	_____	<u>Don Christy</u>	<u>Buck Falls</u>
Nebraska	<u>Lyndon Vogt</u>	<u>Linda Luebbe</u>	<u>Dick Ehrman</u>	<u>Tylr Naprstek</u>
New Mexico	Bill Netherlin	AJ Olsen	<u>Aron Balok</u>	Olivia Mitchell
Texas	C.E. Williams	<u>Steve Walthour</u>	Gene Born	<u>Robert Bradley</u>

Steve Walthour moved that the minutes from January 7, 2019 board meeting be approved, Linda Luebbe seconded the motion which passed unanimously via voice vote.

Treasurer and Membership Reports:

Steve Walthour reported that as of May 31, 2019, GMDA's bank balance in First State Bank of Stratford, Texas was \$99,246.78, which reflected \$112,022.11 for a January 1, 2019 beginning balance, \$2,050 of income and \$14,425.33 in expenses for the period from January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019. Since January 1, 2019, GMDA received \$1,650.00 from membership dues, \$0 in donations and \$400.00 in registrations and sponsors for the Phoenix Arizona 2019 Annual Meeting. Expenses include \$80.00 in operation expenses for postage and supplies, \$1,345.33 in costs related to the 2019 Winter Meeting in Phoenix and \$13,000.00 in NWRA dues. Walthour reported that a balance of \$792.00 was owed to NWRA for 2019 dues and asked for a motion to approve the expense. Don Christy moved to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's financial report and approve payment to NWRA in the amount of \$792.00. Orrin Feril seconded the motion which passed unanimously via voice vote.

Walthour reported that as of May 31, 2019 there are 53 members and eight honorary lifetime members.

NWRA Report

Mark Rude reported that he was on a federal affair call and Ian Lyle asked for comments from the Groundwater Caucus. Kansas is running into problems with the USDA regarding



implementation of the Farm Bill. He discussed that the Feds are asking for water quality data and the reluctance of local entities to share the information because of WOTUS.

Kansas is favorable to the new WOTUS language. Rude went to the national meeting in Kansas City. He said that data that Kansas would release would be raw data. There was discussion the Army Corps of Engineers have had seven different managers in five years. Getting politics involved would slow down the permitting process. The board discussed attending the Western Water Seminar in Phoenix.

State Caucus Reports

Colorado – Kissler reported that Randy Ray is totally swamped and wants Bill Mihelich, District Engineer, added as an advisor. Billy Mihelich was added as an advisor with Randy Ray.

Kansas – Rude reported that there is a tug of war between the Groundwater Management Districts and the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer has promoted a laborious permitting process in several instances.

Louisiana – Duplechin discussed the saltwater intrusion problem and the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission constructing an observation well to monitor intrusion. The Commission is applying to increase fees to cover the costs. The State Auditor is comparing how the Commission operates to the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Water Conservation District in Texas and the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District in its operational analysis. A complaint has been filed with the Ethics Board saying that a member of the regulated community should not serve on the Commission. During last legislative session Ascension Parish was added to the Commission's jurisdiction.

Mississippi - Don Christy announced that Buck Falls would be going off of the district's board in September and Mississippi was working on next year's summer conference. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality requires that ten percent of the wells in each county in the delta be metered. The DEQ imposed one of conservation methods requirements is metering a sample of the wells in the counties. Board members discussed metering requirements in their districts.

Nebraska – Linda Luebbe Discussed the annual conference will be focused on groundwater intrusion and flooding. The Conference was tentatively set for Florida. Luebbe discussed that we need to get more involved in California and we can be of service to the newly formed groundwater districts there. Possible have a task force from GMDA to get involved with Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). Tim Quinn is retiring.

New Mexico – Aron Balok reported that New Mexico had a good snow pack this last winter. Generally, there is a hostile state legislative environment right now. Regarding Pecos River Compact issues, Texas has reserved the right to protest water master rulings. The bureau of Reclamation has weighed in on the Rio Grande Compact dispute. The Air Force Base PFAS position is to supply water for human consumption but declares no responsibility for contaminating cattle at a dairy in North Eastern part of the State.



Based on the conversation, Kissler appointed a committee to gather information and provide proposal regarding GMDA's position regarding water quality. The water quality committee includes Billy Mihelich, Aron Balok, and Dick Ehrman.

Texas – Walthour reported that Texas had just finished its legislative session that focused on flooding and amending the state's tax code, government transparency that will affect almost all governmental entities in the state. There was a push from a state senator that chaired the Water Resources and Rural Development Committee to require districts to develop the same rules across the state. Those efforts largely did not get through both houses of the legislature. Walthour reported that the next census will probably cause a loss of both federal and state representatives in the rural areas which have been the primary supporter of groundwater conservation districts in the state.

Committee Reports:

NWRA, Groundwater and Federal Issues: The Committee Report was made by Mark Rude under the NWRA Report.

Membership Committee:

Walthour reported that would work on membership with the committee to better engage California. Walthour moved that Buck Falls receive a lifetime membership, Don Christy second the motion and the matter passed viva voice.

Website:

Kristen Blackwell went over the website and asked that the membership send in information quarterly to post on the web.

Awards: Tony Duplechin reported that there were no recommended awards.

Consider Policy Priority Recommendations for the NWRA Leadership Forum:

Walthour reviewed the policy recommendation that were establish in 2017 as follows:

1. State primacy, including protection of State and private property rights related to federal claims to groundwater ownership and administration under EPA regulations, WOTUS, U.S. Forest service, BOR, ESA litigation, and other federal agencies intrusion.
2. Groundwater conservation measures, including irrigation, industrial and municipal use.
3. Storage and groundwater recharge with attention to conjunctive management for the benefit of groundwater and surface water.
4. Drought planning due to the increased demands on groundwater.
5. Water supply and the fallowing of farm ground with special attention to the individual financial and public welfare costs.



Kissler discussed adding a water quality priority. The general discussion was to wait for the newly formed water quality committee to make a recommendation at the next board meeting.

Consider Adoption of GMDA Mission Statement:

Lyndon Vogt motioned, and Orrin Feril seconded that the board adopt the following mission statement as amended:

“To protect and preserve groundwater quality and quantity for future generations, GMDA promotes conservation and conjunctive use, public education, and state sovereignty.”

The motion passed viva voice.

2020 Annual Conference Report:

Linda Luebbe reported that the Annual conference would be held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

2020 Summer Conference Location:

Don Christy reported that Mississippi is working on the 2020 Summer Conference.

There being no other business Aron Balok moved and Linda second that the meeting adjourned. The motion passed viva voice at 8:31 AM.

Steve Walthour, GMDA Secretary/Treasurer