



Board Meeting Agenda and Packet

Marriott Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio

January 19, 2022

1. Open Meeting – Aron Balok
2. Consideration & Approval of October 26, 2021 Minutes
3. Treasurer's & Membership Reports – Dick Ehrman
4. NWRA Report
5. Reports and Recommendations from State Caucuses
6. Committee Reports
 - National Water Resources Association Caucus/Groundwater and Federal Issues
 - Membership Committee
 - Website
 - Awards
7. Consider Policy Priority Recommendations for the NWRA Leadership Forum
8. Consider approval of GMDA Depository
9. Change of Presidents & Elections of Officers
10. Committee Appointments
11. 2022 Summer Conference
12. 2023 Annual Conference Location
13. Other Business as Needed
14. Adjourn

**ITEM 1
Open Meeting**

**Board Members Present, January 19, 2022
Underline Members that are present**

State	1-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	Advisor
California	John Woodling	James Cioffi		
Colorado		Don Rosenbrock	Everett Kissler	Randy Ray Billy Mihelich
Kansas	Orrin Feril	Tim Boese	Shannon Kenyon	Mark Rude
Louisiana	Mark Frey	J A Rummler	William Daniel	Tony Duplechin
Mississippi	Don Christy	Daniel Shannon	Sykes Sturdivant	Ben Griffith
Nebraska	Dick Ehrman	Tylr Naprstek	Linda Luebbe	Lyndon Vogt
New Mexico	Aron Balok	Greg Alpers	A.J. Olsen	
Texas	Gene Born	C.E. Williams	Steve Walthour	Robert Bradley

ITEM 2

**Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2021**

Members Present Underlined

State	1-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	Advisor
California	John Woodling	<u>James Cioffi</u>		
Colorado		<u>Don Rosenbrock</u>	<u>Everett Kissler</u>	<u>Randy Ray</u> <u>Billy Mihelich</u>
Kansas	<u>Orrin Feril</u>	<u>Tim Boese</u>	<u>Shannon Kenyon</u>	<u>Mark Rude</u>
	Also present: <u>Jason Norquest</u>			
Louisiana	Mark Frey	J A Rummler	William Daniel	<u>Tony Duplechin</u>
Mississippi	<u>Don Christy</u>	Daniel Shannon	<u>Sykes Sturdivant</u>	<u>Ben Griffith</u>
Nebraska	<u>Dick Ehrman</u>	<u>Tylr Naprstek</u>	Linda Luebbe	<u>Lyndon Vogt</u>
New Mexico	<u>Aron Balok</u>	Greg Alpers	<u>A.J. Olsen</u>	
Texas	Gene Born	C.E. Williams <u>(Britney Britten,</u> C.E.'s replacement was introduced	<u>Steve Walthour</u>	Robert Bradley
	Also present: <u>Kristen Blackwell</u>			

Open Meeting and Establish Quorum – Aron Balok

President Aron Balok opened the meeting at 3:00 PM CDT on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 in a virtual setting. A quorum was present (see above), and the agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Consideration & Approval of April 6, 2021 Minutes

Christy moved, Griffith seconded to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's & Membership Reports – Dick Ehrman

Finances

As of September 30, 2021, GMDA's bank balance in First State Bank of Stratford, Texas is \$100,299.45 which reflects a \$99,567.45 for March 1, 2021, beginning balance, \$850.00 of income and \$118.00 in expenses for the period from March 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021. Since March 1, 2021, GMDA has received \$850.00 from membership dues. Expenses include \$118.00 for post office box rental.

Membership

As of March 1, 2021, there are 50 paid members and 9 honorary lifetime members.

Sturdevant moved, Walthour seconded to accept the Treasurer's and Membership reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Report

Walthour noted that NWRA will be meeting in Chandler AZ on November 8-10. He wondered if GMDA would be presenting; Vogt responded that he is putting a brief summary together.

Walthour also noted GMDA's upcoming Winter Conference in San Antonio TX January 18-20, 2022. Information and registration is available on the GMDA website (www.gmdausa.org).

Olsen brought up the topic of bonuses for Water Solutions and Ian Lyle (\$25,000 each) which has been discussed by NWRA. Rude noted Ian's good work through the pandemic in keeping the Caucus and GMDA in the loop. Olsen agreed noting that both Water Solutions and Lyle personally are reliable sources of information. He also stated that the recommendation comes directly from NWRA leadership. There was no indication of opposition from GMDA toward the bonuses; Balok noted that no motion was necessary as this topic was not on the agenda but that it could be reported that the GMDA Board is in support, and he also expressed thanks to the NWRA representatives to help make groundwater in general and GMDA in particular more visible to NWRA.

Committee Reports

National Water Resources Association (NWRA Caucus & Groundwater and Federal Issues-- AJ Olsen, Lyndon Vogt, Randy Ray, Mark Rude, Don Christy)

No additional information to report—see above.

Program Committee (Linda Luebbe, Jim Cioffi, CE Williams, Tony Duplechin)

The Program Committee has not met recently. However it was noted that CE Williams has retired recently. Walthour introduced Britney Britten, CE's replacement at North Plains GCD.

Water Quality Committee (Aron Balok, Dick Ehrman, Billie Mihelich, Tony Duplechin)

The Water Quality Committee has not met recently, but Balok intends to convene a meeting in the near future.

Membership Committee (Steve Walthour, Tylr Naprstek, Jim Cioffi, Tim Boese)

Walthour reported the Membership Committee met prior to the April 2021 Board meeting. At that time, information was requested for the GMDA newsletter, but nothing is forthcoming yet. Walthour also attended a virtual meeting with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), and is working on outreach with Cioffi and other interested parties from California to involve them in GMDA.

Website Committee (Kristen Blackwell, Orrin Feril)

Blackwell reported that there isn't too much going on at present but staff is working on website update and maintenance. She also noted that the link and information for the Winter Conference in San Antonio is up and working, and will accept electronic payments.

Awards Committee (Steve Walthour, Tony Duplechin, Linda Luebbe)

Walthour reported that the committee had met via email. The Committee will present a plaque to outgoing President Linda Luebbe. The retirements of CE Williams and Tony Duplechin were also noted. For members with such long and distinguished careers in GMDA, it's traditional to award them an honorary lifetime membership. Cioffi moved, and Feril seconded to award honorary lifetime memberships to Williams and Duplechin in thanks for their many years of service. The motion was unanimously adopted. The Colorado delegation also noted with great sadness the passing of Jim Reasoner, who has been an active supporter of GMDA for essentially its entire existence. General discussion centered around recognizing Reasoner posthumously by resolution or other appropriate action; Walthour noted that the Committee will certainly take suggestions for appropriate recognition. Kissler moved, and Walthour seconded to have the Awards Committee take appropriate action via posthumous resolution or other appropriate action to recognize Reasoner for his long and distinguished service to GMDA. The motion was unanimously approved.

Consider Policy Priority Recommendations for the NWRA Leadership Forum

By way of history, in 2019 GMDA and the Groundwater Caucus identified 5 issues in to be part of the topics of discussion. They are:

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.

Walthour noted that normally GMDA comes up with any additional ideas or modifications prior to NWRA's national meeting, but representatives have not yet heard the official dates yet. Olson noted that the meeting is normally in the early part of January, and Rude reported that the NWRA Leadership Forum is January 4-5 in Phoenix, and these two events are normally coordinated.

Balok expressed the idea that GMDA should advocate for creation of additional local groundwater districts to better manage groundwater and tap into available Federal funds.

Walthour proposed an amendment to Topic #4 regarding drought as follows (proposed amendments in italics): "*Develop water resources infrastructure and drought planning due to the increased demand on groundwater.*"

Discussion ensued. Boese expressed general support for the idea, but had some concern about "pigeonholing" our concerns for declining aquifers. That is, GMDA should be concerned with proper management, utilization, and conservation of all groundwater units. Ray enquired as to what is meant by "infrastructure." Walthour responded that it could take a wide range of forms such as systems to recharge groundwater, import additional water supplies, and could be at a variety of scales.

Following discussion, Walthour amended his suggestion and moved that Topic #4 be amended to read (proposed amendments in italics): *Develop water resources infrastructure and support drought planning due to the increased demands on groundwater*; Kissler seconded. The motion as amended was unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of GMDA Depository

Ehrman overviewed discussions among the officers and membership regarding the possibility of moving GMDA's funds to a more regional or nationwide depository. The First State Bank of Texas has done an exemplary job of being GMDA's depository, mainly as it's across the street from the High Plains GCD office in Dumas TX. However, going forward as offices change hands a bit more frequently (Walthour was Secretary Treasure for nine years; Ehrman noted he'll probably retire before another nine years...), it would be appropriate to have a bank that has a bit more ease of switching officers, regional reach, accessible online banking, etc. There was no specific motion brought forward although the general consensus was this is a reasonable idea, so the issue was tabled and can be further considered at the Winter Conference in San Antonio.

2022 Annual Conference – San Antonio, January 18-20

Walthour and Blackwell reported that the 2022 Winter Conference is set for the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Tuesday through Thursday, January 18-20. As is typical, the conference will feature a welcoming reception Tuesday evening, presentations, caucuses and Board meeting as well as presentations Wednesday, and more presentations and a great field trip to the Edwards Aquifer Authority Research Park to wrap things up on Thursday. The tentative agenda, hotel information, and registration info can be found on the GMDA website at www.gmdausa.org.

2022 Summer Conference

Ray reported that the Colorado delegation is still getting things arranged for the Summer 2022 Conference, and that multiple locations are being considered. The general consensus was that it should be someplace cool, and also some locations where GMDA might be able to recruit additional members. Some ideas as to locality in no particular order:

- Utah
- Snake River watershed, Idaho
- Minnesota (they're having some groundwater quality issues in areas being cleared for potato production)
- Washington State/Columbia River watershed (especially around the concepts of moving surface water to groundwater)
- Other suggestions? Get them to the Colorado folks!

Other Business as Needed

No other business was suggested.

Adjourn

No other business being at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Ehrman, GMDA Secretary-Treasurer

ITEM 3

Secretary / Treasurer's Report

Finances

As of December 31, 2021, GMDA's bank balance in First State Bank of Stratford, Texas is \$113,756.39 which reflects a \$100,299.45 for October 1, 2021, beginning balance, \$14,900.00 of income and \$1,443.06 in expenses for the period from October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. Since October 1, 2021, GMDA has received \$14,900.00 from program service fees. Expenses include \$225.00 for website hosting, \$102.84 in awards and \$1,115.22 in conference expenses.

Membership

As of December 31, 2021, there are 49 paid members and 9 honorary lifetime members. The breakdown of paid members is as follows:

- District: 31
- Individual: 6
- Affiliate: 7
- Organizational: 5

ITEM 4
NWRA Report

NWRA representatives Ian Lyle is scheduled to update the membership on NWRA activities and priorities before lunch. NWRA's 90th Annual Conference held on November 8-10, 2021, at the San Marcos Resort/Crown Plaza, in Chandler Arizona was attended by AJ Olsen, Mark Rude, Lyndon Vogt and others. The am provide addition in formation regarding NWRA.

ITEM 5
Reports and Recommendations from State Caucuses
January 19, 2022

Director Election

The GMDA Constitution Article 7.0 (State Caucuses), directs that at each annual meeting a state caucus consisting of the state's entire membership shall meet and by a majority vote of the members in attendance elect directors as follows: Beginning with the 1988 annual meeting three (3) members shall be elected - one for a one-year term, one for a two-year term and one for a three-year term. Thereafter at each annual meeting one director shall be elected for a three-year term. At each annual meeting or any special meeting for the entire membership, each state's directors shall call for a state caucus to present Association matters to their caucus. During caucus deliberation of Association matters, caucus voting shall serve as a guide for the voting of the state directors during subsequent board meetings. The matter of appointing a state advisor shall also be routinely handled during the annual state caucus meeting. The state caucuses should endeavor to appoint an advisor who has statewide experience in all pertinent phases of groundwater management. California has two memberships in GMDA and should select its representatives to the GMDA Board.

It will be the responsibility of the states to provide for any filling of vacancies which may occur in their respective state representation on the board of directors. GMDA Constitution Article 8.0 (Caucus Voting Rights), directs that all memberships shall be entitled to vote in the state caucuses in accordance with the type of membership (Article 4.0) and as set forth below:

- a) District members shall be entitled to four (4) votes.
- b) Organizational members shall be entitled to three (3) votes.
- c) Affiliate members shall be entitled to two (2) votes.
- d) Individual members shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

The current director roster is as follows:

State	1-Yr Director	2-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	Advisor
California	John Woodling	James Cioffi		
Colorado		Don Rosenbrock	Everett Kissler	Randy Ray Billy Mihelich
Kansas	Orrin Feril	Tim Boese	Shannon Kenyon	Mark Rude
Louisiana	Mark Frey	J A Rummler	William Daniel	Tony Duplechin
Mississippi	Don Christy	Daniel Shannon	Sykes Sturdivant	Ben Griffith
Nebraska	Dick Ehrman	Tyler Naprstek	Linda Luebbe	Lyndon Vogt
New Mexico	Aron Balok	Greg Alpers	A.J. Olsen	
Texas	Gene Born	C.E. Williams	Steve Walthour	Robert Bradley

Below are the director positions anticipated to be filled based on the rotation.

State	1-Yr Director	2-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	Advisor
California	James Cioffi			
Colorado	Don Rosenbrock	Everett Kissler		Randy Ray
Kansas	Tim Boese	Shannon Kenyon		Billy Mihelich
Louisiana	J A Rummler	William Daniel		Mark Rude
Mississippi	Daniel Shannon	Sykes Sturdivant		Tony Duplechin
Nebraska	Tylr Naprstek	Linda Luebbe		Ben Griffith
New Mexico	Greg Alpers	A.J. Olsen		Lyndon Vogt
Texas	C.E. Williams	Steve Walthour		Robert Bradley

NWRA Groundwater Caucus Priorities

This item is provided for the state caucus to report recommended Groundwater Caucus Priorities for board consideration.

Other State Priorities

This item is provided for the state caucus to report priorities other than Groundwater Caucus Priorities that the State caucuses may wish for the board to consider.

ITEM 6

Committee Reports

National Water Resources Association Caucus & Groundwater and Federal Issues Committee (AJ Olsen, Lyndon Vogt, Randy Ray, Mark Rude, Don Christy)

The NWRA Caucus/ Groundwater and Federal Issues Committee consists of GMDA Directors to the NWRA, representing GMDA at NWRA meetings and shall report to the GMDA board all appropriate NWRA actions and activity, specifically including matters pertaining to voting procedures, dues, legal actions, the legislature and other NWRA affiliations. GMDA is the NWRA Groundwater Caucus. The Committee advises GMDA regarding any other federal or multistate matters that may that are not the focus of the NWRA but may affect GMDA members.

The committee may report its activities regarding NWRA Caucus, groundwater and federal issues.

Membership Committee (Steve Walthour, Tylr Naprstek, Jim Cioffi, Tim Boese)

The Membership Committee identifies, promotes, and implements membership strategies that will result in membership development and growth, and support of GMDA. The membership committee has not met since the April board meeting; However, the Vice President plans on using the membership lists obtained by the committee to distribute information on GMDA’s annual conference along with the membership application. The Committee may report its activities.

Water Quality Committee (Aron Balok, Dick Ehrman, Billie Mihelich, Tony Duplechin);

This committee was originally set up to address water quality issues such as PFAS. The committee may provide a report.

Program Committee (Linda Luebbe, Jim Cioffi, CE Williams, Tony Duplechin)

Program Committee evaluates existing programs, assist with GMDA training, education, advocacy, and assist with development needs of the organization. The Program Committee provides advice and support for members as they organize meetings and speakers.

Website Committee (Kristen Blackwell, Orrin Feril)

The GMDA Website Committee maintains content, ensure the quality of the content, and administer the system and features of the website. The Committee troubleshoots issues and assists members to update content. The GMDA Website (gmdausa.org) has been worked but needs more attention. North Plains GCD is administering the website and will attempt registration through the site for the Annual Conference in San Antonio.

Awards Committee (Steve Walthour, Tony Duplechin, Linda Luebbe)

The Awards Committee coordinates awards and recognition for the organization. The committee will make a report.

ITEM 7
Consider Policy Priority Recommendations
for the NWRA Leadership Forum

The purpose of this item is to consider the future of water policy and set priorities for the second term of 117th Congress. GMDA is the NWRA Groundwater Caucus. The Caucus continues to monitor federal and state groundwater issues, including state primacy, federal administration of groundwater, environment and endangered species, drought planning and water conservation.

In 2019, GMDA and the Groundwater Caucus identified 5 issues in to be part of the topics of discussion at the conference. They are:

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. Develop water resources infrastructure and support 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.

The GMDA Board will be setting recommended priorities to be considered at the NWRA Leadership Forum in 2023.

ITEM 8
Consider approval of GMDA Depository

GMDA has been banking at the First State Bank – Stratford in Dumas, Texas since Walthour became Secretary Treasure in 2010. The bank has served the organization well; however, Walthour recommended at the October board meeting that GMDA selects larger more regional or national bank that can provide automated services related to direct deposits that is more accessible to the board, and the current secretary treasurer. Ideally, the account would have least two signatories that are different from the person that reconciles GMDA’s income and expenses. The Secretary- Treasurer will provide a recommendation to the board.

ITEM 9

Change of Presidents & Elections of Officers

ARTICLE 9.0: OFFICERS

The activities of the Association shall be set and maintained by the Officers who, except for the GMDA Secretary/Treasurer (who may or may not be an elected director), shall be current board members. The officers shall consist of the President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer. The Vice-President shall also serve as President elect and shall assume the office of President whenever vacated.

All officers shall serve for one year, except for the provisions for the accession of the Vice-President to the Presidency, and all officers shall be elected at each annual meeting by majority vote of the directors in attendance. In the event the in-coming President had been elected Vice-President with only one year remaining on his or her term and is not re-elected to the three-year position when ready to automatically assume the Presidency, the new board shall elect both a President and a Vice-President from its members.

The officers of the Association shall, until the employment or appointment of a manager, perform all the routine functions of the Association as follows:

- a) President shall preside over all meetings of the board of directors and shall generally be the spokesperson for the Association in matters of public affairs. He or she shall ultimately assume all responsibility for the Association and its efforts, and shall be allowed to appoint committees as deemed necessary, including representatives to other organizations and committees of similar interest or nature.
- b) Vice-President shall preside and assume the duties of the President in his or her absence. He or she shall also be responsible for the upcoming annual meeting preparations.
- c) Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Association and shall record the proceedings of the board of director's meetings and other special meetings.
- d) GMDA director to NWRA shall represent GMDA at NWRA meetings and shall report to the GMDA board all appropriate NWRA actions and activity, specifically including matters pertaining to voting procedures, dues, legal actions, the legislature and other NWRA affiliations.
- e) Advisors shall assist the board by attending board meetings and providing advice and assistance to the directors of the state they represent, providing the board a state overview report during each annual meeting which covers groundwater topics of interest to the Association and by providing support in the development and conduct of the annual conference and other general meetings, seminars, field trips and activities.

ITEM 10

Committee Appointments

The incoming President appoints various committees of the organization. The current committees and chairpersons are as follows:

- National Water Resources Association Caucus & Groundwater and Federal Issues Committee AJ Olsen, Lyndon Vogt, Randy Ray, Mark Rude, Don Christy
- Membership Committee -Steve Walthour, Tylr Naprstek, Jim Cioffi, Tim Boese
- Water Quality Committee -Aron Balok, Dick Ehrman, Billie Mihelich, Tony Duplechin
- Program Committee -Linda Luebbe, Jim Cioffi, CE Williams, Tony Duplechin
- Website Committee - Kristen Blackwell, Orrin Feril
- Awards – Steve Walthour, Tony Duplechin, Linda Luebbe

ITEM 11

2022 Summer Conference

In January 2016, the GMDA board assigned the Summer Conference to each state on a rotating basis. If the President or Vice President is from a state that is scheduled in the rotation to hold the summer conference the summer conference organizational responsibilities pass to the next state in the rotation. A GMDA member can volunteer at any time to organize the summer conference. If the volunteer request is accepted by the board, the rotation is postponed for that year.

Current Order of Rotation:

Colorado 2022
New Mexico 2023
Louisiana 2024
California 2025
Texas 2026
Kansas 2027
Mississippi 2028
Nebraska 2029

ITEM 12

2023 Annual Conference Location

This item is provided to discuss the 2023 Annual Conference. The Vice President is usually responsible for organizing this event.

ITEM 13

Other Business as Needed

ITEM 14 – Adjourn