



**Board Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2018
Hilton Capital Center, Baton Rouge, LA**

The Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA) meeting was called to order by President C.E. Williams at 5:30 PM. The Board Members and Advisors whose names are underlined below were in attendance. This board listing represents the 2018 GMDA board following Caucus actions:

| State | 1-Yr Director | 2-Yr Director | 3-Yr Director | Advisor |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Colorado | Jim Reasoner | Byron McCall | <u>Everett Kissler</u> | <u>Randy Ray</u> |
| Kansas | Orrin Feril | Tim Boese | <u>Jason Norquist</u> | <u>Mark Rude</u> |
| Louisiana | Todd Talbot | <u>Barry Huggins</u> | <u>Nelson Morvant</u> | <u>Tony Duplechin</u> |
| Mississippi | <u>Don Christy</u> | <u>Daniel Shannon</u> | _____ | Ben Griffith |
| Nebraska | <u>Dick Ehrman</u> | <u>Lyndon Vogt</u> | <u>Linda Luebbe</u> | Katie Cameron |
| New Mexico | <u>Aron Balok</u> | <u>Bill Netherlin</u> | <u>A.J. Olsen</u> | Olivia Mitchell |
| Texas | Sarah Schlessinger | <u>C.E. Williams</u> | <u>Steve Walthour</u> | Robert Bradley |

Everett Kissler moved that the minutes from May 25, 2017 board meeting be approved, Linda Luebbe seconded the motion which passed unanimously via voice vote.

Treasurer and Membership Reports:

Steve Walthour provided the treasurers report that as of December 31, 2017, GMDA's bank balance was \$120,000. This was before paying the NWRA bill of \$13,360 and \$25,000-\$30,000 expected to be paid for the Baton Rouge, LA conference. Walthour expected there to be approximately \$85,000-\$90,000 left after those bills were paid.

Steve Walthour said the GMDA website is up and running and that GMDA had spent \$3,744 for website design and implementation and that he does not expect to spend any more than the \$10,000 GMDA budgeted for it. Mr. Walthour requested everyone look at the website and the GMDA Facebook page and provide feedback and comments as well as to "Friend" us on Facebook. GMDA will be paying the direct cost for the GMDA meeting at the DeSoto Hotel in Savannah, GA. Mr. Walthour stated that as of December 31, 2017 GMDA had 46 paid members and 8 honorary lifetime members.

Steve was asked how NWRA calculates the dues and fees we pay annually. He stated that fee was negotiated several years ago. The fee started at \$12,000 and has crept up over the years to \$13,360. It was reported the fees are set by the NWRA board and are the same for everyone. CE Williams asked if GMDA dues is enough to cover the NWRA membership. Steve replied that CE was correct, our dues are low and most of the money GMDA has made over the last six years or so is from conferences. GMDA funds have grown in the bank based on conference attendance and member participation.

By consensus, the board accepted the secretary treasurer's finance and membership reports.

State Caucus reports:

Colorado – Everett Kissler reported Byron McCall was unable to attend, but it was requested that Randy Ray remain the advisor but if Byron cannot remain they requested Don Rosenbrock fill his place. Everett Kissler is moving up to the 3-year director. Mark Rude asked if an advisor must be a state agent or can it be anyone? Steve Walthour answered that according to the bylaws, it can be anyone.

Kansas – Mark Rude reported he drops off, Orrin Feril and Tim Boese move up and they have added Jason Norquist as the new 3-year director. The advisor changes from Earl Lewis to Mark Rude. Mr. Rude requested he stay active with NWRA and work with Lyndon Vogt and A.J. Olsen to make sure GMDA is always represented at board meetings. Mr. Rude's question was that since he is an advisor and not a board member if that was possible? President Williams stated he did not know of anything that would preclude Mr. Rude from doing that. It was stated that the president has always appointed the two voting directors to NWRA and the others were there as alternates.

Louisiana – Tony Duplechin introduced commission chairman Barry Huggins. Amelia Kent is dropping from the board and is being replaced by Todd Talbot, Mr. Huggins will remain as a 2-year director, Nelson Morvant will be the 3-year director and Tony Duplechin will take over the roll as advisor.

Mississippi – Don Christy reported Buck Falls will be leaving the board and as of the meeting, they do not have a replacement for him, Daniel Shannon and Don Christy would be moving up and Ben Griffith will continue to serve as advisor.

Nebraska – Linda Luebbe reported that she is going to 3-year director, Lyndon Vogt will go to 2-year director and Dick Ehrman will move to 1-year director. Mr. Ehrman stated that Katie Cameron will be the advisor.

New Mexico – A J Olsen reported he will go to 3-year director, Bill Netherlin will go to 2-year director and Aron Balok will be 1-year director. Olivia Mitchell will be the advisor.

Texas – Steve Walthour reported he will drop off and move to the 3-year director, Sarah Schlessinger moves up to 1-year director, CE Williams is 2-year director and Robert Bradley is the advisor.

California – California has two memberships and according to bylaws they have a right to sit on the board. Steve Walthour said he would send them a notice and see who they wanted and if they would be able to attend the summer conference.

GMDA Communications:



Steve Walthour reported that the website is under construction. Mr. Walthour requested that everyone review and evaluate the website and send feedback to klane@northplainsgcd.org. At this time, GMDA has only spent a 1/3 of the budgeted money to work on the website. It was requested that if anyone has something they would like to share they use the hash tag #GMDAUSA on Twitter and it will show up on the webpage for everyone to see.

NWRA Report:

AJ Olsen reported the caucus meeting was held January 3rd in Las Vegas, NV. Eleven states were represented who had multiple representatives at the caucus meeting, not just members, but individuals who had an interest in the caucus. All representative states from GMDA were present at the meeting. At the caucus it was developed and presented to the NWRA the recommendations of the caucus for the federal legislation for 2018 and the issues that will be discussed in the April 2018 trip to D.C. The meeting in January was the third meeting of the groundwater taskforce which is also tied to the caucus.

Lyndon Vogt stated he felt it was one of the more productive meetings and as we go through this we learn and do better. Mark Rude stated he felt the main thing about the January meeting with NWRA is that they are setting their priorities for the year so if we have groundwater priorities GMDA wants NWRA to promote for us we must have them to them prior to that meeting. Mark Rude also stated that under A.J. Olsen's leadership, the opportunity and strength of the groundwater taskforce was able to respond to opportunities with NWRA and informing GMDA what is going on.

It was recommended GMDA members listen in to NWRA Federal Affairs conference calls get up to speed. The calls are monthly and are broke down by the various committees/taskforce under Federal Affairs. The NWRA taskforce updates participants monthly on groundwater issues such as infrastructure, litigation, storage, watershed etc. Contact Ian Lyle to make the request to attend and get the conference call in number.

It was recommended to have 2019 annual GMDA meeting in conjunction with NWRA meeting.

Committee Reports:

No reports

Change of Presidents & Elections of Officers:

C.E. Williams handed off the Presidency to Tony Duplech in for 2018. The board elected Everett Kissler to be Vice-President and reelected Steve Walthour to Secretary/Treasurer.

Committee Appointments:

Committee appointments to NWRA Caucus and Groundwater Federal Issues are A.J. Olsen, Mark Rude and Lyndon Vogt as an alternate. All three agreed to stay on and it was moved by C.E. Williams to nominate them for 2018 and seconded by Linda Luebbe. They were approved unanimously by voice vote. Steve Walthour thought it important to note the President appoints committee members, and a vote was not necessary. President Duplechin appointed C.E. Williams to the membership committee and Steve Walthour Website and Awards Committees.

2018 Summer Conference:

The GMDA board assigned the Summer Conference to each state on a rotating basis. Steve Walthour recommended California be added to the bottom after New Mexico and above Louisiana.

Kansas 2019
Mississippi 2020
Nebraska 2021
Colorado 2022
New Mexico 2023
California 2024
Louisiana 2025

2019 Conference Location:

The Vice-President is usually responsible for organizing the event. C.E. Williams requested sincere consideration in holding the event in early January in conjunction with the NWRA. A.J. Olsen said he and Bill Netherlin did not attend the 2017 meeting due to the fact they were attending the NWRA meeting. Linda Luebbe stated the Nebraska delegation would have fewer attendees at an earlier meeting due to schools and colleges still out. It was suggested to contact NWRA about moving the meeting a week or two if possible. It was also a concern about paying the NWRA entrance fee in addition to GMDA conference fees. Ultimately, it is up to Vice-President Kissler to make the final determination.

Other Business as Needed:

In November, Robert Longenbaugh from Ft. Collins, Collins Colorado corresponded with Steve Walthour asking for specific help in keeping him informed about GMDA activities such as conferences, advisory positions, education efforts and all other GMDA activities that might have a useful purpose for Colorado's groundwater users. Mr. Longenbaugh has been a GMDA member for a long time. Over the past few years GMDA has relied on email, websites and other digital social media for getting the word out on conferences, seminars and other GMDA activities. Mr. Longenbaugh is interested in staying active in groundwater issues and suggested that GMDA consider developing a mentoring program or a program that could use his and other experiences. It was decided to mail Mr. Longenbaugh any pertinent information regarding GMDA. There are several members who have started to retire. Steve asked if there was a need for a mentoring program in GMDA and suggested the membership committee investigate it.

Adjourn:

By consensus the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm