



Groundwater Management Districts Association
c/o Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
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President: Jason Norquest, Kansas
Vice President: Chad Shaefer, Colorado
Secretary-Treasurer: Dick Ehrman, Nebraska

Board Meeting Agenda and Information Packet

Omaha, Nebraska
July 18, 2024

1. Open Meeting – Jason Norquest, GMDA President
2. Consideration and Approval of January 24, 2024 Minutes – Dick Ehrman, GMDA Secretary-Treasurer
3. Treasurer’s Report – Ehrman
Discussion/Possible Action: Retention of Accounting/Bookkeeping Services
4. Committee Reports/Committee Assignments
 - National Water Resources Association Caucus/Groundwater and Federal Issues-Mark Rude
Discussion/Possible Action on GMDA Message to NWRA
 - Membership-Tylr Naprstek
 - Water Quality-Aron Balok
 - Website-Kyle Sprouse
Discussion/Action: Increase in Streamline Fee for Website Maintenance
 - Awards-Tylr Naprstek
5. Consideration of GMDA Constitution-Steve Walthour
Discussion/Possible Action If Necessary
6. Consideration of “No Fly” Dates for Future Conferences-All
7. 2025 Annual Conference – Temecula, CA (Colorado organizing)
8. 2025 Summer Conference—California is in rotation
9. Other Business as Needed
10. Adjourn

ITEM 1 OPEN MEETING

**Board Members Present, July 18, 2024
Omaha, Nebraska**

Underline/Highlight Members that are present

State	1-Yr Director	2-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	Advisor
California	John Woodling	Trevor Joseph		Paul Ortega
Colorado		Kyle Sprouse	Tom Sauter	Randy Ray Billy Mihelich
Kansas	Shannon Kenyon	Jason Norquest	Tim Boese/Orin Feril	Mark Rude
Idaho			Paul Arrington	
Louisiana	Mark Frey	J A Rummier	William Daniel	Gary Beard
Mississippi	John McKee	Don Christy	Daniel Shannon	Ben Griffith
Nebraska	Tylr Naprstek	Brian Bruckner	Dick Ehrman	Lyndon Vogt
New Mexico		Aron Balok	Kelli Goodpasture	
Texas	Britney Britten	Steve Walthour	Leah Martinsson	Robert Bradley

**ITEM 2 CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF GMDA BOARD MEETING
MINUTES, JANUARY 24, 2024**

Board Meeting Minutes

Nashville, Tennessee

January 24, 2024

Board Members Present Highlighted

State	1-Yr Director	2-Yr Director	3-Yr Director	Advisor
California	John Woodling	Trevor Joseph	Steve Castaneda	Roberto Yano
Colorado	Everett Kissler	Kyle Sprouse	Tom Sauter	Randy Ray Billy Mihelich
Kansas	Shannon Kenyon	Jason Norquest	Tim Boese/Orin Feril	Mark Rude
Idaho			Paul Arrington	
Louisiana	Mark Frey	J A Rummler	William Daniel	Gary Beard
Mississippi	John McKee	Don Christy	Daniel Shannon	Ben Griffith
Nebraska	Tylr Naprstek	Brian Bruckner	Dick Ehrman	Lyndon Vogt
New Mexico		Aron Balok	Kelli Goodpasture	
Texas	Britney Britten	Steve Walthour	Leah Martinsson	Robert Bradley

1. Open Meeting

Daniel Shannon, GMDA President, opened the meeting at 1:06 PM. There was a quorum present (six of nine member states).

2. Consideration and Approval of July 12, 2023 Minutes

Dick Ehrman, GMDA Secretary-Treasurer, presented the minutes of the July 12, 2023 meeting in Santa Fe, NM.

Don Christy moved to approve the minutes, Aron Balok seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Ehrman provided the GMDA Treasurer’s Report:

Finances

As of December 31, 2023, GMDA’s bank balance in US Bank was \$105,702.83, which reflects a beginning balance of \$94,190.28 on July 1, 2023, \$17,804.53 of income, and \$6,291.98 in expenses for the period from July 1- December 31, 2023. Since July 1, 2023, GMDA has received \$16,100.00 from membership dues, \$2.42 in interest, \$0 in donations, and \$1702.11 in reimbursement from the Annual 2023 Conference. Expenses include \$158.33 for awards, \$650 to SW Kansas GMD #3 for Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District overpayment (combined dues with conference registration), \$5,363.65 to Pecos

Valley Artesian Conservation District for Summer 2023 Conference expenses, and \$120.00 for website maintenance expenses.

Membership

Currently, there are 52 paid members (32 District, 5 organizational, 7 affiliate, and 8 individual) and 11 honorary lifetime members in GMDA. Members are from 15 States: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.

Steve Walthour moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Jason Norquest seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. Consideration of NWRA Dues

Ehrman presented an invoice from the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) for its 2024 membership dues in the amount of \$15,071.00. This was up a bit from the 2023 dues of \$14,632.00. Discussion ensued regarding the value of GMDA's membership in NWRA as the Groundwater Caucus, as well as the necessity of maintaining GMDA's connection with NWRA.

Mark Rude moved to approve payment of 2024 NWRA dues in the amount of \$15,071.00, Balok seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. Committee Reports/Committee Assignments

- National Water Resources Association Caucus/Groundwater and Federal Issues
Rude gave an overview of NRWA and handed out info on Groundwater and Federal Issues and 2024 priorities/workplan. In the past, GMDA as the Groundwater Caucus has had a one-hour caucus at NWRA; NWRA wants to put GMDA on the regular agenda. NWRA's survey (including GMDA) has indicated that members see it as having value. NWRA has its relationship with Water Strategies LLC & Dale Nellor; this led discussion as to who they are responsible to. Texas has pulled out of NWRA. Rude and the Committee will continue to forward approximate weekly emails regarding NWRA activities. Balok moved that President create a committee to develop letters of support for the High Plains Study and Groundwater Conservation Easements and future items ; Don Christy seconded. Discussion followed and noted that the Federal Affairs Committee will handle this to start. Walthour moved to amend the motion to allow for Board Zoom meetings for this Committee as short response time might be required; Balok withdrew his initial motion. Christy seconded Walthour's amendment. The amended motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Membership
Tylr Naprstek has researched several additional states/entities as far as new membership or possible GMDA participation:
 - Nebraska
 - Nebraska State Irrigation Association
 - Nebraska Water Leaders Academy
 - Texas
 - Texas Water Foundation/Texas Water Leaders Program

- Arizona
 - Water Management Certificate Program
 - Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona
- Minnesota
 - Minnesota Ground Water Association

Research for additional membership is ongoing; if any current members have any ideas or leads, please contact Naprstek.

- Water Quality
Balok reported on New Mexico's response to the Sackett decision, mainly in regard to how existing discharge permits may be affected and/or no longer necessary. Ehrman reported on Nebraska's proposed Nitrate Reduction Act, which would provide funding and support for farmers to adopt more efficient nitrogen fertilization techniques to protect groundwater quality.
- Website
No news to report.
- Awards
No news to report.

6. Change of Presidents & Election of Officers

Daniel Shannon stepped down as GMDA President to wild applause after a singularly successful term. Jason Norquest assumed the office of President, again to uniform and enthusiastic applause. Dick Ehrman was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer by voice vote. Randy Ray nominated Chad Schaefer as GMDA Vice-President/President-Elect. Walthour moved nominations cease, Rude seconded. Schaefer was elected Vice-President by unanimous voice vote.

7. Consideration of GMDA Constitution

There was ongoing discussion about any necessary edits to the Constitution, particularly the possibility of separating the Secretary-Treasurer into two offices. Walthour will read through the Constitution and report at next meeting.

8. Consideration of "No Fly" Dates for Future Conferences

Ehrman noted that Nebraska's attendance in Nashville was down from previous meetings due to a conflict with the Nebraska Association of Resources District's Legislative Conference, which is typically held the last full week in January as the Nebraska Legislature typically convenes in mid-January. Several other states noted that January can be problematic as their legislatures do the same. Naprstek provided the following input on possible conflicts throughout each year which should probably be avoided as far as GMDA scheduling:

Nebraska: NARD Conference last full week of January/Legislature convenes 1st Wednesday in January; mid-March; last full week of September

Texas: Early January (usually 2nd week)

New Mexico: Approximately January 15th/third Tuesday of January

Colorado: January, variable dates

Kansas: Legislature convenes 2nd Monday in January ; Water Authority 3rd week of January
Mississippi: Legislature convenes 1st full week on January

Ehrman requested that member States email him any additional “no fly” dates throughout the year, particularly in January, so GMDA can avoid such conflicts in the future. Discussion centered around other possibilities. It was noted that in the distant past, the Winter Conference was held as early as late November/early December, but issues with the holidays can interfere in that case. It was suggested that future Winter Conferences be delayed until possibly February. Discussion will continue on this issue.

9. 2024 Summer Conference – Louisiana is in rotation for the Summer Conference.
10. 2025 Annual Conference – As Chad Schaefer was elected Vice President, Colorado will be responsible for organizing the Annual Conference in early 2025.
11. Other Business as Needed—no additional business.
12. Adjourn -With no additional business, Ben Griffith moved to adjourn, Balok seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dick Ehrman, GMDA Secretary-Treasurer

ITEM 3 TREASURER’S REPORT

Finances

As of June 30, 2024, GMDA’s bank balance in US Bank was \$121,226.21, which reflects a beginning balance of \$105,702.83 on January 1, 2024, \$35,952.38 of income, and \$20,429.00 in expenses for the period from January 1-June 30, 2024. Since January 1, 2024, GMDA has received \$2,050.00 from membership dues, \$2.38 in interest, \$100 in donations, and \$33,800.00 in registrations/sponsorships for the 2024 Summer Conference in Omaha. Expenses include \$15,071.00 in NWRA dues, \$238.00 for awards, \$5,000.00 to SW Kansas GMD #3 for Winter 2024 Conference expenses, and \$120.00 for website maintenance expenses.

Membership

Currently, there are 54 paid members (32 District, 5 organizational, 9 affiliate, and 8 individual) and 11 honorary lifetime members in GMDA. Members are from 15 States: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico,

North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.

Accounting/Bookkeeping Services

Over the past few meetings, there has been discussion about the possibility of retaining professional accounting/bookkeeping services for GMDA's financial dealings. This would provide some protection for the Association in terms of financial accountability as well as relieve the Treasurer of those responsibilities, especially since that office is voluntary and the individual elected to the office may not have much in the way of financial experience (that's certainly the case with yours truly!). I've done a brief internet search for examples of such services for nonprofits and offer these figures to continue the discussion:

Foundation Group:	\$350/month
Jitasa Group:	\$395/month
Quickbooks:	\$200/month
Growth Force:	Not a service per se, but they estimate private services for such activities would be on the order of \$18-23/hour for a small organization such as GMDA.

I would suggest the possibility of forming an *ad hoc* committee of officers/volunteers to explore options and report back to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Dick Ehrman, GMDA Secretary/Treasurer

ITEM 4 COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

National Water Resources Association Caucus & Groundwater and Federal Issues Committee (Mark Rude/Aron Balok Co-Chairs, Randy Ray, Don Christy, Lyndon Vogt)

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.

Membership Committee (Tylr Naprstek Chair, Tim Boese)

The Membership Committee identifies, promotes, and implements membership strategies that will result in membership development and growth, and support of GMDA. The Committee and

officers will use the membership lists obtained by the Committee to distribute information on GMDA's annual conference along with the membership application.

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

This committee was originally set up to address water quality issues such as PFAS, nitrate, pesticides, etc.

Website Committee (Kyle Sprouse Chair, Tammy Rush, 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. In 2022, GMDA retained Streamline as a service provider to maintain the website at a cost of \$20/month. **Streamline has notified the Secretary-Treasurer that, as of July 1, 2024, their monthly charge will go up to \$25/month. The Board will consider this cost increase.**

Awards Committee (Steve Walthour Chair, Brian Bruckner, Tylr Naprstek)

The Awards Committee coordinates awards and recognition for the organization.

ITEM 5 CONSIDERATION OF GMDA CONSTITUTION

GMDA operates under its constitution. Periodically, the board should review GMDA's Constitution and propose changes if necessary. Attached to this Board Packet is a copy of the GMDA Constitution for your review. As has been the case for the past few meetings, the Board will entertain discussion and possible proposals regarding amending the Constitution. Steve Walthour will be presenting ideas and options.

ITEM 6 CONSIDERATION OF "NO FLY" DATES FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

From time to time, GMDA conferences conflict with established activities in the various member States. For example, the last full week in January is normally Nebraska's annual Legislative Conference, which considerably limits attendance from the Nebraska contingent. Other States' legislatures typically convene sometime in January, which can also interfere with attendance at the GMDA Annual Conference. The Summer Conference typically doesn't have quite as many conflicts, but those can arise. Therefore, discussion of this item will center on continuing to build an ongoing list of the timing of member State activities so GMDA Conferences can be scheduled to avoid such conflicts where possible and increase attendance.

ITEM 7 2025 ANNUAL (WINTER) CONFERENCE

As per the GMDA Constitution, each year's Annual Conference is organized by the State represented by the newly-elected Vice President/President-Elect. As noted above, Chad Schaefer from Colorado was elected Vice President at the 2024 Annual Conference in Nashville, so Colorado will be organizing the 2025 Annual Conference. They have scheduled that meeting

for February 25-27, 2025 at the Temecula Creek Inn, in Temecula, California. More details will be forthcoming.

ITEM 8 2025 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. For 2025, California is in 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. Idaho has not yet been added to the rotation. The Board of Directors will need to determine where Idaho fits in the rotation.

Current Order of Rotation:

- 2025: California
- 2026: Texas
- 2027: Kansas
- 2028: Mississippi
- 2029: Nebraska
- 2030: Colorado
- 2031: New Mexico
- 2032: Louisiana

ITEM 9 OTHER BUSINESS AS NEEDED

ITEM 10 ADJOURN