



Groundwater Management Districts Association  
 c/o Lower Platte South Natural Resources District  
 P.O. Box 83581  
 Lincoln, NE 68501-3581

President: Steve Walthour, TX  
 Vice President/President-Elect: Daniel Shannon, MS  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Dick Ehrman, NE  
 Past President: Aron Balok, NM

**GMDA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda  
 Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 3:30-4:30 PM MDT  
 Copper Mountain Conference Center, Copper Mountain CO**

**Members Present Underlined**

<b>State</b>	<b>1-Yr Director</b>	<b>2-Yr Director</b>	<b>3-Yr Director</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
California	John Woodling		James Cioffi	
Colorado	<u>Don Rosenbrock</u>	<u>Everett Kissler</u>	Kyle Sprouse	<u>Randy Ray</u> Also Present: <u>Billy Mihelich</u>
Kansas	Tim Boese	<u>Shannon Kenyon</u>	<u>Jason Norquest</u>	<u>Mark Rude</u>
Louisiana	Mark Frey	J A Rummler	William Daniel	<u>Gary Beard</u>
Mississippi	<u>Daniel Shannon</u>	Sykes Sturdivant	<u>Don Christy</u>	<u>Ben Griffith</u>
Nebraska	<u>Dick Ehrman</u>	<u>Tylr Naprstek</u>	<u>Linda Luebbe</u>	Lyndon Vogt
New Mexico	Kelli Goodpasture	Mitchell McCrae	<u>Aron Balok</u>	
Texas	Britney Britten	<u>Steve Walthour</u>	Leah Martinsson	Robert Bradley Also Present: <u>Kristen Blackwell</u>

**1. Open Meeting & Establish Quorum**

President Steve Walthour opened meeting at 4:00 PM; a quorum was present and the agenda was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

## 2. Consideration & Approval of January 19, 2022 Minutes

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Everett Kessler moved, Tylr Naprstek seconded for approval. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

## 3. Treasurer's & Membership Reports

Secretary-Treasurer Dick Ehrman reported that as of the meeting date, GMDA has a bank balance of \$93,601.26 in US Bank after the transfer from the First State Bank of Stratford, TX (financials attached). This amount is approximately \$20,000 less than the balance at the January meeting. Linda Luebbe moved, Aron Balok seconded for approval of the Treasurer's report. Discussion regarding declining bank account balance ensued. Walthour noted that account balances go up and down and that historically only about 60% of conferences make money. Billy Mihelich noted that dues in the future might be used to support some permanent staff. The motion as presented was unanimously approved.

## 4. Committee Membership Appointments & Reports

- National Water Resources Association Caucus & Groundwater & Federal Issues  
Mark Rude reviewed updated material from Water Strategies (copy attached). Key issues are WRDA re Kansas Aqueduct study (although draft language didn't make it into WRDA) but that one of USACE's priorities going forward will be water supply. Also, the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee is active in considering water shortages in the west; groundwater is often popping up in these discussions.
- Membership Committee  
Naprstek reported that Committee has met/conversed several times & produced a map of historical meetings for GMDA. "Open" spaces include Idaho, Nevada, Arizona as well as Tennessee, Kentucky, etc. He also reported that an idea is to waive/reduce membership fees for first time members. Walthour reported that the North Plains GWCD is doing surveys of a few questions at some of their meetings; he suggested that GMDA develop short survey(s) to see why people might have not attended and also to get input from membership and that they will develop a survey of 10 questions or less. He referred to Mihelich's observation that GMDA staff of some sort might be a good idea as current staff members are already overloaded. Walthour volunteered to put together a short survey for this conference. Don Christy asked if GMDA has demographic data on past attendance; Randy Ray responded that data exists but would be difficult to dig up. Christy noted this data would be useful for Mississippi's plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting. Ehrman suggested this information should be included in minutes/Secretary's report. Kissler expressed opinion that we should be developing a mission statement for the various committees and functions of GMDA.
- Water Quality Committee  
Balok reported that Committee had met virtually. He suggested that the Committee work with future meeting organizers to get a slot dealing with water quality to help guide future activities.
- Website Committee  
Walthour noted issues with website design and maintenance.
- Awards Committee  
Nothing to report. However, Walthour noted AJ Olsen's contributions to GMDA and suggested an award in appreciation of his efforts. Balok moved to provide such an award, Kissler seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

- Program Committee

Walthour noted the WQ Committee's suggestion for ongoing meeting slots and expressed the opinion that other pertinent issues for Districts (public information, dealing with employees, etc.) would be helpful either in conferences or virtual meetings, both for existing members and for future members. He related his experience with the LEAN process (mostly for manufacturing) and how it helped his well capping program. It worked well enough that the North Plains GWCD still uses this process today. Balok expressed his agreement on training/operations issues and how much the members have in common and how they can benefit from each other's experience. Luebbe noted that she is going off the Board at the end of 2022 and that Brian Bruckner will be replacing her.

## **5. Consider Action to Set Membership Dues**

Walthour opened by expressing the opinion that GMDA's dues should be based on what we want to do in the future. He asked what the opinion would be for looking into hiring support for newsletter, website, accounting, etc. General response was positive, depending on ultimate cost. Ray said that Central Colorado WCD uses US Bank but also has a small accounting firm for a nominal fee; he will provide that information to Ehrman and Ehrman will report back to the Board. Mihelich noted the difficulties with having a marketing presence and that two of three speakers he talked to today didn't know that GMDA existed. Naprstek stated that these issues came up in the Nebraska caucus.

Walthour noted that dues had not been changed since 2008. Shannon Kenyon moved and Balok seconded that we waive first year's dues for new members. Balok expressed the idea that this falls in line with marketing our identity but it's difficult; if we can get new potential members to meetings without dues it might help. He also expressed the opinion that new potential members should pay for conference attendance but waive dues. Kenyon moved and Balok seconded an amendment to send potential new members an invoice with membership waived. The motion as amended was unanimously approved.

Walthour next opened discussion on restructuring dues. Naprstek noted that Nebraska expressed the opinion that we set the new dues high enough to cover most current expenses, minimum of \$700 and maximum of \$1,000 with proportional increases for other memberships; he moved the \$700 for increase. Shannon expressed MS's opinion to possibly have an incremental approach. Ray said that Colorado's discussion was that yes dues are low but all of our income is going to NWRA. They discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to help with recruiting and setting income based on GMDA's needs. Walthour asked if this meant no increase in dues now; Ray responded that given the current bank balance that would be the case. Ehrman responded that we do know a little about what this increase might do given our current NWRA dues and the difference between the suggested \$700 dues. Kissler expressed concern that an arbitrary increase in fees might not be well accepted by current membership. Walthour noted that we're currently paying about \$400/district for NWRA dues and that he's uncomfortable with paying NWRA out of conference proceeds and that perhaps it's time to do a budget which GMDA has never done. Ray expressed the possibility of a special assessment for this fall of maybe the additional \$350 to support marketing, website, etc. activities. Balok expressed New Mexico's opinion that the dues need increased and prefers an increase to a special assessment. He said that he thought a doubling might be steep but whatever we should do it across the Board. Ehrman noted that whatever we do, we need some bullet points explaining why we did what we did. Naprstek's motion died for lack of second. Kissler moved \$50 individual (from \$25 current), \$250 affiliate (from \$125), \$400 organizational (from \$250), and \$500 District (from \$350); Don Rosenbrock seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

## **6. 2022 Fall/Summer Board Meeting (Virtual)**

Walthour stated he is intending to do a virtual Board meeting in October. He wants the membership committee to come up with ideas to go forward.

**7. 2023 Annual Conference Location**

Mississippi will be in rotation in January 2023. Shannon says they're thinking the east coast, possibly the Carolinas or Virginia, and he will have a definite location for the October virtual Board meeting. Walthour noted that Idaho has a problem with early January so we'll look at other possibilities as far as dates.

**8. 2023 Summer Conference**

New Mexico will be in rotation in Summer 2023. Balok noted that the map of past locations and current non-members will likely affect New Mexico's decision.

**9. Other Business**

No new business was brought forward.

**10. Adjourn**

Seeing no new business, Walthour adjourned the meeting at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dick Ehrman, Secretary-Treasurer  
Attachments