



## GMDA Annual Conference and Board Meeting Agenda

Board Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Conference  
January 12, 2021  
2 pm CST

The entire board meeting can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/nNyFl2tTftQ>

The Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA) meeting was called to order by President Linda Luebbe at 2:00 PM CST. President Luebbe began by having a roll called but in the interest of time, found that it would be easier to take roll from Zoom records and emails.

The Board Members and Advisors whose names are underlined below were in attendance. This board listing represents the 2021 GMDA board following Caucus actions:

<b>State</b>	<b>1-Yr Director</b>	<b>2-Yr Director</b>	<b>3-Yr Director</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
California	<u>John Woodling</u>	<u>James Cioffi</u>		
Colorado	<u>Jim Reasoner</u>	<u>Don Rosenbrock</u>	<u>Everett Kissler</u>	<u>Randy Ray &amp; Billy Mihelich</u>
Idaho				
Kansas	<u>Orrin Feril</u>	<u>Tim Boese</u>		<u>Mark Rude</u>
Louisiana	<u>J A Rummler</u>			<u>Tony Duplechin</u>
Mississippi	<u>Daniel Shannon</u>			<u>Ben Griffith</u>
Nebraska	<u>Dick Ehrman</u>	<u>Tylr Naprstek</u>	<u>Linda Luebbe</u>	<u>Lyndon Vogt</u>
New Mexico	<u>Aron Balok</u>	<u>Greg Alpers</u>	<u>AJ Olsen</u>	
North Dakota				
Texas	<u>Gene Born</u>	<u>CE Williams</u>	<u>Steve Walthour</u>	<u>Robert Bradley</u>
Washington				

Also, in attendance for part or all of the meeting were: Belinda Stum, Brian Bruckner, Britney Britten, Clay Scott, Courtney Widup, Dan Schulz, Dave Hume, Doug Shaw, Duane DeKrey, Fred Jones, Gary Beard, Ian Lyle, Jean Broce, Jean Perez, Jill Garcia, John Hashagen, Katie Englin, Kristen Blackwell, Leah Martinsson, Lonnie Nunnenkamp, Paul Woodward, Rhetta Yanez, Stephen Allen, Shannon Kenyon, S Yakel, Terry Julesgard and Vanessa Escobar.

CE Williams moved that the minutes from January 13, 2020 board meeting be approved, Tim Boese seconded the motion. Steve Walthour recommended that if anyone disagrees, they should say nay to motions made. No one disagreed and the motion passed unanimously. Dick

Ehrman moved the minutes from the July 8, 2020 virtual meeting be approved, Jason Norquest seconded the motion. No one disagreed and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Presentations**

Mark Rude introduced Dr. Belinda Sturm COVID and Public Water Supplies - Dr. Belinda Sturm (<http://people.ku.edu/~bmcswain/>) who is a Kansas and national leader in Wastewater Epidemiology through the University of Kansas. Dr. Sturm presented on COVID-19 and Public Water Supplies. Dr. Belinda Sturm is an Associate Professor in the Dept of Civil, Environmental & Architectural Engineering at the University of Kansas. Dr. Sturm worked at the Technical University of Munich, Germany, and the University of California, Davis before joining the faculty at KU in 2006. She specializes in biological processes of wastewater treatment and the application of molecular methods in water quality analysis. With KU's Feedstock to Tailpipe Initiative, Dr. Sturm has developed a process to remove nutrients from wastewater while growing algal biomass, which is processed into biocrude oil. In 2012, the American Academy of Environmental Engineers awarded KU an "Excellence in Environmental Engineering" honor award for this work.

Dr. Sturm performs both lab work at KU and pilot scale studies at the City of Lawrence Wastewater Treatment Plant. She is also the Principal Investigator of the Center for Microbial Metagenomic Community Analysis (CMMCA), which uses advanced high-throughput DNA sequencing and high-performance computing to study microbial community dynamics. In 2016 Dr. Sturm was named as the Edward & Thelma Wohlgemuth Faculty Scholar.

### **Presentation from the Vice President Aron Balok**

Aron Balok is the Superintendent of the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District in New Mexico. Mr. Balok studied Agriculture and Extension Education at New Mexico State University. The Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District (PVACD) was created by Order of the District Court of Chaves County, New Mexico, on January 11, 1932. The district was created to conserve the waters of the Roswell-Artesian Basin, including the lands within the Basin located in both Chaves and Eddy Counties. Mr. Balok spoke to the challenges of meeting remotely. He stated he feels he gets more out of the individual conversations as he does the presentations, not to say there is not value in the schedule speakers. He would like to find a way to move forward by tending to company business through the virtual platforms available to allow more time that allows us to have the one on one conversations to be able to ask questions explore ideas and allow for more of a schedule that is information exchange.

Additionally, Mr. Balok stated he felt going forward he would like to see committees break up the workload and he would like to see committees be a little more active in sharing the information they have gathered. He hopes to have another meeting later this year and in lieu of our interpersonal meetings get back to the information sharing concept to be able to hear what is going on in other areas.

## **Reports from State Caucuses**

### **California**

California was represented by John Woodling and James Cioffi. James Woodling stated California was heading into what was going to be a pretty dry year. James spoke about the current storage in the major reservoirs, precipitation, and snowpack conditions in the Sierra Nevada mountains. James also spoke about the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and state funding.

President Luebbe asked Mr. Woodling if he would fill the three year director position on the board. John stated he would, he was committed to GMDA as an organization and that California has not had the level of participation it could have. He stated he would like to see additional participation from other California agencies.

James Cioffi added discussion about PFAS and Chrome 6, the sustainability plans of his district and finished with an update on the Agua Caliente Indians and their groundwater right lawsuit.

### **Colorado**

Colorado was reported by Randy Ray and his report discussed drought, snowpack in the Rockies and a new process titled “Demand Management” to introduce credits to irrigators for reducing their use. Randy also discussed wildfires in the Rockies and using forest management and prevention measures to combat the issue. He further discussed population increase which is increasing water demands and renewed interest in replenishment programs.

### **Kansas**

Tim Boese reported Kansas has a new engineer and a new director at the water office. Tim reported on their aquifer storage and recovery project aka “Recharge Project”, local water quality issues, decline and new monitor wells.

Orrin Feril provided an update on the ongoing issue with Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and the status of the ongoing water resource availability for that area.

Shannon Kenyon commented on expanding the Sheridan 6 LEMA district wide and working with producers to reduce their use.

Mark Rude finished by discussing groundwater transfers in GMD3 and moving water from the Missouri River by truck and sharing water with neighboring states.

### **Louisiana**

Louisiana represented by Gary Beard submitted the intermediate and long term goals of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District. Gary discussed short term goals consisting of completing the Engineering and Strategic Analysis with the Water Institute of the Gulf, increasing testing with USGS and LSU for three dimensional modeling, data collection, system wide metering, implementing funding alternatives and continuing public awareness.

Gary discussed his districts long term goals being sustainability and preservation of the aquifer,

reclaimed water facilities, maximize additional funding, automated metering and well monitoring, construction and management of new infrastructure and continued public outreach.

## **Mississippi**

Ben Griffith discussed the Supreme Court case between Mississippi and Tennessee. Mississippi contends Tennessee is extracting groundwater that is the property of Mississippi for years.

Don Christy spoke about flooding in the South Delta, working with USGS in the Mississippi alluvial plain project, the regional groundwater flow model project and having a model for making decisions for future projects in the spring or summer of this year. Don also discussed the semi-annual well survey data that has been collected shows an increase in static water levels due previous wet years and to well-timed precipitation events during the growing season that have decreased irrigation in the Delta.

## **Nebraska**

Tylr Naprstek, Dick Ehrman and Brian Bruckner discussed their power point presentation titled Nebraska's Water Sustainability Fund & the Natural Resources Districts. Tylr provided a copy of the power point presentation and it is attached to the end of this report.

## **New Mexico**

Aron Balok discussed PVAC's current litigation regarding "Zombie Rights" which are rights that have not been used in a long time. An application to transfer those rights to the oil field has been submitted which Mr. Balok and PVAC are against. Aron Balok and AJ Olsen discussed additional litigation between New Mexico and Texas regarding the Rio Grande.

Lastly, Mr. Balok discussed how New Mexico is contemplating how it could incentivize not pumping groundwater or a grant program to reduce depletion.

## **North Dakota**

There was no representative available to speak on behalf of North Dakota.

## **Texas**

CE Williams reported Texas began its legislative session and some of the priorities are health and safety issues related to COVID and balancing the budget with a billion dollar deficit. Due to this Mr. Williams does not predict energy will be spent addressing water issues in this legislative session. He discussed the drought situation in his district, wildfires and also his 5-year planning process through GMA-1.

The entire board meeting including the full scope of Caucus reports can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/nNyF12tTftQ>

## **Treasurer's & Membership Reports**

Steve Walthour reported as of December 31, 2020, GMDA's bank balance in First State Bank of Stratford, Texas was \$111,662.54 which reflects a \$112,917.02 for January 1, 2020 beginning balance, \$53,199.67 of income and \$54,454.15 in expenses for the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Since January 1, 2020, GMDA had received \$13,100.00 from membership dues, \$650 in donations and \$2,589.50 in income from the Fort Lauderdale winter meeting. Expenses included \$14,205.00 for 2020 dues to NWRA, \$3,071.98 for expenses related to planning and canceling the 2020 summer meeting, \$225.00 in maintenance expenses for the website and \$92.00 in postage.

There was approximately \$1,725.00 in open invoices for 8 members for 2021 membership. For 2021, NWRA Groundwater Caucus Dues remain \$14,205.00.

Steve also stated that as of December 31, 2020, there were 40 paid members and nine honorary lifetime members.

James Cioffi moved, Aron Balok seconded, and the board unanimously accepted the Secretary Treasurers report for Finances and Membership through December 31, 2020.

Aron Balok moved, Tylr Naprstek seconded and the board unanimously approved payment of NWRA Groundwater Caucus Dues in the amount of \$14,205.00.

## **NWRA Report**

Ian Lyle reported to the board a letter that was sent to the incoming Biden administration, congressional leaders and congressional offices highlighting the importance of water infrastructure and in how investing in water infrastructure is a crucial part of stimulating the economy. A copy of the letter is attached at the end of this report.

Mr. Lyle invited GMDA to a Groundwater Caucus meeting February 12, 2021 and then presented a report regarding the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress Omnibus bill including WRD and Wester Water Title. Mr. Lyle also spoke about key water issues in 117<sup>th</sup> Congress including infrastructure funding, the Clean Water Act, COVID-19 relief, ESA, Forest and Grassland health, Invasive Species, NEPA, Groundwater Supply Augmentation/Development, PFAS and the Tax Code. He finished his presentation with likely cabinet nominees in the upcoming administration.

## **Committee Reports**

- **National Water Resources Association Caucus - Groundwater and Federal Issues**  
NWRA was updated by Ian Lyle
- **Water Quality Committee**  
No update was reported by the committee
- **Membership Committee**  
No update was reported by the committee

- **Website**  
No update was reported by the committee
- **Awards**
- No update was reported by the committee

**Consider Policy Priority Recommendations for the NWRA Leadership Forum**

No new policy recommendations

**Change of Presidents & Elections of Officers**

**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.

Aron Balok recommended each state email Kristen Blackwell their updated director list for 2021. The 3<sup>rd</sup> year directors and any changes requested were updated as follows. Louisiana and Mississippi did not finalize their 3<sup>rd</sup> year director positions.

<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	Jim Reasoner	Don Rosenbrock	Everett Kissler	Randy Ray Billy Mihelich
Kansas	Orrin Feril	Tim Boese	Shannon Kenyon	Mark Rude
Idaho				
Louisiana	Mark Frey	J A Rummler		Tony Duplechin
Mississippi	Don Christy	Daniel Shannon		Ben Griffith
Nebraska	Dick Ehrman	Tylr Naprstek	Linda Luebbe	Lyndon Vogt
New Mexico	Aron Balok	Greg Alpers	AJ Olsen	
North Dakota				
Texas	Gene Born	C.E. Williams	Steve Walthour	Robert Bradley
Washington				

President Luebbe stated Aron Balok moves from Vice-President to President. She then called for any nominations to fill Vice-President. CE Williams nominated Steve Walthour. No other nominations were made. The board voted unanimously to appoint Steve Walthour Vice-President. President Luebbe asked for thought on separating secretary and treasurer. Steve Walthour offered his offices support in the transition. President Luebbe requested nominations for Secretary position. Aron Balok recommended volunteers for the position rather than nominations. There were no volunteers. President Luebbe then asked for nominations for Treasurer. She nominated Dick Ehrman for Treasurer. Mr. Ehrman agreed to the position of Treasurer. In the end Dick Ehrman agreed to both the Secretary/Treasurer positions. Don Christy moved to accept Dick Ehrman as Secretary/Treasurer and Steve Walthour seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by the board.

### **Consideration of Committee Appointments**

President Luebbe decided for Aron Balok to make those appointments at the next meeting

### **2021 GMDA Meetings and Summer Conference**

Steve Walthour volunteered North Plains to host the April meeting. Aron Balok said we are unable to predict the future of face to face meetings at this time and it would be better addressed at the April meeting.

### **2022 Annual Conference Location**

Steve Walthour will host the 2022 Annual Conference

### **Other Business as Needed**

Steve Walthour congratulated Linda Luebbe on her work in 2020 and announced she will be receiving a plaque from GMDA as appreciation of her leadership as president.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned after 3 hours and 9 minutes at 5:12 PM CST.