



The beginnings of GMDA with more to come

The first meeting of what was to become GMDA was held November 7 and 8, 1974 in Garden City, Kansas at the Continental Inn on West Highway 50. It was called:

"Workshop on Ground Water Management and Recharge (Great Plains States)"

Sponsored by: the Agricultural Extension Services of: Kansas, Nebraska, Texas and Colorado

Co-sponsored by: Kansas and Nebraska Water Resources Research Institutes

Personally organized by:

DeLynn Hay, Colby, Kansas

Frank Rayner, Lubbock, Texas

Dwayne Konrad, Burlington, Colorado

Deon Axthelm, Lincoln, Nebraska

David Pope, Garden City, Kansas

Deon Axthelm has been given the major credit for doing the administrative legwork in setting up the meeting and making sure everyone was in the loop.



Organizers of the groundwater management workshop are, left to right, Oelynn Hay, Kansas; Deon Axthelm, Nebraska; Frank A. Rayner, District Manager; Dave Pope, Kansas, and Dwayne Konrad, Colorado.

Initial Meeting – November 7-8, 1974

Officers Appointed by Concensus:

Acting chair: *Carl Epp* (York County Nebraska Groundwater Conservation District)

Secretary: *Wallace Robinson* (Western Kansas Groundwater Management District 1)

Treasurer: *David Pope* (Kansas State University Extension)

Actions Taken:

- 1) *Each state should select a manager or director to form a steering committee to determine if an organization of the five states would be beneficial. Deon Axthelm was named to head the 5-state steering committee – Wallace Robinson (KS); Frank Rayner (TX); John Vasa (CO); Bonita Hoeme (OK); Deon Axthelm (NE); Mel Noffke (NE); Dave Pope (KS) and DeLynn Hay (KS).*
- 2) *The steering committee is to determine if an annual meeting would be worthwhile, and if so, is to announce the time and place of the first annual meeting.*
- 3) *The steering committee should assume control over the remaining fiscal proceeds of the Garden City meeting for such purposes as needed.*
- 4) *A list of all district directors and managers with GMD office addresses should be compiled.*

The initial conference brought in \$1,007.00 and cost \$442.88 thus netting \$564.12.



Had problems working as a committee via the phones, so....

An interim meeting was called to fulfill their tasks.

Held **March 25, 1975** at the Diamond Inn, Wichita, Kansas. This could be considered a continuation meeting of the November, 1974 initial meeting. It was called:

"The Great Plains States Groundwater Management and Recharge Workshop"

The agenda was:

- 1) decide if an organization of groundwater management districts should be formed, and if so, produce recommendations to be presented at the next conference;
- 2) If necessary, decide the location and dates of its first annual meeting and establish planning responsibilities for that meeting; and
- 3) review bills and consider the disposition of the existing funds in any case.



Highlights of the Planning Committee (March 25, 1975):

- RECOMMEND THAT THE DELEGATES TO THE SECOND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP FAVORABLY CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A COALITION OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS.
- Furthermore, the suggested name for this coalition should be: **GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**
- That the make-up of this Association be voluntarily maintained and that Board personnel be reserved for the States.
- That there be 2 members on the Board from each state, to be selected by state caucus. Recommend that there be 1 manager and 1 groundwater irrigator from each State.
- In addition to the elected members of the Board, there can be a slate of advisory members.
- Recommend that there be a \$20.00 fee for membership for Districts, and that expenses for attendance at special seminars be borne by individuals and the workshops being completely funded by the participants.

GMDA was off and running.....



1st Annual Meeting Of GMDA

Dodge City, Kansas, December 9-10, 1975

Silver Spur Convention Center

The First elected Board of Directors: (2 each from 5 states)

Ben Saunders, Holyoke, CO

Keith Lebbin, Scott City, KS

Mel Noffke, York, NE

George Bergner, Texhoma, OK

Frank Rayner, Lubbock, TX

Gordon Thompson, Wray, CO

Melvin Winger, Johnson, KS

Frank Dragoun, Holdrege, NE

Bonita Hoeme, Guymon, OK

James McCray, Panhandle, TX



GMDA Initial Board - Where are they now?

Ben Saunders, Holyoke, CO

Deceased – June 12, 2004 in Holyoke, CO

Gordon Thompson, Wray, CO

Farms north of Wray CO and continues to aviate

Keith Lebbin, Scott City, KS

Retired from GMD 1 in December, 2005. Resides in Scott City, KS

Melvin Winger, Johnson, KS

Still farming and living in the Johnson City area, Stanton County, KS

Mel Noffke, York, NE *

Working in Aurora, NE in affiliation with McCrometer Meter

Frank Dragoun, Holdrege, NE *

Retired and currently living in DeBary, Florida

George Bergner, Texhoma, OK

Deceased - April, 2001 in Texhoma, OK

Bonita Hoeme, Guymon, OK

Retired and living in Guymon, OK

Frank Rayner, Lubbock, TX

Deceased (date unknown)

James McCray, Panhandle, TX

Retired from farming and currently residing in Panhandle, TX

* Still retains GMDA membership



First GMDA Publication....

A December, 1975 listing of 51 local
Groundwater Management Districts
With Managers, addresses, telephone
numbers, and Board Officers

December, 1975

DIRECTORY

DISTRICTS RELATED TO

GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT

IN

COLORADO - KANSAS - NEBRASKA

OKLAHOMA - TEXAS

Prepared in cooperation with representatives of the
various states by Dean D. Axthelm, Extension Water
Resources Specialist, Department of Agricultural
Engineering, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 68583

GMDA Conference History

Mtg	Year	Date	Location
ORG	1974	November 7-8	Garden City, KS
	1975	March 25	Wichita, KS
1st	1975	December 9-10	Dodge City, KS
	1976	March 11-12	Wichita, KS
2nd	1976	December 7-9	Colorado Springs, CO
	1977	March 18	Garden City, KS
3rd	1977	December 6-8	Lincoln, NE
	1978	April 3	Wichita, KS
4th	1978	December 6-8	Amarillo, TX
	1979	April 29-30	Colorado Springs, CO
5th	1979	December 9-11	Colorado Springs, CO
	1980	March 13-14	North Platte, NE
6th	1980	December 7-9	North Platte, NE
	1981	March 17	Lubbock, TX
7th	1981	December 2-4	Lubbock, TX
	1982	April 15-16	Scottsdale, AZ
8th	1982	December 1-3	Scottsdale, AZ
	1983	March 9-10	Tulsa, OK
9th	1983	November 30-December 2	Tulsa, OK
	1984	March 14-15	San Antonio, TX
10th	1984	December 5-7	San Antonio, TX
	1985	March 27-28	Oklahoma City, OK
11th	1985	December 4-6	Reno, NV
	1986	February 26-27	Wichita, KS
12th	1986	December 1-5 (w/ NWRA)	San Diego, CA
	1987	April 26-29	Washington, DC
13th	1987	November 2-5 (w/ NWRA)	Reno, NV
	1988	March 2-3	Wichita, KS
14th	1988	December 7-9	Wichita, KS
	1989	June 22	Dumas, TX
	1989	December 6-8	Oklahoma City, OK
	1990	May 23	Wichita, KS
	1990	December 5-7	Colorado Springs, CO
	1991	May 15	Wichita, KS
	1991	December 4-6	Colorado Springs, CO
	1992	May 7	Wichita, KS
	1992	December 2-4	Dallas, TX
	1993	June 24	Colorado Springs, CO
	1993	November 17-20	Jackson, MS
	1994	June 5	Colorado Springs, CO
	1994	December 7-9	Wichita, KS
	1995	June 13	Grand Island, NE
	1995	December 6-7	Reno, NV
	1996	June 9	Greeley, CO
	1996	December 9-10	Las Vegas, NV
	1997	June 3	Colby, KS
	1997	December 4-5	Scottsdale, AZ
	1998	June 1	Colorado Springs, CO
	1998	November 1-2	Fort Worth, TX
	1999	June 16-17	Colorado Springs, CO
	1999	December 8-9	Tunica, MS
	2000	June 5-7	Mahoney State Park, NE
	2001	January 7-9	New Orleans, LA
	2001	June 3-5	Amarillo, TX
	2002	January 14-15	San Antonio, TX
	2002	June 12-14	Breckenridge, CO
	2003	January 12-14	Galveston, TX
	2003	June 11-13	Wichita, KS
	2004	January 4-6	St. Pete Beach, FL
	2004	June 6-8	Durango, CO
	2005	January 9-11	Savannah, GA
	2005	June 22-24	Twin Falls, ID
	2006	January 15-17	San Antonio, TX
	2006	June 4-6	Jackson, WY
	2007	January 7-10	Albuquerque, NM



GMDA Presidents Roster

1976	Frank Rayner, TX	1993	Gary Walker, TX
1977	Frank Dragoun, NE	1994	Dean Pennington, MS
1978	David Pope, KS	1995	Wayne Bossert, KS
1979	Ronald Neighbors, TX	1996	C. E. Williams, TX
1980	Wayne Bossert, KS	1997	Gary Lindstrom, NE
1981	John Turnbull, NE	1998	Steve Frost, KS
1982	Don Smith, TX	1999	Larry Angle, NE
1983	Thomas Bell, KS	2000	George Berry, MS
1984	Craig Pope, NE	2001	Richard Bowers, TX
1985	Bruce Foster, TX	2002	Ron Bishop, NE
1986	Duane Smith, OK	2003	Dean Pennington, MS
1987	Rodney DeBuhr, NE	2004	Jim Reasoner, CO
1988	Richard Bowers, TX	2005	Sharon Falk, KS
1989	Ron Bishop, NE	2006	Gary Lindstrom, NE
1990	Duane Smith, OK		
1991	Ray Hartung, NE		
1992	Jack Adams, CO		

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

1976 Conference

December 7-8-9, 1976
Four Seasons Inn
Colorado Springs, Colo.



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*Groundwater
Management
Districts
Association
1980
Annual
Conference*



December 7-8-9, 1980
Holiday Inn
North Platte, Nebraska



**Groundwater
Management
Districts
Association**
Annual Conference



December 2-4, 1992
Dallas Parkway Hilton
4801 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75244
(214) 661-3600



**Groundwater
Management
Districts
Association**

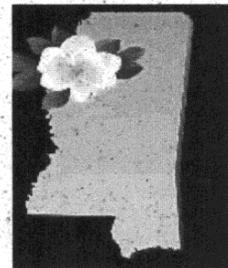
22nd
Annual Conference

December 6-8, 1995

John Ascuaga's
Nugget
1100 Nugget Ave.
P.O. Box 30030
Reno/Sparks, Nevada
(702)356-3300

**Groundwater
Management
Districts
Association**

26th Annual
Conference



MISSISSIPPI

December 8-10, 1999

**GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT
FOR THE FUTURE**

Groundwater Management
Districts Association
1985 Annual Conference



December 4-6, 1985
Reno, Nevada

30th Annual Meeting
**GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICTS
ASSOCIATION**
January 4 - 6, 2004

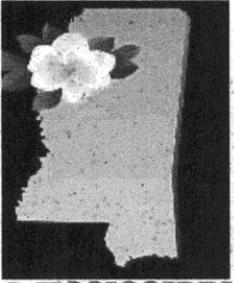


Don Cesar Beach Resort & Spa
St. Pete Beach, Florida
Hotel Reservations
1-800-282-1116
727-360-1891
www.doncesar.com

Conference Registration Information
Central Colorado Water Conservancy District
(970) 330-4540
(970) 330-4546 fax
teach@juno.com

Groundwater
Management
Districts
Association

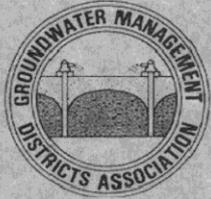
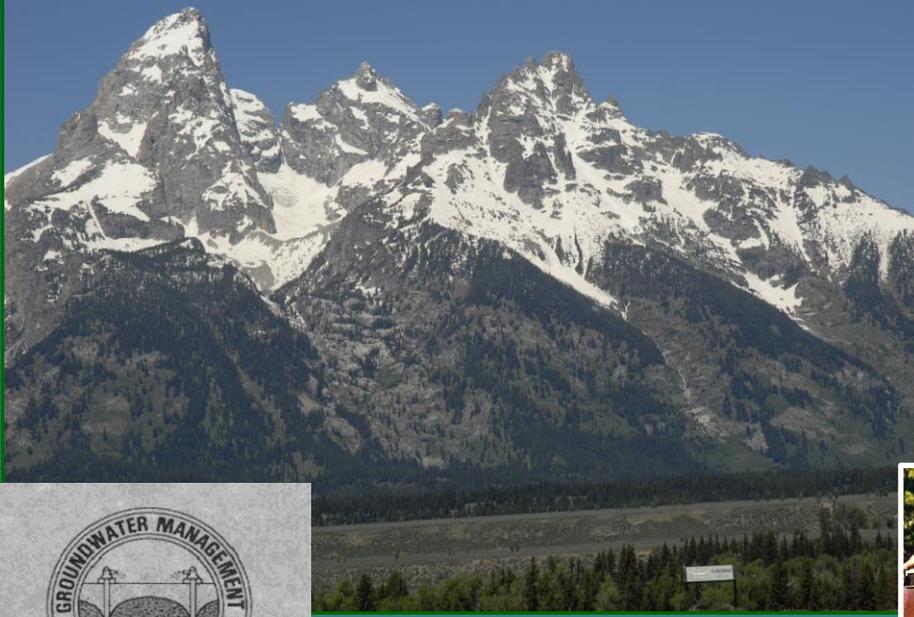
26th Annual
Conference



MISSISSIPPI

December 8-10, 1999





GMDA
 SUMMER
 CONFERENCE
 JUNE 4-6, 2006
 NATIONAL
 MUSEUM OF
 WILDLIFE ART
 JACKSON,
 WYOMING



For More GMDA History and lots more, look for the upcoming GMDA publication soon to be published...

How Soon?

As soon as the rest of you who have GMDA information, memories, and pictures provide them.

There is much more GMDA history to be documented!



The Abridged History of GMDA

Covering the years 1974 - 2006

By: The Members of GMDA - Past and Present

January, 2007