



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

**Groundwater Management Districts Association  
 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
 5:00 PM Wednesday, January 19, 2022  
 Riverwalk Marriott Hotel, San Antonio TX**

**Members Present Underlined**

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

**1. Open Meeting**

President Aron Balok called the GMDA Board Meeting to order at 5:15 PM. A quorum was present and the agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote.

## **2. Consideration and Approval of October 26, 2021 Minutes**

Kissler moved, Naprstek seconded to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2021 virtual meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **3. Consideration and Approval of Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

### Finances

Secretary-Treasurer Dick Ehrman reported that as of December 31, 2021, GMDA's bank balance in the First State Bank of Stratford, TX was \$113,756.39, which reflects a \$100,299.45 beginning balance for October 1, 2021, \$14,900.00 of income, and \$1,443.06 in expenses for the period from October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. GMDA has received \$14,900.00 from program service fees. Expenses include \$225.00 for website hosting, \$102.84 in awards, and \$1,115.22 in conference expenses.

### Membership

As of December 31, 2021, there are 49 paid members and nine honorary lifetime members. The breakdown of paid members is as follows:

- District: 31
- Individual: 6
- Affiliate: 7
- Organizational: 5

Shannon moved, Kessler seconded to approve the Secretary-Treasurer's report. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **4. National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Report**

Rude reported on the NWRA meeting in Chandler, AZ in November 2021. Many items were discussed. Rude reported that several Idaho Districts want to join GMDA but they typically have conflicts in January due to legislative sessions. For them, Snake River issues are currently paramount. Discussion ensued on the possibility of moving the January meeting; Walthour noted some meetings have been in December, so there is no official need for early January. Balok stated that the issues faced by Idaho also likely face all of GMDA. Idaho is especially looking for groundwater collaboration from existing membership and membership generally agreed this will be explored. Rude also noted discussion of Salt River in Arizona; they're doing lots of aquifer storage and recovery so GMDA should target Arizona entities for membership. Rude also said we've gotten more interest from NWRA especially because of our membership in the Southeast/non-western states, and that we need to keep working with Ian Lyle to bring some of these non-traditional issues to the forefront. Balok noted past groundwater management activities and that these highlight active solutions to help with NWRA, and especially the actions and responsibilities of local groundwater Districts. Rude also noted possibilities in California given their recent history of legislation—GMDA can

provide a lot of experience and advice. Ehrman reported that GMDA has received the annual NWRA dues notice for \$14,205.00 and is due by February 10, 2022. Walthour moved, Cioffi seconded to pay bill ASAP. The motion was unanimously approved. Ehrman will coordinate w/ Blackwell to get paid before the due date.

## **5. Reports and Recommendations from State Caucuses**

All State Caucuses reported on modifications (if any) to current Directors and Advisors.

**California:** Cioffi reported that reliability and availability of water storage projects is a hot topic there.

**Colorado:** Kissler reported on recent downstream contests of water with Nebraska along the South Platte River; they're not sure what Nebraska is doing. Colorado is updating their current water plans, and legislation is focusing on anti-speculation, especially future water rights on the eastern plains around Denver. Ray noted that Nederland, Colorado has passed a resolution that Boulder Creek is a person and needs representation in actions.

**Kansas:** Rude noted the actions of members of the cyclical House water committee; they are talking about reorganization of water agencies (three key agencies, 17 other) Also planning, water rights and human health are hot tropics Some municipalities and others in Kansas are complaining that municipalities aren't represented enough in planning process; legislation is being considered to require GMDs to have municipal representation.

**Louisiana:** Reported on Board members and Advisors

**Mississippi:** Reported on Board members and Advisors

**Nebraska:** Ehrman noted same issues with Colorado on the South Platte. Naprstek overviewed work in nitrate, agchemicals, and human health.

**New Mexico:** Balok reported that they are working on the State's five-year plan; multiple stakeholders are being engaged but some are not familiar with water issues,

**Texas:** Walthour reported that some Texas members are recommending raising dues to account for GMDA's expansion in various areas. He also noted the need additional help (non-volunteers) in a variety of efforts such as website maintenance, etc. Walthour noted that our NWRA dues are roughly equal to what we take in annually. Balok noted that other entities might be interested in GMDA and we might need to emphasize bringing non-District members in as well. Kissler noted that Jim Reasoner also was concerned about income versus payments and he shares that concern. Walthour volunteered to explore this issue further with the Membership Committee.

## **6. Committee Reports**

**NWRA:** Walthour noted that AJ Olsen is retired. Lyndon Vogt wants to stay on the NWRA Committee but not as co-chair. Walthour will organize a search for a replacement chair/co-chair. Balok expressed concern that the glut of Federal money at present might slow things down and that GMDA should be at the lead in helping State and Federal agencies in identifying beneficial uses for funding. He also stated that GMDA should emphasize solutions rather than complaints and problems.

**Membership Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Website Committee:** Walthour noted that Twitter postings are often most effective in current communications, and how that should be coordinated with website. He stated that we can do better posting member news to website.

**Awards Committee:** Walthour noted that C.E. Williams and Tony Duplechin have been awarded lifetime memberships for their service to GMDA. Certificates will be handed out at Wednesday evening's function.

## **7. Policy Priority Recommendations for the NWRA Leadership Forum**

Nothing to add to previous recommendations.

## **8. Consider Approval of GMDA Depositary Change**

As has been noted, GMDA has been using the First State Bank of Stratford, Texas for the past several years, but the Board has authorized movement of financial accounts to a bank with a more regional/national footprint. Walthour moved, Luebbe seconded to authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to move GMDA's account to US Bank. The motion was unanimously approved. Ehrman asked if there was interest in authorizing more than one signatory to account for possible emergencies. Walthour moved for authorization of second person to sign. No second; motion failed. Christy moved, Luebbe seconded that two signatures be authorized--sitting Secretary-Treasurer and sitting President. Discussion ensued, especially whether such an action would need bylaw changes. Ehrman will check bylaws but there was general agreement that a second authorized signature is desirable in the event the sitting Secretary-Treasurer cannot perform his/her duties. Cioffi mentioned his organization has had the same issue and he thinks bank will require some verification. Ehrman will check on what requirements US Bank will require. After this discussion, the motion failed. Ehrman will report back to the Board on bank requirements for second signature, and once this is known, the issue will be revisited.

## **9. Change of Presidents & Election of Officers**

President Balok stepped down from the office and President-Elect Walthour assumed the office of President. President Walthour as well as the entire Board thanked Balok for his service, especially under the difficult conditions of the past year. President Walthour opened nominations for Vice-President. Kessler nominated and Rude seconded the nomination of Daniel Shannon for Vice-President. Walthour moved and Rude seconded that nominations cease. The nomination of Shannon for Vice-President was passed unanimously. Walthour moved and Rude seconded that Ehrman continue as Secretary-Treasurer. There being no other nominations, the motion was passed unanimously.

## **10. Caucus/Committee Appointments**

NWRA Caucus/Groundwater and Federal Issues Committee: Walthour recommended that NWRA replacement for Olsen be Balok and that he co-chair with Rude; Vogt will remain on Committee. Cioffi moved that recommendation and Kessler seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

### Committee Appointments

NWRA: As above; Rude/Balok (co-Chairs), Vogt, Christy, Ray

Membership: Naprstek (Chair), Cioffi, Boese

Water Quality: Balok (Chair), Ehrman, Mihelich (Duplechin stepped down)

Program: Luebbe (Chair), Britten, Cioffi (CE Williams retired; Duplechin stepped down)

Website: Sprouse (Chair), Ferril, Blackwell, Rush

Awards: Luebbe (Chair), Naprstek (Walthour, Duplechin stepped down)

### **11. 2022 Summer Conference**

Colorado will be in rotation for Summer 2022. Ray reported that either Central Valley of California or Snake River Idaho are being considered. Both are good locations with multiple groundwater issues as well as possible new members. Balok weighed in favor of California as we have a finite amount of time to get some of those potential members. Shannon recommended we still reach out to Idaho, but June can get hot (80s-90s).

### **12. 2023 Annual Conference**

Mississippi will be in rotation for Winter/Annual 2023. Christy reported that Southern California is a candidate at present; suggestions are welcome.

### **13. Other Business**

No other business was brought forward. Walthour adjourned meeting at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Ehrman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard (Dick) Ehrman, Secretary-Treasurer