



**Board Meeting Minutes  
DeSoto Hotel, Savannah, GA  
June 1, 2018 7:00 AM**

The Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA) meeting was called to order by President Tony Duplechin at 7:04 AM. The Board Members and Advisors whose names are underlined below were in attendance. This board listing represents the 2018 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>
<b>California</b>				
<b>Colorado</b>	<u>Jim Reasoner</u>	<u>Don Rosenbrock</u>	<u>Everett Kissler</u>	<u>Randy Ray</u>
<b>Kansas</b>	<u>Orrin Feril</u>	Tim Boese	<u>Jason Norquest</u>	Mark Rude
<b>Louisiana</b>	Todd Talbot	Barry Huggins	Nelson Morvant	<u>Tony Duplechin</u>
<b>Mississippi</b>	<u>Don Christy</u>	<u>Daniel Shannon</u>	_____	Ben Griffith
<b>Nebraska</b>	<u>Dick Ehrman</u>	<u>Lyndon Vogt</u>	Linda Luebbe	<u>Tylr Naperstek</u>
<b>New Mexico</b>	Aron Balok	Bill Netherlin	<u>A.J. Olsen</u>	Olivia Mitchell
<b>Texas</b>	Sarah Schlessinger	C.E. Williams	<u>Steve Walthour</u>	Robert Bradley

Lyndon Vogt moved that the minutes from January 18, 2018 board meeting be approved, Jason Norquest seconded the motion which passed unanimously via voice vote.

### **Treasurer and Membership Reports:**

Steve Walthour reported that there were 45 GMDA members in attendance at the Savannah Georgia meeting and 16 spouses, which was down from the previous conference in Baton Rouge which had 59 GMDA Members, 20 spouses, 5 cooperative agencies, 3 individuals and 5 other sponsors.

As of May 1, 2018, GMDA's bank balance in First State Bank of Stratford, Texas was \$112,129.71 which reflected \$121,331.16 for a January 1, 2018 beginning balance, \$27,825.00 of income and \$37,026.45 in expenses for the period from January 1, 2018 to May 1, 2018. Since January 1, 2018, GMDA received \$2,350.00 from membership dues, \$10,850.00 in registrations for the Baton Rouge, LA Annual meeting and \$14,625.00 in registrations and sponsors for the Savannah, GA 2018 summer meeting. Expenses included \$212.64 for PO Box rental, postage and supplies, \$21,223.81 for the Baton Rouge, LA Annual meeting and \$13,390.00 in NWRA dues. Due to unexpected poor weather, \$2,200.00 was reimbursed to GMDA members unable to attend the Baton Rouge, LA conference. As of May 1, 2018, there are 57 paid members and eight honorary lifetime members.

Daniel Shannon moved to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's financial report from the June 1, 2018 board meeting be approved, Orrin Feril seconded the motion which passed unanimously via voice vote.

### **State Caucus reports:**

**Kansas** – Orrin Feril reported on behalf of Kansas. They discussed locations for the summer 2019 conference and what agenda items they would like to cover. Orrin also welcomed any recommendations from other states for locations.

**Mississippi** – Don Christy reported on behalf of Mississippi and reported they are still looking for a 3rd year director. Mississippi is also working on pre-planning the 2020 summer conference.

**Nebraska** - Dick Ehrman reported on behalf of Nebraska and reported that their advisor Katie Cameron has declined the position and that Tylr Naprstek of Lower Loup NRD had graciously volunteered to step in. Dick recommended to Orrin Seattle, WA, Rapid City, SD and somewhere near the Great Lakes.

**Colorado** – Everett Kissler reported on behalf of Colorado. He reported Don Rosenbrock has accepted the two-year position at this time. Colorado is working on the winter 2019 conference to be held January 7-9 in Phoenix, Arizona. One of the topics of the conference will be to address the population growth and water stress in Colorado and how Colorado handles those challenges. Comments and suggestions were welcomed.

**New Mexico** – A.J. Olsen, being the sole member present for New Mexico reported it is dry in New Mexico and the snow pack was minimal, which is not adding anything to the rivers.

**Louisiana** – Tony Duplechin reported his district is looking to expand and bring in one or two more Parishes. Ascension Parish, just south of East Baton Rouge Parish, does not have a lot of useable groundwater, but Baton Rouge Water Company supplies water to them from the wells in East Baton Rouge Parish. It has become a headache for a lot of people who think that groundwater is drinking water and that is all it is good for and only public use. The State of Louisiana says if you are sitting on a parcel of land and you put a well in and start pumping it, that water is yours. It has all been fine until now the environmentalists think Baton Rouge Water Company is the bad guy because they are using up all the water. They think that industry wastes water and uses it all up. Tony felt that if they are using the water for beneficial purpose, it isn't waste and that they do not understand hydrology. Tony is also trying to get the Sparta Groundwater Commission to join GMDA. Finally, Tony will try to attend the next Tulane Environmental Law Clinic meeting which is putting together a water code for both surface and groundwater for the State of Louisiana. Tony will report on this at the January 2019 meeting.

**Texas** – Steve Walthour reported for Texas and introduced Peter Winegeart from Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District who came on behalf of C.E. Williams. Steve reported that he felt the Savannah Georgia conference was held too early and that there might have been better attendance later in the month. Steve thanked the board and staff in planning of the Savannah conference. Steve says he has heard repeatedly the value of NWRA to GMDA. He also felt Tennessee v Mississippi is important to GMDA in the future. Steve recommended GMDA come up with a mission statement or statement of purpose.

Duane Dekrey stated that in North Dakota, water used for fracking and oil industry is becoming quite an issue. They are using over a million gallons to frack a well. To meet that demand, the state water commission is converting permits from irrigation to industrial water permits. In a matter of months tens of millions of dollars has been made selling frack water to the oil industry. A bill was in last legislative session to tax water. That bill failed, but it is still being discussed. North Dakota is also concerned about the regulation of groundwater by the federal government.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **NWRA, Groundwater and Federal Issues:**

AJ Olsen updated the board regarding NWRA and various litigation regarding groundwater in the courts

### **Membership Committee:**

Steve Walthour reported there are members from California and some interest from Idaho. Steve stated he would contact Florida and Georgia after the meeting as they could be very helpful to GMDA in the future. Tony Duplechin asked if Arkansas has ever expressed interest in GMDA. Daniel Shannon has reached out to some contacts in Arkansas but has not heard back and Tony said he had someone in Union County he could reach out to.

**Website:**

Steve Walthour reported the website is up and running and encouraged the membership to use the twitter hashtag #gmmdausa. He reiterated that for it to work, everyone must participate and is a good way to develop interest and growth.

**Awards:**

None

**2019 Annual Conference Report:**

Everett Kissler and Randy Ray reported the meeting will be held the 7-9 of January 2019 immediately preceding the NWRA conference in the same hotel. Further information will be passed down as it comes available.

**2019 Conference Location:**

None

**Other Business as Needed:**

None

**Adjourn:**

By consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM