NEWSLETTER FROM WESTERN KS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

Flowmeters Required INSTEAD of Hour Meters by 1-1-14 Or First Use of Water in 2014

During their regular March Meeting the Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD #1) Board of Directors voted to require flowmeters on all point of diversions (wells) in the District. Hour meters will no longer be allowed in lieu of flowmeters. The flowmeters will need to be in place by January 1, 2014 or before the **first use** of water in 2014. To find a list of water flowmeters that have been approved by the Kansas Division of Water Resources defined in Kansas Administrative Regulation (K.A.R.) 5-1-4, go to: **http://www.gmd1.org** and then click on **Approved list of water flowmeters**. Meter installation requirements and regulations can also be found on the GMD #1 website. Copies are available at the GMD #1 office at 906 W. 5th Street in Scott City, Kansas. If you have questions please call (620) 872-5563.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH 19, 2013 40TH ANNUAL MEETING OF GMD1

Kansas Geological Survey - 2013 Average Water Level Changes for Each GMD in Kansas

GMD#1 (Office in Scott City)	-1.54'	GMD#2 (Office in Halstead)	-1.63'
GMD#3 (Office in Garden City)	-3.56'	GMD#4 (Office in Colby)	-1.39'
GMD#5 (Office in Stafford)	-1.83'		

GMD#1 Groundwater Model

GMD#1 has contracted with the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Geological Survey for the development of a district wide groundwater model. A groundwater model is a group of water rules in the form of mathematical equations that portrays the natural environment. In short, it is a water calculator. Rules and conditions will be established that will apply to this area. The required information can be very complex and detailed such as categorizing the lithology of wells. The model is scheduled to be completed in early 2015.

From the Division of Water Resources

Consequences of Flowmeter Tampering

Water Right suspended for 1 year and a $1,000 civil penalty for causing meter to show an incorrect reading
$500 civil penalty for exceeding the authorized quantity and the Flowmeter is required to be sealed into the pipe

Penalty Changes for Overpumping

1st offense:	Notice of Non-compliance (NONC) letter
2nd offense:	$1,000 fine and reduction in authorized quantity for the following irrigation season by two times the amount overpumped
3rd offense:	$1,000 fine per day of overpumping (capped at $10,000) and a one year suspension
4th offense:	Water Right revocation

There may be exceptions to the progression listed above

Past Overpumping Violations May be Expunged From the Records:

5 years from the date of the Notice of Non-compliance (NONC) if there are no violations during those 5 yrs
10 years from the date of the NONC if there is a violation during the first 5 years after NONC
15 years from the date of the NONC if there are two violations after the NONC within the 10 year period
Sanctions will be recorded at the County Register of Deeds' Office

Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) Reform:

- Eliminated mandatory 10% conservation factor and provides Net Irrigation Requirement (NIR) alternative for MYFA quantity in addition to recent average water use history
- Deadline to file is October 1 of the year you want the MYFA to begin
- Over 700 applications from across the state were received by the Kansas Division of Water Resources in 2012

Water Use for Hydraulic Fracturing

- Typically 8 acre feet per project
- Expecting 100 to 200 hydraulic fracturing projects in 2013
- 200 Projects times 10 acre feet = 2000 acre feet
- 2000 acre feet is equivalent to about 9 fully irrigated center pivots in Western Kansas
- Approximately 0.05% of total water use in Kansas

Temporary Permits

- 4.0 million gallons of water for up to 6 months - generally 250,000 gallons considered reasonable for conventional oil/gas well completion
- An application must be filed for each project (single point of diversion and place of use)

From the Kansas Water Office

Economics of Groundwater Conservation based on multiple studies by KSU, Texas Tech, Texsas A & M & USDA

- Recommend an economic model be tied to GMD1's hydrologic model to help refine the conservation program
- Some form of long term water use restriction is necessary in order to achieve any meaningful water savings
- It is more economically efficient to reduce groundwater consumption by reducing water-use per acre as opposed to reducing irrigated acres
- Flexibility in implementing water use reductions may reduce the economic impacts (give producers greater ability to adjust)
- Most revenue is generated from the first inches of water rather than the last

Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA)

These options are being considered by the GMD1 Board as suggestions for a 6 year District wide LEMA for irrigation usage:

Option 1:

- Determine the largest amount of acre feet used for each Water Right File Number and the largest amount of acres irrigated during the years of 2008 through 2012
- Divide the largest acre feet by the largest acres to determine the amount of acre feet per acre
- Take a percentage reduction from each of these amounts (possibly 20%)
- Convert to inches and cap the high end (possibly at 18")

Option 2:

- Same as Option 1 with the addition of allowing 8" for each Water Right that had usage during 2008 through 2012 but fell below the 8" per acre amount

Option 3:

- Same as Option 1 but would take a small percentage off of every water right using less than 9 inches (possibly 10%)

Proposals for Cities, Feedlots and other types of water usage included within the suggested LEMA boundary are also being discussed as well as water rights enrolled in other conservation programs.

For more information on these or other issues check out the District's website: http://www.gmd1.org