

**WHEREAS** Congress passed the 2002 Farm Bill containing new programs and funding to promote ground and surface water conservation; and

**WHEREAS** NRCS and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture have significant responsibilities in implementing the programs to achieve congressional intent; and

**WHEREAS** there are differing interpretations regarding congressional intent over:

- a) What constitutes water conservation; and
- b) What was intended by "net savings in water use to the producers operation"; and

**WHEREAS** other terms such as "water banking" have been left completely undefined;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** GMDA urges the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to adopt guidelines for all groundwater conservation efforts within the 2002 Farm Bill in such ways that:

- a) Define "groundwater conservation" in terms that ensure reduced consumptive use of groundwater;
- b) Retain sufficient funding for programs for aquifers which are likely to result in success;
- c) Define "Water Banking" broadly enough to accommodate the various water banking structures currently being used or under consideration by the target High Plains states;
- d) Define "net savings in water use" in groundwater situations to mean less consumptive use of groundwater.

Duly adopted by the Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA) on January 13, 2003.

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Dr. Dean Pennington, President

Attest:

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Wayne Bossert, GMDA Secretary