

## **Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 March 12, 2015 Board Meeting**

### **1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA**

The March 12th board meeting was opened at 10:03 am CST at the GMD 4 Office in Colby Kansas by Vice President, Shane Mann.

Board members present for some or all of the meeting were:

Jeff Deeds, Shane Mann, Lynn Goossen  
Roger Zwegardt, Scott Maurath, Justin Sloan,  
Mitchell Baalman

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Ray Luhman, Shannon Cain, Dan Simmering, and Rita Wade – GMD 4 staff; Jeff Mason of Vignery & Mason (Attorney); Kelly Stewart - DWR/Stockton; Greg Graff – GMD 1/Kansas Water Authority; Tom Sloan, Steve Wilson, Tanner Brown, Kevin Wark, Adam Perkins, Travis Towns, Craig Reed, Bert Stramel, Karen Flanagan & Richard Stefan.

Justin Sloan asked to add TH-05 to the agenda under “New Business”.

Jeff Deeds moved that TH-5 be added for discussion under New Business. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

### **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Shane Mann asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the February 11th, 2015 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of February. Receipt of the February financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$38,860 in February were approved.

Scott Maurath moved the Minutes and Expenditures for the month of February be accepted. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

### **3. MANAGER'S REPORT**

GMD4 Board Members referred to the Board Packet which outlined the items of the Manager's report. Ray Luhman gave an update on the Vision Planning Teams. There were two public meetings this week, one in Goodland, and one in Colby. Staff did not participate, but did observe at these meetings. Justin Sloan reported on his participation and observations at the Colby meeting and Roger Zwegardt reported on his participation

and observations at the Goodland meeting. Conversation was had about Colorado and Nebraska utilizing augmentation on the Upper Republican as it was mentioned at one of the Vision Planning Team meetings. Kelly Stewart reported augmentation is not a Kansas solution. There will be a meeting in April at St. Francis to discuss further. The Regional Planning Teams will meet again soon to review the comments from the public meetings and set goals.

Ray Luhman then gave an update on legislation concerning water. There are currently four bills we are watching. Sean Miller is providing updates as the bills progress. Greg Graff reported that he testified against the bill proposing to increase agriculture taxes.

#### 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

##### a. Board Appointment and Election of Officers

Board Members discussed the Annual Meeting where an invalid vote was taken for the Sheridan 7 Position and Mitchell Baalman was elected. It was mentioned there was talk of "voter fraud" among district members. Board Members and district staff discussed the mistake made by all at the Annual Meeting. It was decided that it was indeed a mistake and "voter fraud" is a false accusation.

Considering the invalid election at the Annual Meeting, Brent Rogers, by law, still holds the Sheridan #7 position as it was not challenged at the Annual Meeting with other nominations. Brent Rogers was not present for the meeting due to a medical emergency, but sent an email requesting to be reappointed to his Board position.

Scott Maurath moved that the Board appoint Brent Rogers to the Sheridan 7 position. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds. The motion passed with four votes for and two votes against from Justin Sloan and Lynn Goossen.

*Election of Officers: Shane Mann nominated Brent Rogers for Board President, Mitchell Baalman seconded the nomination. Justin Sloan nominated Shane Mann for Board President, Lynn Goossen seconded the nomination. Nominations were ceased, and Brent Rogers was elected Board President with four votes and two votes for Shane Mann. Lynn Goossen nominated Shane Mann for Vice President, Mitchell Baalman seconded the nomination. Nominations were ceased, and it was passed unanimously by voice vote (no "abstentions" or "nay" votes.) Shane Mann nominated Jeff Deeds for Secretary, Mitchell Baalman seconded the nomination. Nominations were ceased, and it was passed unanimously by voice vote (no "abstentions" or "nay" votes.) Mitchell Baalman nominated Dave Rietcheck as Treasurer, Roger Zwegardt seconded the nomination. Lynn Goossen nominated Justin Sloan as Treasurer and Mitchell Baalman seconded the nomination. Nominations were ceased, and it was passed that Dave Rietcheck be elected Treasurer with four votes and two votes for Justin Sloan.*

#### b. Develop Goal Statement

Dialogue continued about the goal statement and where to move next. There is concern with the language of "Board action" in the statement and conversation was had on the process of developing the SD-6 LEMA. Data was presented from staff showing the data of several scenarios mentioned at previous meetings. Shane Mann suggested that time was needed to review the data and the Board should bring ideas to the next meeting.

#### c. Roof Discussion

Ray Luhman will forward the report from Stephens Construction, Inc. to the Board for review and referred the subject to the Building Committee for their input.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Proposed Rule & Reg for District Appropriations

A proposed rule & reg was presented to the Board to close the Ogallala Aquifer of the district. As the moratorium is in effect, the Board would like time to review the proposed before taking action.

#### b. Public Information Discussion

There are concerns about the organization and accuracy of the GMD 4 website. Rita Wade spoke with Spencer Casey that morning and reported that he designed the website, but is agreeable in somebody else conducting the day-to-day needed updates to keep it accurate. Several suggestions from the Board were discussed. District staff will seek out better alternatives in keeping the website presentable and accurate. Ray Luhman told the Board that he would move to employ someone to do this as soon as possible if costs were not unreasonable, otherwise he would seek Board approval.

The Spring newsletter is due to be published and suggestions from the Board on what they would like included was discussed. Many of the readers like reading the "Pumping the Tailwater" section and it needed to be kept in the newsletter. News about updating the website also needed to be included. Board members have till early next week to provide any ideas for articles.

A suggestion was made to have a Facebook page initiated. Shannon Cain agreed that she could create one and manage it efficiently.

### c. Executive Session

Jeff Deeds moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss nonelected personnel with the District Manager and attorney. The motion was seconded by Scott Maurath and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

The Board went into Executive Session at 12:30 pm for the purpose of discussing nonelected personnel. The Board came out of executive session at 12:45 pm with no action taken.

### d. TH-5

Bert Stramel came before the Board with information on a plan discussed for water conservation in the TH-5 HPA. He presented a handout (copy attached to these minutes) with information discussed among several producers in TH-5 and was requesting assistance and support from the Board in implementing the plan, possibly a LEMA. The plan was reviewed and discussed with several questions from the Board. District staff will review some data in relation to the plan and report that to those representing this group.

Justin Sloan moved that the Board facilitate the TH-5 plan presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

### 6: Agency Reports

Kelly Stewart informed the Board that Water Use Report season was over. He thanked everyone that submitted their reports online as 9% of all reports were filed online. For the first year, this was more than expected and they were excited about the results. Several suggestions were made to improve the online water use reporting and Kelly agreed to take those suggestions back as they wanted feedback.

### 7. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

None to Report

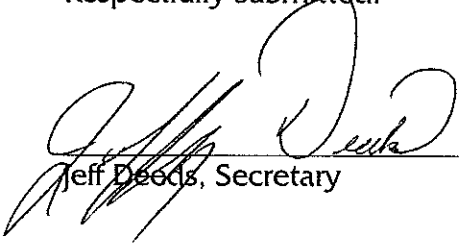
### 8. Scheduling Future Meetings:

The April Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on April 2nd at 9 am. Agenda items to include: TH-5, Foundation meeting, roof (building committee) and the proposed rule and reg.

9. ADJOURNMENT

*With no other business and no objections, Lynn Goossen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Justin Sloan and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).*

Respectfully submitted:



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Jeff Deeds, Secretary