

Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 April 2, 2015 Board Meeting

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The April 7th board meeting was opened at 9:05 am CDT at the GMD 4 Office in Colby Kansas by President, Brent Rogers.

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

Jeff Deeds, Shane Mann, Lynn Goossen
Roger Zwegardt, Doug David, Justin Sloan,
Mitchell Baalman, Brent Rogers, Monty Biggs
and Dave Rietcheck

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; Tom Sloan, Steve Wilson, Jon Friesen, Bert Stramel, Karen Flanagan & Linda Franklin.

Justin Sloan asked to add Financial Procedures to the agenda under “New Business”.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brent Rogers asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the March 15th, 2015 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of March. Receipt of the March financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$38,265.05 in March were approved.

Dave Rietcheck moved the Minutes and Expenditures for the month of March be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman 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 a legislative update and review of correspondence with Sean Miller indicating there were no recent changes. He also informed the board that we have hired Crystal Pounds from Colby Community College to do more frequent updates to the webpage.

Shannon Cain gave an update on ordering of ArcGIS to update the technology. She informed the board of the process and costs of obtaining an upgrade. KDA is also developing a Mobile WRIS for field work that GMD 4 is interested in using and would require an ArcGIS update.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Develop Goal Statement

Board Members discussed extending the life of the aquifer. Several quantitative values were mentioned. Shane Mann reported he attended the GMD 1 Annual Meeting where they discussed a district wide 20% reduction in pumping. He would like to know the amount of pumping reductions needed to extend the aquifer. Justin Sloan questions what kind of pumping reductions it would require for an area with 50% of the aquifer left in 2065 to extend that by 25 years. A couple of board members had discussion on the minimum saturated thickness needed to support a 400 gpm well based on the section level data. District staff will create data to show what kind of reductions would be needed to have a given percent of the remaining aquifer, based on a levels to sustain a 400 gpm well, for a certain year. The idea of a district wide reduction was also discussed, but with "sub-areas" since the district varies in climate, aquifer and irrigation intensity.

NW KS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

President Brent Rogers recessed the Board of Directors Meeting at 9:56 A.M., to be reconvened following the NW KS Groundwater Conservation Foundation Meeting.

At 11:02 A.M. Vice President Shane Mann reconvened the April 2, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

b. Roof Discussion

The Board reviewed the report from Stephens Construction, Inc. presented at the March 15th meeting. Discussion was had on the approximate \$140,000 remodel and several members thought the price tag was more than should be paid. A less expensive option needs to be sought for comparison purposes. Ray said he would contact the contractor and request a bid on removing the skylight and raised front, and re-doing the current roof with the metal roofing.

c. TH-5

Bert Stramel reported to the Board that they were in the process of creating an informational packet to be mailed. He has obtained a spreadsheet from Ray Luhman containing data for the area. GMD 4 agreed to supply the mailing list with a records request and will help pay for postage of mailings. GMD 4 will not participate in the proposed ballot project.

d. Proposed Rule & Reg for District Appropriations

The proposed rule and regulation would close the district to new appropriations whose source of supply is the Ogallala formation. Discussion was had on the process once the proposed change is sent and that once approved, the "use it or lose it" will not apply to anyone within the Ogallala formation of the district. Justin Sloan stated that he did not want to close the district as there may be some areas where water could still be available and that would assist the region economically. Doug David expressed concern that non-irrigation rights could be adversely in Graham County. It was decided that the matter be tabled until the next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Financial Procedures

Justin Sloan stated that he thought the board members should be signing the checks for money owed by the district instead of district staff. Discussion was had on the payment of time sensitive obligations and paychecks, among other things. District staff will check with the auditors for a possible procedure on doing this efficiently, and will report back to the Board in May.

6: Agency Reports

Kelly Stewart informed the board there will be a meeting on the Upper Republican on April 7th, 2015 at 10:30 A.M. in St. Francis. Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Water Office and others will be present at the 4-H building to allow for public comment on the issues for their region concerning the Republican River Compact and provide the public with updates. He also stated that all the rivers within the Stockton Field Office were under Minimum Desirable Streamflow levels and their office may be spending much time with administration if it doesn't rain.

7. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

Shane Mann reported that he went to the GMD 1 Annual Meeting. He liked how they had a mini trade show available to attendees and thought this might be a good idea for the next GMD 4 Annual Meeting. There was a break during their annual meeting that allowed attendees to visit the vendors and they were also given 3-5 minutes during the meeting to explain their product and/or services.

Mitchell Baalman reported on the SD-6 Advisory Meeting stating the meeting was very good. They met at his shop on short notice, but all of the members were present. He indicated the discussions of the agenda items was very good among the attendees. Ray Luhman agreed and shared that some other committee members also liked the environment of holding those meetings in the future at area farm shops.

8. Scheduling Future Meetings:

The May Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on May 7th at 9 A.M. Agenda items to include: TH-5, roof discussion, financial procedure and the proposed rule and reg.

The June Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on June 4th at 9 A.M. Agenda items to include: Proposed Budget Hearing

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary