

**** D R A F T Minutes ****

**Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
May 7, 2015 Board Meeting**

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The May 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, and Scott Maurath

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); Mark Billinger-DWR/Stockton; Tom Sloan, Steve Wilson, Jon Friesen, Bert Stramel, Karen Flanagan & Steve Bremenkamp.

Board members absent were: Monty Biggs and Dave Rietcheck

Ray Luhman asked that three items be added to new business:

- b.) Governor's Conference Sponsorship, c.)ESRI purchase &
- d.) Refrigerator purchase.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brent Rogers asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the April 2, 2015 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of April. Receipt of the April financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$33,057.11 in April were approved.

Mitchell Baalman moved the Minutes and Expenditures for the month of April be accepted. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

A brochure for the GMDA Conference in Idaho was passed around. Ray Luhman informed the Board that we did not plan to attend.

The KWA is meeting in Greensburg on May 20 – 21. Ray Luhman and Shannon Cain have plans to attend May 20th to listen to the Regional Planning Teams report to the KWA.

KGS is reporting on the 2015 Index Well Measurements via Glance Session on Monday, May 11th at 1:00 pm. If any Board members would like to listen, staff can provide the information to participate.

Ray Luhman reported on the recent RCPP Grant received by GMD 3. The grant will allow for a cost-share of soil probes when used with a crop consultant. GMD 4 will benefit as the area covers all GMD's in Kansas. The Board will provide \$25,000 of in-kind services to assist.

The Upper Republican BAC had its last meeting on Tuesday, May 6th. The BAC's are being replaced with RAC (Regional Advisory Committee) as the regions will mirror the areas for the Vision Regional Planning Teams.

Shannon Cain reported that USDA has made more money available through RCPP for potential grants. Suggestions for grant ideas were taken. If a grant is desired, a decision needs to be made at the next meeting to allow time to prepare the proposal before the July 8, 2015 due date.

Shannon Cain also gave an update on the ArcGIS. We would like to update our ArcGIS software. It will be needed for WRIS Mobile or any other future mobile application we use in the future. We are still waiting for KDA to develop the WRIS Mobile. Mark Billinger of DWR reported that they will have training in late May and it is expected to bring back a unit to try.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Develop Goal Statement

Board Members submitted a set of questions mailed to them with the Board packets. A discussion began on saving the areas that are problematic and even conservation in areas that are not. Questions were asked on the WCA (Water Conservation Area) currently in legislation. As proposed, it would require 100% participation within an area and would need GMD recommendation.

Ray Luhman then proposed an idea for the sake of discussion whereby, in townships with at least 1% decline per year of some base year, a determination would be made to reduce pumping by 20% based on previous pumping history derived from a recent set of annual water use reports. The 80% remaining average pumped would then be divided by the max acres reported during the base years to determine the conservation inches per acre. Individual inches per acre for each year of the base period would also be determined for each point of diversion. Each individual well would receive their maximum pumped inches per acre or the calculated inches per acre whichever is less. After this step the remaining conservation acre feet would be divided by the remaining acreage to determine the final conservation inches per acre. Vested rights would not participate. Non irrigation rights would be required to reduce using a calculation of the percentage of total pumped by non-irrigation times 20%. MYFA-like term permits could be made available to allow the annual use in excess of the appropriated right

provided the conservation amounts for the period were not exceeded. The Board further discussed the possibility that areas with more than 1% and less than 2% decline might have 10% reductions while areas with declines greater than 2% decline would be required to reduce by 20%. It was suggested that staff create some hypothetical and/or non-identified scenarios for the Board to review.

NW KS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

President Brent Rogers recessed the Board of Directors Meeting at 10:16 A.M., to be reconvened following the NW KS Groundwater Conservation Foundation Meeting.

At 11:43 A.M. ~~Vice~~ President ^{Brent Rogers} ~~Shane Mann~~ reconvened the April 2, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

b. Roof Discussion

Another proposal from SCI Stephens Construction, Inc. for a new roof was received. Concern was expressed on the cost of a new roof at \$88,702, but the proposal was considerably less than the previous bid.

Scott Maurath moved the proposal be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman.

Discussion was then had on a guarantee that the roof would not leak.

Shane Mann moved to amend the previous motion to accept the proposal with a five year guarantee. The motion was seconded by Justin Sloan and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

The amended motion was then passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

c. TH-5

Bert Stramel reported to the Board they were getting closer to sending a mailing and expected to utilize GMD 4 for that mailing.

d. Proposed Rule & Reg for District Appropriations

Ray Luhman restated that the rule and regulation change to close the district to new appropriations from the Ogallala would exclude 15 acre-foot offsets and re-drills of existing water right wells. Concern was expressed for those areas where industry could still get a water right.

Mitchell Baalman moved to request that the Chief Engineer begin the process of amending KAR 5-24-2 as reviewed by the Board at the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed with six votes for and two votes from Doug David and Justin Sloan against.

e. Financial Procedures

Ray Luhman reported that he inquired with the other GMD's on their financial procedures. All the western GMD's operate similar to the way GMD 4 currently operates. The two eastern GMD's are a bit more structured. We could set a maximum limit on the amount spent without board action. The auditor advised us that emailing expenditures to the board would violate open meeting laws.

Scott Maurath moved to leave the current financial procedures as is. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed with six votes for and two votes from Lynn Goossen and Justin Sloan against.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Probe Cost-Share

Money from GMD 4 will need to be utilized for the NW KS Groundwater Conservation Foundation probe cost-share program until the foundation's CDs mature in June.

Doug David moved to USE DISTRICT FUNDS TO COVER THE PROBE COST SHARE EXPENDITURES. THESE FUNDS WILL BE REIMBURSED BY FOUNDATION FUNDS WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

b. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas

Historically, all five GMD's have shared a \$1,500 sponsorship to the conference being held this year November 18-19, 2015.

Jeff Deeds moved we cost-share the sponsorship with the other five KS GMD's. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

c. ESRI

Shannon Cain gave a brief overview of the cost to update three ArcGIS licenses. We are entitled to a 10% discount through the state MPA. A quote was received for \$4,050 for three basic licenses. Spatial Analyst license may be needed in the future. Training may also be needed once the software has been acquired.

Mitchell Baalman moved to purchase the software. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

d. Refrigerator

The district office is in need of a refrigerator. Shannon Cain showed the board an advertisement of what we were wanting to purchase. The projector was also having troubles and a new one may need purchased. More research on projectors was desired before purchasing.

Scott Maurath moved to purchase the refrigerator. The motion was seconded by Doug David and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

6: Agency Reports

Mark Billinger of DWR/Stockton Field Office reported that their office has had numerous complaints, mostly with surface water, due to the lack of rain. They have more than usual field inspections to complete this summer and review of new applications. Discussion was had on Webster Reservoir. The Webster Irrigation District will not be operating this summer due to lack of water in storage for release.

7. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

8. Scheduling Future Meetings:

The June Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on June 4th at 9 A.M.

The July Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on July 9th at 9 A.M.

The August Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on August 6th at 9 A.M and to include the Budget Hearing

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Mitchell Baalman moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:36. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secret

Mitchell Baalman, appointed secretary