

**Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
June 11, 2015 Board Meeting**

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The June 11th board meeting was opened at 9:02 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:

Shane Mann, Lynn Goossen
Roger Zweygardt, Dave Rietcheck,
Mitchell Baalman, Brent Rogers, and Scott Maurath

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Ray Luhman, Shannon Cain and Dan Simmering– GMD 4 staff; Kelly Stewart- DWR/Stockton; Steve Wilson, Jon Friesen, Bert Stramel & Karen Flanagan.

Board members absent were: Monty Biggs, Jeff Deeds, Justin Sloan & Doug David

Brent Rogers asked to move Steve Wilson (new business) before old business.

Shannon Cain presented three items be added to the agenda:

- a.) KSU Study to new business,
- b.) Governor's Conference sponsorship to old business
- c.) Appoint Acting Secretary

Dave Rietcheck moved Mitchell Baalman be nominated Acting Secretary. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brent Rogers asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the May 7, 2015 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of May. Receipt of the May financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$54,750.50 in May were approved.

Shane Mann noted on the third page of the draft minutes that he did not reconvene the meeting following the NW KS Groundwater Conservation Foundation Meeting. Brent Rogers agreed that

he had reconvened the meeting. It was corrected that Brent Rogers reconvened the meeting, not Shane Mann.

Shane Mann moved the minutes for the month of May be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

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

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

Ray Luhman gave an update on the roof contract. He informed the board that we have a signed contract with the five year guarantee as requested. The contractor cannot guarantee the roof won't leak, but will guarantee that they will fix it if it does.

The proposed rule and regulation to close the Ogallala to new appropriations has been sent to the Division of Water Resources. They are currently in the 90 day period for review.

Ray Luhman and Shannon Cain went to Greensburg for the Kansas Water Authority Meeting. They listened to the four western Regional Planning Teams give their reports to the KWA and shared with the board the format those presentations were made. Shane Mann also attended this meeting as he is the chairman for the Upper Smoky Hill Regional Planning Team. He shared that it was clear all of Kansas has water problems, just different problems depending on region. They are still wanting public comments and will move forward at the next KWA meeting in August at Oakley.

The RCPP grant through NRCS awards soil probes with the use of a crop consultant. The program will require the producer to purchase a soil moisture probe and show water conservation by using the probe. If this can be demonstrated, NRCS will issue the producer a check at the end of the year for the probe.

Ray Luhman also reported that the WTAP program approved one application within the district.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Goal Discussion

Prior to the board meeting, members were mailed a set of maps showing the townships and sections with a greater than 1% average annual decline using data from 2009-2013. Based on the methodology presented at the May board meeting, three townships were randomly chosen to show how each point of diversion within those example townships would be affected in the amount of inches they would be reduced. Data showing water table elevations for previous years was requested, but was stressed using the 2009-2013 data for reported water use needed to remain no earlier than that. The district was not completely metered until 2009 so errors in reporting with hours and rate could skew data.

Discussion was also had on why some areas in the HPA were not triggered. Those areas have more saturated thickness, but as the water table lowers in those townships, they will eventually be triggered.

A suggestion was made that everyone needed to be reduced by 5%, but another suggestion made to only those in the 1% triggered areas should be reduced by 5%. The idea of taking 5% reduction of the entire township then divvy up the remaining 95%. Others thought that a greater reduction should be made. It was agreed that pumping 24 inches should not be allowed and applying the TH-05 proposal would eliminate that. It was also mentioned that any township in excess of safe yield be reduced by at least 5%.

Townships that are triggered should be reviewed every 3-5 years to see if improvements have been made. Those townships that have not been triggered should be reviewed annually.

b. TH-5

Bert Stramel reported that no progress had been made, but from looking at the map sets presented, he had concern that there were two townships within TH-5 that would not be triggered by the 1% decline and they would want to be left alone. Further discussion was had on how those townships could become triggered in the future as water table elevation declined and that would need to be monitored annually.

Jon Friesen had several questions on the maps for clarification and understanding. He thought the plan had merit and suggested to the board using the NIR for that county and that there needed to be a 10% reduction in that for five years.

c. Grants

Shannon Cain gave a summary of the available grants. RCPP needed to have a preproposal submitted by July 8th if we were going to apply. KLA had contacted GMD 4 with a proposal to apply for water savings at the feedlots within the district. A savings of about 600 AF would result. The Board decided that the minimal water savings was not enough to justify the time and effort to be spent on the RCPP grant.

The Dane G. Hansen grant is issued monthly with a minimum of \$5000. Board members to return next meeting with ideas.

d. Governor's Conference Sponsorship

Ray Luhman reported that GMD 5 has elected not to support the sponsorship at the Governor's Conference. The other GMD's were either undecided or would only sponsor if the others did as well.

Dave Rietcheck moved to rescind the motion to support the sponsorship with the other GMD's at the Governor's Conference. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Steve Wilson

Steve Wilson proposed a "Zero in Twenty" plan. The plan was given to Board members prior to the meeting for review and outlined the idea of zero depletion of the aquifer in 20 years. Steve presented a review of his plan. Ray Luhman prepared a spreadsheet prior to the meeting that represented some numbers relative to the idea. The data showed that zero depletion in 20 years would require aggressive reductions. Steve expressed his liking of starting low and working up instead of drastic reductions to begin with. He was unsure of the numbers included in his plan, but wanted everyone in the district to participate.

Consensus in discussion showed that producers currently conserving should not be punished and that excessive pumping needed to be stopped. The idea of acres under the pivot only should be included in the inches per acre calculation and exclude any acres that may be under an end gun. The majority also liked the idea of slow process of reductions and 16" being the maximum allowed. If drastic reductions were to be implemented quickly then flexibility measures needed to be included. Steve's plan did not include flexibility due to the slow process of reductions.

b. Regional Advisory Committee

The Kansas Water Authority will be developing these committees at the August meeting in Oakley. All of GMD 4 is within the Upper Republican area. We need to nominate either Ray, Shannon and/or board members. It was agreed that the decision be tabled until we have a better understanding on what is needed.

c. KSU Study

Nathan Hendricks, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University contacted us for a letter of support for a study titled "Local Approaches towards Effective Collective Management of Groundwater Resources".

Dave Rietcheck moved a letter of support be given for the study. The motion was seconded by Roger Zwegardt and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

6: Agency Reports

Kelly Stewart of the Stockton Field Office reported on Mobile WRIS. Mark Billinger was in Manhattan for training and would be returning with a unit to pilot. Kelly said they would be happy to show us for potential inclusion in the technology. He also reported that all streams in the Stockton Field Office, except the Saline River, was above MDS.

7. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

Shane Mann suggested that we move the open session up the agenda to one of the first items on the list. It was discussed to leave the open session, but to create a Public Forum item to follow the Consent Agenda.

Shane Mann moved to include a Public Forum item on the agenda after Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dave Rietcheck and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

8. Scheduling Future Meetings:

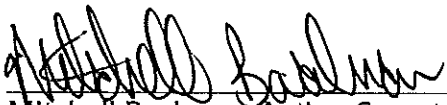
The July Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on July 9th at 9 A.M. Staff contracts will be discussed. Due to wheat harvest, the date could be moved to July 16th.

The August Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on August 13th at 9 A.M and to include the Budget Hearing

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Shane Mann moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Mitchell Baalman, Acting Secretary