

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

**Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
July 9, 2015 Board Meeting**

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The July 9th board meeting was opened at 9:00 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 Jeff Deeds, Monty Biggs,
Roger Zwegardt, Dave Rietcheck, Justin Sloan
Mitchell Baalman, Brent Rogers, and Scott Maurath

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Ray Luhman, Shannon Cain, Rita Wade and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; Jeff Mason – Vignery & Mason; Kelly Stewart & Nick Hixson-DWR/Stockton; Jody McCain & Karen Flanagan.

Board members absent were: Doug David

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brent Rogers asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the June 11, 2015 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of June. Receipt of the June financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$46,641.42 in June were approved.

Dave Rietcheck moved the minutes and expenditures for the month of June be accepted. The motion was seconded by Roger Zwegardt and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Brent Rogers asked if there was anything to be presented in Open Forum. No responses were given.

4. MANAGER'S REPORT

Ray Luhman informed the Board that the new roof is expected to be put on this fall.

The proposed rule and regulation change is still in the process. DWR proposed a small change in the wording that related to new applications. Ray agreed the change should be made and that the proposed rule and regulation was well received by DWR. Kelly Stewart commented that he agreed as he has been included in the process. DWR will come back to the Board with their changes. Once it is agreed on, a public hearing will be scheduled.

The Kansas Water Congress will be meeting August 6-7th, 2015 in Lawrence. Ray and Shannon will be attending. Any board members that would also like to attend need to notify Shannon by Friday afternoon.

Email has been the preferred communication for notifications to board members. With the use of cell phones, text messaging would be more effective. All present board members gave their cell phone numbers to be emailed to other board members.

A question was asked on the probe program and the progress with it. Shannon reported that all approved probe applications have been paid for.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Goal Discussion

Board members were given questions to consider for discussion prior to the meeting consisting of potential plan components. Discussion was started with going through the questions. Not all questions were discussed, but good ideas came from the ones that were.

Using the 1% average annual decline as a trigger is well received by most members. Concern still exists with boundaries. Using townships as the area of focus for triggers is also well received, but more data on breaking that down into half and quarter townships is desired.

The years of data for water table elevations was discussed. It was agreed that the more years of data to use, the better. Using the updated water table elevations for 2004 through 2013 would be the best data set to use.

The question of what years to use in computing historical average inches per acres was also discussed. Ray Luhman showed the board a spreadsheet showing the various outcomes for each scenario. Members expressed the need for more information with comparisons. In discussing the number of acres to be used, the process used in the SD-6 LEMA was thought to work well.

Transfers of water were mentioned in the conversation. Some mixed feelings exist, but board members agreed that if transfers were allowed, they could only be within the area of consideration for a trigger. Water could not be transferred from a township, or other designated area, that was not triggered into an area that is.

b. TH-5

Nothing reported on the progress in TH-5.

c. Grants

Several possibilities for grants were suggested. In efforts to get others to conserve water and the costs involved with the soil moisture probes, potential funding for EC mapping and consultant training were suggested. With the rise of technology and the soil moisture probes, training for crop consultants is needed. Shannon will contact several crop consultants to inquire about interest in training for certification.

d. Regional Advisory Committee

GMD 4 would like representation on the new RAC's being formed. Deadline for application is soon. Discussion was had on who should apply for the position. It was suggested that staff member should serve instead of a board member.

Jeff Deeds moved to have Shannon Cain apply for the GMD 4 position on the RAC. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Health Insurance

GMD 4 staff recently learned the current method of issuing health insurance for employees is not in compliance with ACA. Stiff penalties will incur if we continue to use this method after July 1, 2015. Solutions and insurance options were discussed.

Scott Maurath moved that due to the ACA rules, the board will no longer honor health insurance benefits specified in contracts for Shannon Cain, Dan Simmering and Rita Wade after June 30, 2015. Motion was seconded by Monty Biggs and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Shane Mann moved that the Board go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss nonelected personnel with the staff and attorney. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:57 A.M. for the purpose of discussing nonelected personnel. The Board came out of executive session at 11:17 A.M.

Shane Mann moved that Rita Wade receive a \$465 monthly merit raise, Dan Simmering to receive a \$435 monthly merit raise and Shannon Cain to receive a \$300 monthly merit raise until

the end of 2015 at the manager's discretion. Motion was seconded by Dave Rietcheck and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

b. Staff Contracts and Benefits

Scott Maurath moved the Board go into executive session until 12:00 P.M. with Ray Luhman and attorney, Jeff Mason then other staff members individually. Motion was seconded by Dave Rietcheck and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

During the executive session Board Member, Justin Sloan, left the meeting.

Shane Mann moved the Board extend the executive session until 12:30 P.M. Motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Jeff Deeds moved the Board extend the executive session until 1:05 P.M. Motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

At 1:05 P.M. the Board came out of executive session.

Scott Maurath moved the Board not offer health insurance to employees. Motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Scott Maurath moved to offer staff contracts to four named employees for the 2016 calendar year. Motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

7. Agency Reports

Kelly Stewart of the Stockton Field Office left the meeting early, but gave his report to Shannon Cain prior to leaving. He reported to her on the developments of WRIS Mobile. The Stockton Field Office had received one to pilot and even brought it to GMD 4 staff to look at. There are several issues that are being worked out and the software is still in the development phases. He is still hopeful this will be a productive tool for all.

8. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

Closing the gates at Bonny Reservoir was mentioned. With the recent rains, it was suggested the gates be closed and not charge Colorado with evaporation. It was suggested that Kelly Stewart or David Barfield be contacted in regards to this.

The Kansas Water Authority meeting previously scheduled in Oakley on August 19-20, 2015 was moved to Hutchinson.

9. Scheduling Future Meetings:

The August Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on August 13th at 9 A.M. The Budget Hearing is scheduled for 11:00 A.M. on the same day.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Monty Biggs moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 P.M. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary