

**Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
September 3, 2015 Board Meeting**

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The September 3 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, Brent Rogers,
Roger Zweygardt, Dave Rietcheck, Justin Sloan,
Mitchell Baalman, Monty Biggs 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; Mark Billinger - DWR/Stockton; Jody McCain; Karen Flannigan, Linda Franklin & Bert Stramel

Board members absent were: Doug David

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brent Rogers asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the August 13, 2015 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of August. Receipt of the August financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$35,749.14 in August were approved.

Mitchell Baalman moved the minutes and expenditures for the month of August be accepted. The motion was seconded by Dave Rietcheck 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 reported on a variety of topics. The roof contractor came by to take some measurements. Still do not know when they will begin construction.

DWR is sending out letters to stakeholders on the rule and regulation proposed change to close the Ogallala of GMD 4 to new appropriations.

The RCPP grant process has been stalled due to funds being temporarily held. The program is scheduled to continue once the funds are released.

We received a competitor quote for insurance. The current insurance company was contacted to counter-bid. After receiving both quotes, it was decided to stay with the current insurance company.

LEPG contacted us about their new domestic well application and fee. It is required in all district counties except Graham. If anyone plans to have a domestic well drilled or re-drilled, the application and fee will need to be filed with LEPG first.

An Aflac representative visited with district staff this week. Several policies are available for staff and board members. A minimum of three people need to sign up to get the company discount.

A reporter from California contacted Ray this week. He had many questions and wanted contact information for area irrigators and board members. Ray will let him know that the names of the board members are on our website, but he would not provide contact information.

The Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas is November 18-19, 2015 in Manhattan. If any board members would like to attend with district staff, please contact the office by September 17th so registration and reservations can be made for all who would like to attend.

Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland is developing a precision agriculture program. It has been suggested we contact them in regard to assisting in developing the curriculum and promotion, and also trying to coordinate with their staff on continuing education projects. Shannon has emailed the college, but will call as she has not received a response.

Shannon attended the Kansas Water Authority meeting on August 20th. The newly developed RAC's and suggested members were approved and their goals were discussed. She provided a list to the board of who was on the Upper Republican RAC.

She also sent a survey out to the cost-share probe program recipients to get feedback on how the probes were beneficial, or not. Several responses had been received. A brief report on those responses was reported to the board.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Goal Discussion

An email was forwarded to the board from Brownie Wilson and Jim Butler of KGS regarding the size of individual management units. Jim advised that using sub-

township level was risky. Justin Sloan feels the areas should be much smaller than even the sub-township level.

Lynn Goossen mentioned a map of Nebraska that has their areas (NRD's) with triggers labeled. Bert Stramel was able to obtain the map for copies to the board. The map shows the areas much larger than the township level and some with triggers.

Other discussion was had on the legal standpoint. Jeff Mason advised the board that we have to have a rational reason for a reduction. Something is needed as a trigger. The idea of using the 1% average annual decline as a trigger was favored.

Looking at the data presented from previous meetings and looking at the NIR data given in the packets, the idea of reducing everybody to the calculated 100% NIR for corn for the respective counties, the areas with 0-1% average annual decline be reduced to the 80% NIR and any areas above 1% be reduced to the 50% chance rainfall was liked as it kept the methodology simple for understanding. Board asked to see the average inches per acre by county for previous years as well as several township examples.

b. TH-5

Bert Stramel informed the board that a letter had been drafted. As they have been busy, he was hoping to see meetings resume in November or December.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual Meeting

In order to prepare for the vendor expo as desired at the annual meeting a date of February 10th has been set in order to know how large a venue will be needed for the annual meeting. Several other ideas were brought up on who should speak, a meal and times. Those ideas to be discussed at a later time.

7. Agency Reports

Mark Billinger of DWR in Stockton reported there has been some interest in SW Kansas for WCA's. He was asked about the stream flows in the office.

He reported they are all staying above MDS, except for the Saline, for now. RRCA had their annual meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska recently. He reported the meeting went well and that temporary agreeance on pipelines to remain in compliance were discussed. Permanent solutions are still being discussed.

Mitchell Baalman asked Mark about how he reports the discussions during GMD 4 meetings. Mark stated that he usually creates a small summary of the main ideas discussed. He wanted to express his respect for the board and the decisions they are making. DWR is unable to make many of those decisions due to many factors. He understood our concern with needing DWR to do more enforcement, but at this time, could not be done due to lack of staff and funding.

8. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

Mitchell Baalman commented he was in Minnesota the previous week and had discussion with several there on the Missouri River. His discussion lead him conclude that in order for the Aquaduct to happen, many Native American tribes would have to sign off. He did not think that would happen.

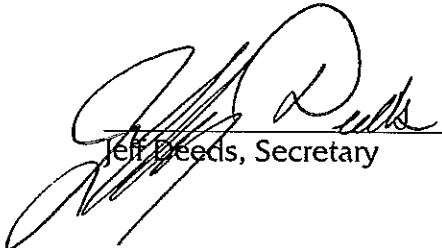
9. Scheduling Future Meetings:

The November Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on November 5th at 9 A.M.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Shane Mann moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 A.M. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary