

**Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
November 12, 2015 Board Meeting**

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The November 12 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, 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; Kelly Stewart and Lane Letourneau – DWR; Tracy Streeeter - KWO; Weston McCary – NWKS Tech College; Ian DeWaal – Tri-State Irrigation; Jody McCain; Karen Flannigan, Linda Franklin & Bert Stramel. Present for Open Session only was Mrs. Sloan's Colby FFA class.

Board members absent were: Doug David, Mitchell Baalman, Justin Sloan and Monty Biggs.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brent Rogers asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the September 3, 2015 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of September and October. Receipt of the financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$35,314.26 in September and \$30,724.60 in October were approved.

Scott Maurath moved the minutes and expenditures for the months of September and October 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 that the roof construction could begin as early as next week. Shannon Cain reported on the Upper Republican RAC meeting held in Colby. The committee voted to adopt goals #1, 2 & 4 as priority. Next meeting will be held in January.

At the time of the manager's report, an update on the proposed rule and regulation was not known. Lane Letourneau was able to obtain the status during the meeting and later reported that it was currently at the Department of Administration. Will go to the Attorney General Office and then for a 60 day hearing.

Little is still known on the RRCP Grant for soil moisture probes. More information should be available by the end of the year. Shannon Cain reported the need for education on the soil moisture probes were conveyed and asked the Board if they supported several seminars to educate producers and crop consultants on soil moisture probes. The idea was supported and encouraged, especially for crop consultants.

Given the RRCP Grant, it was decided that a NW KS GW Conservation Foundation meeting was needed next month to decide on a possible soil moisture probe program and details.

Shannon Cain has met with Weston McCary of NW KS Technical College on the Precision Agriculture Program he is developing. Weston discussed his hands-on approach to technology for his students and a desire to partner with GMD 4. Board members encouraged the partnership and looked forward to the program being successful in NW Kansas.

The Board decided to have the Christmas party at the office like last year with food catered from City Limits. The date will be on December 16th at 1 pm with the Christmas party to follow the meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Goal Discussion

The idea proposed at the August meeting resulted in data showing little water savings. That data was emailed to the Board in September. It was redistributed at the meeting for discussion. The Board agreed the township level was a good area to focus on, but there are mixed feelings on restriction in areas with no decline. It was expressed those areas should not be reduced as they do not have a problem. Others thought that they should be pumping no more than the NIR for corn in their county.

After further discussion an example of Gove County was presented where everybody would be reduced to the 80% NIR for corn which is 15.3"/acre. If their township was in an area with a decline less than 1%, they would be restricted to the 50% NIR which is 13.1"/acre. Anything above a 1% decline would result in a 20% reduction of the 80% NIR, or 12.2"/acre in Gove County. Staff will generate data and maps for this scenario using the olympic average of inches per acre. The idea of giving the flexibility of a five year permit and not exceeding the yearly authorized quantity was also favored. Umbrella accounts as in the SD6 LEMA was not favored.

b. TH-5

Bert Stramel reported that in the area reviewing the maps and data made public, this group did not see a reason to move forward, but would like to be left on the agenda for another month.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. KDA – Water Rules and Regulations Proposed Changes

Lane Letourneau was present to discuss several proposed changes to the DWR Rules and Regulations for feedback. The proposed changes were outlined on a handout and to be discussed at the Governor's Conference next week. The first of the proposed changes is to limit the movement of a point of diversion to no more than 300 feet. There were mixed feelings about this proposed change due to varying circumstances. The second proposed change is to make harsher penalties for exceeding authorized quantity of water. This was favored and suggested that suspension penalties were favored over fines. The third proposed change was fines for not submitting a Water Use Report. The same idea with strict suspension was favored over fines for this infraction. The last was the authority to seal meters. The DWR currently seals meters, but clear language needs to be developed giving the DWR the authority to seal meters to the pipe.

Other conversation was had on suspensions and it was favored the infractions should stay with a water right, not the owner, but a period of forgiveness should also be granted if no infraction had been made for a specified amount of time. When an infraction is made, it should be recorded in the Register of Deeds. The DWR is drafting a rule to allow them to record these infractions on a water right instead of depending on the water right owner to do so.

b. Updating the GMD 4 Groundwater Model

Ray Luhman and Shannon Cain attended a meeting in Hays with KWO, KGS, DWR and all GMD's to discuss groundwater modeling. GMD 4 has a groundwater model, but it needs updated. If we need that sooner than in the time frame given, extra money may be needed to expedite that and money may be needed to continue with maintenance once the model has been updated and complete. Plans for all GMD models to interact are the idea for the future. The Board was in favor of getting it completed and would like to see the cost for a faster timeline.

c. Franklin WCA

The Franklin family of Sherman County has created a management plan for a WCA. The proposed plan was mailed to the Board members prior to the meeting for review. The plan covers six wells all owned by the Franklins and proposing to limit use to no more than 4,800 acre feet in three consecutive 5-year periods.

Lynn Goossen moved the plan be recommended for approval. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

7. Agency Reports

Kelly Stewart of DWR/Stockton Field Office did not have anything new to report. Lane Letourneau gave an update on the information obtained with the proposed rule and regulation change for GMD 4.

Roger Zwegardt asked Tracy Streeter of Bonnie Reservoir and shutting the gates. Tracy discussed the desired outcomes on the Upper Republican. He also briefly discussed the Aquaduct. The KWA has ended discussion of the plan for now. He added that it did open their eyes to the potential of the Missouri River being a larger water resource for Kansas than currently thought.

8. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

Shane Mann reported that he was on a panel at the Future of Agriculture in Kansas put on by his church in Quinter. He felt it was an attack on irrigated agriculture. Several attendees openly voiced their opposition to irrigation.

Sara Sloan's Colby FFA students attended the open session and asked several questions of the Board. Various questions related to policy, overpumping and water use opinions were answered by Board members and staff.


9. Scheduling Future Meetings:

The December Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on December 16th at 1 P.M. The January Monthly Meeting and Revised Budget Hearing to be held January 14th at 10 A.M.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Dave Rietcheck moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 A.M. The motion was seconded by Roger Zwegardt and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS MEETING

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

August 13, 2015

The August 2015 board meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation was opened by Vice President Shane Mann at 12:38 P.M. in the district offices of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4.

Present were the following directors: Mitch Baalman, Doug David, Justin Sloan, Shane Mann, Scott Maurath, Roger Zwegardt, Dave Rietcheck, Jeff Deeds and Lynn Goossen

Directors absent were: Brent Rogers and Monty Biggs

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Ray Luhman, Shannon Cain, Rita Wade and Dan Simmering– GMD 4 staff; Jeff Mason, District Attorney; Jody McCain

1. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Jeff Mason commented that the agenda, item 2 needed to be changed to July 9, 2015 instead of June 11, 2015.

2. APPROVAL OF June 11, 2015 MINUTES

Shane Mann asked if there were any concerns of the July 9, 2015 Minutes.

Scott Maurath moved the Minutes for the July 9, 2015 meeting be accepted. The motion was seconded by Roger Zwegardt and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

3. FINANCIALS


Wayne Bossert needs to be removed from the signature card for the financials and a motion was needed for the bank to show only Brent Rogers, Dave Rietcheck, Ray Luhman, Shannon Cain & Rita Wade be on the signature cards for any and all financials. Also, the current by-laws state the Program Account is to be "used in its entirety each year". The checking account will need to have a minimum of \$2500 at the end of the year to earn interest and avoid checking account fees. The Foundation could change the by-laws and keep \$2500 in the checking account or pay the fee.

Lynn Goossen moved to remove Wayne Bossert from the signature card. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Roger Zwegardt moved that Brent Rogers, Dave Rietcheck, Ray Luhman, Shannon Cain & Rita Wade be on the signature cards for any and all financials. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Scott Maurath moved to change the by-laws and include the checking account to have a minimum balance of \$2500. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lynn Goossen. The motion was seconded by Dave Rietcheck and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).



Jeff Deeds, Secretary