

**Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
December 16, 2015 Board Meeting**

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The December 16 Board meeting was opened at 1:00 pm CDT at the GMD 4 Office in Colby, Kansas by Vice President, Shane Mann.

Board members present for some or all of the meeting were:

Shane Mann, Lynn Goossen, Mitchell Baalman, Justin Sloan,
Roger Zweygardt, Dave Rietcheck, 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; Kelly Stewart - DWR; Weston McCary – NWKS Tech College; Ian DeWaal & Zach Zweygardt – Tri-State Irrigation; Karen Flannigan & Gregg Graff - KWA

Board members absent were: Doug David, Jeff Deeds & Brent Rogers

Shane Mann appointed Roger Zweygardt as acting Secretary.

Ray Luhman added two items to the agenda. The Prairie Museum be added as item “c” under New Business and The Proposed 300’ Limited Movement of a Point of Diversion by DWR be added as item “d” under New Business.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Shane Mann asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the November 12, 2015 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of November. Receipt of the financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$29,846.25 in November were approved.

Mitchell Baalman moved the minutes and expenditures for the month of November be accepted. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Lynn Goossen reported that TH-5 is still waiting and no progress has been made.

4. MANAGER’S REPORT

Shannon Cain passed around the final version of the flyers for the Soil Moisture Probe Workshops and gave an update on the development of the workshops. Discussion was had on the distribution of the flyers and suggestions made on where to post them.

The SD-6 Advisory Committee met at Gary Moss's shop. Attendees reported that the LEMA is working. Many of those that were initially opposed are talking about its success. The Committee discussed the process for another LEMA with only two years left and the time needed for the legal process so no interruptions would be made. Producers in the area are in favor of another LEMA, but feel other areas should be doing the same thing.

An update on the Annual Meeting developments was given. It was suggested that the trade show portion begin at 12 PM with the Annual Meeting beginning at 1:30. Each vendor would be allowed a few minutes to discuss their products/services during the meeting. We will go to JD's in Hoxie for lunch.

Shane Mann inquired about House Bill 2245 with impairment language. Gregg Graff shared that KDA is revising the bill from last year and should have it to the GMD's in a couple of weeks.

The Governor's Conference was also discussed. Several of the breakout sessions were very informative.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

At 2:00, Scott Maurath moved the meeting should be relocated to City Limits Convention Center due to construction noise. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Baalman and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

The meeting reconvened at 2:15 by Vice President, Shane Mann.

a. Goal Discussion

Discussion was had on the data using the proposed NIR idea at the November meeting. This plan seemed to be favored and suggested to be framework for a district wide LEMA. Further discussion was had on potential flexibility, carrying water over from a five year plan, what about municipalities and stockwater users and the legal process of developing the LEMA.

Mitchell Baalman moved the district should start preliminary discussions with DWR/KDA on a GMD 4 district-wide LEMA. The motion was seconded by Scott Maurath and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

b. TH-5

Nothing to report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Management Program

Ray Luhman reported the Management Program needs to be revised. It was suggested the current one be readopted and modified soon.

Scott Maurath moved the plan be readopted. The motion was seconded by Dave Rietcheck and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

b. Additional Remodel Options

With the new roof construction underway, discussion was had on the next remodel project. Expanding the Board room was a priority. It was suggested we take out the cabinets and the North wall. A door where the teller window is now was also a suggestion.

c. Prairie Museum

The Prairie Museum in Colby will apply for a traveling Smithsonian Institute exhibit on water. The Board was given a list of the goals for the exhibit. The museum requests support from GMD 4 by providing programs at the museum and a letter of support for the exhibit. Many favored the support as it fits into the educational component of the district.

With the topic of media, Shannon Cain reported that KXXX had contacted her in regards to a potential radio show. More information is forthcoming once sponsors have been secured. Weston McCarry, of NW Tech College, informed the Board the college has a media curriculum with students that would enjoy and get experience by providing us with assistance in developing YouTube videos, advertising, etc.

d. The Proposed 300' Limited Movement of a Point of Diversion by DWR

The DWR is proposing to limit the change in point of diversion to 300' spacing from the original well. This proposed regulation is to prevent water users from chasing deeper portions of the aquifer. There are some exceptions to the proposed regulation. The problem of chasing water does not appear to be a problem within GMD 4 so the proposed regulation should be opposed.

Lynn Goossen moved GMD 4 to oppose the proposed regulation on 300' limited movement of a point of diversion. The motion was seconded by Roger Zweygardt and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

7. Agency Reports

Kelly Stewart of DWR/Stockton Field Office reported that they will begin their portion of the annual water level measurements December 17th. DWR and KGS will be measuring many wells in the district over the course of the next month. He also reported the Franklin WCA was in its final form and has been sent to the Franklins for their signature. The GMD 4 proposed rule and regulation change to close the Ogallala portion of the district will go to the Attorney General's office this week then go to the Department of Administration. Water Use Reports will be mailed after the first of the year. Water users are encouraged to report online.

8. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

Justin Sloan inquired about a disgruntled employee that came to the GMD 4 office anonymously last summer to inquire about the penalties for turning meters backwards. No further contact had been made by the employee.

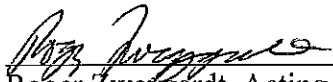
9. Scheduling Future Meetings:

The January Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on January 14th at 10 A.M. Further goal discussion, management plan and the revised budget hearing to be included on the agenda.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Lynn Goossen moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 P.M. The motion was seconded by Monty Biggs and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Roger Zwegardt, Acting Secretary