

**MINUTES: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
April 7, 2016 Board Meeting**

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The April 7th Board meeting was opened at 9 am CST at City Limits Convention Center in Colby, Kansas by President, Brent Rogers.

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

Justin Sloan, Shane Mann, Lynn Goossen, Brent Rogers,
Roger Zwegardt, Dave Rietcheck, Jeff Deeds, Monty Biggs
Mitchell Baalman, Scott Maurath and Doug David

Present for some or all of the meeting were GMD 4 staff, Jeff Mason – attorney and 18 other persons. The sign in sheet for the meeting is available to view for attendance.

No board members were absent.

Ray Luhman requested several items be added to the agenda. To be added under Manager Report: Rule and Regulation Hearing, Probe cost-share and signatures cards at banks. Under New Business, KWA sponsorship to be added.

Justin Sloan asked that the website to be also added under new business.

Shane Mann moved that Mitchell Baalman be the acting secretary in the absence of Jeff Deeds. The motion was seconded by Dave Rietcheck and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

Jeff Deeds joined the meeting at a later time and resumed secretary duties.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brent Rogers asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the March 9, 2016, Minutes and Expenditures for the month of March. Receipt of the financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$36,645.55 in March were approved. Concern was expressed with the cost of renting rooms for the public meetings and board room remodel. Discussion was had at previous board meetings about the remodel and the potential for public meetings.

Monty Biggs moved the minutes and expenditures for the month of March be accepted. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed by voice vote with Justin Sloan opposed.

3. OPEN FORUM

Several members of the public provided comments. Clarification was provided on the inclusion of current projects when determining the maximum acres and the proposed 16 mile flexibility radius. Mike Schultz with the City of Brewster gave comment on municipal conservation. Other comment was made to the Board on including efficiency in discussions other than just reductions.

4. MANAGER'S REPORT

Shannon reported on the RAC meeting that took place Monday, April 4th. As the GMD 4 Board is working on a district wide LEMA, the RAC is looking into focusing on other goals. One of those goals being the Republican River issue that David Barfield reported another information meeting in St. Francis would be soon. RMA had also been approved for all of GMD 4.

Ray reported the Rule and Regulation change hearing was held April 4th. The new regulation will be in effect 15 days after the notification is published.

Shannon Cain is now Shannon Kenyon and signature cards need to be resigned at the banks where we hold accounts.

Ray reported the Upper Republican NRD in Nebraska had a cost-share program through EQIP. Contact with NRCS has been made to inquire more about potentially being able to apply for this program in Kansas.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. District LEMA Discussion and Formulation

Discussion was had on the public meetings and other plans previously sent to board members. Comments and notes taken by staff and board members were presented. Several issues were addressed. Rainfall differences from west to east were discussed as Ray Luhman provided data from 1998 through 2015 rainfall for April through October. Another issue evolved during several of the meetings concerning getting sued for taking a property right. Ray Luhman had consulted with Burke Griggs and Jeff Mason concurred that the state owns the water and has the ability to regulate. It is not a taking.

Roger Zwegardt presented a plan for consideration that caps all water rights at a 22" / acre. Everybody with average inches less than that would be reduced 2" until those that use less than 12" annually would be held to what they are currently averaging. Flexibility would not be included other than on a 5 year allocation. It was suggested the current proposed plan be put aside and data be looked at on the water savings for capping the large pumpers to 22" and to 18".

b. TH-5

Bert Stramel reported there was nothing at the time to report as plans keep changing. He wanted clarification on the 4 townships now within the TH-5 as a high priority area. Depending on what evolves, the high priority protocol will change. Bert reported that he would like for TH-5 to remain on the agenda.

c. Management Program

Suggested to be tabled for a future meeting. Waiting on plans to develop to include updates.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. KWA

Tracy Streeter contacted Shannon Kenyon about possibly sponsoring the BBQ for the KWA on May 18th.

Shane Mann moved GMD 4 should provide a \$250 sponsorship to the KWA for the BBQ. The motion was seconded by Mitchell and passed by voice vote with Justin Sloan opposed.

b. WEBSITE

Concern was expressed for the website and improvements were needed to make it more aesthetic and mobile friendly. Shannon stated she would get with Crystal Pounds to see about having the website redone.

7. Agency Reports

Kelly Stewart reported WRIS Mobile had worked out the glitches and that is was back in the field for testing. Will keep us updated on when that will be available to GMD 4. They have also hired a Water Conservation Specialist that starts May 8th.

8. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

Jason Norquist from GMD 3 reported that the RCPP grant had some problems and they were working with NRCS to try and fix those so that more producers would be eligible.

Weston McCarry of NW Tech College reported that the Kansas Water Workforce will be conducting several meetings.

Question was had about water right buyouts. The interest is there, but not the money.

The state is trying to tax water usage to 1 cent per 1000 gallons. Testimony will be heard on April 19th.

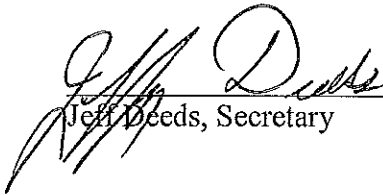
9. Scheduling Future Meetings:

The May Monthly Meeting to be held at the GMD 4 office on May 12th at 9 am.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Dave Rietcheck moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Monty Biggs and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary