

**Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
March 1, 2018 Board Meeting**

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The March 1st board meeting was opened at the GMD 4 office in Colby, Kansas by Vice President, Shane Mann.

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

Jeff Deeds, Lynn Goossen, Mitchell Baalman, Monty Biggs, Karen Flanagan, Nate Emig, Scott Maurath, Roger Zwegygart, Shane Mann, and Ted Nighswonger

Board members absent:

Brent Rogers

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Ray Luhman, Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; see sign-in sheet for other attendees.

Ted Nighswonger moved the agenda for the March 1st board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Shane Mann asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the February 7th, 2018 Minutes and Expenditures for the month of February. A receipt of the February financial report was previously distribute and an updated financial report was distributed at the meeting showing monthly expenditures totaling \$38,864.06 in February were approved.

3. OPEN FORUM

No comments from the public were received.

4. MANAGER'S REPORT

Ray Luhman provided a legislative update. Proposal for the increase in GMD water use charges passed out of one committee and into another. Changes for notices on change applications seems to be dying, but the deadline for MYFA applications looks successful

in getting changed from October 1 to December 1. The three person review of the KWA among other acts will not be considered this legislative session.

Ray also reported on the Central Plains Irrigation Conference. There were numerous breakout sessions. Ray, Mitchell Baalman, and Dr. Bill Golden all presented in one breakout session that contained various topics on GMD 4 and the SD 6 LEMA.

Shannon Kenyon visited NW Tech College with Jeff Deeds and Nate Emig. They gave a presentation to the students about GMD 4 and toured the Precision Agriculture facilities. They were very impressed with how the program has expanded and answered questions from the other board members.

Shannon also attended a grant writing workshop presented by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. She discussed with the board several options for grants. A Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation meeting will be held in April to present any ideas for grants the board may have and for Shannon to have time to look for other grant opportunities.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. District LEMA

The Chief Engineer issued an order on the District-Wide LEMA with suggested modifications. The order was previously emailed to all board members and a copy of the order was given to each board member at the meeting. Ray went through each of the suggested modifications with explanations.

Ray then presented the board of directors a copy of their original proposal with the Chief Engineer's suggested modifications. Nothing new was changed, only what the Chief Engineer suggested. It was noted that the new "Proposed GMD 4 LEMA" map needed a few changes to reflect the language suggested. The board then took time to double check all the townships and to review the document for errors.

Discussion was then had on the modifications. Several board members had concern about taking out the blue and green townships.

Scott Maurath moved to approve the modifications proposed by the Chief Engineer in the Order of Decision Returning the Local Enhanced Management Plan with Proposed Modifications". The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Discussion was then had on the next steps. DWR will notify all producers. Public meetings will be scheduled in coordination with DWR. Appointment of Advisory Committee will begin by taking the names and contact of volunteers for consideration. Increasing the number of wells measured was also discussed and Ray will look into the current grid to determine where new measurement wells would be most beneficial.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to address.

7. Agency Reports

Kelly Stewart reminded everyone that March 1st is the last day to get Water Use Reports post-marked. Water users can hand deliver to the field office or report online until March 6th.

Steven Walters informed the board that the Stockton Field Office has a goal of creating 12 WCA's by the end of 2018. He also discussed potential WCA formation near Garden City that involves 41 water rights.

8. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

John Hendrich questioned the board on whether they have done their due diligence on checking into the economic ramifications of the LBMA plan. Lynn Goossen informed him that he had talked with bankers. Further conversation was had on concern for softer land values and the concern with taxes. They also discussed the problems with RMA reducing the APH.

Pat Hafner has concern with flexibility as there is no flexibility in the GMD 4 LBMA, but there is in the SD 6 LBMA. An explanation was provided and he was encouraged to enroll in a WCA if he wanted flexibility with his water rights.

Bert Stramel commented that he was confused as the board testified at the hearings about including everyone in the district but now they are agreeing to removing the blue and green townships. Roger Zwegardt responded with how he does have concern over removing them as he would like to see them stay in.

Other comments were made with concerns on skewed data, well measurements, property right considerations, and whether the board is making decisions too quickly.

John Hendrich then requested a motion to reopen the motion approving the suggested recommendations by the Chief Engineer. Shane Mann asked the board if anybody wanted to make that motion and after a brief period, no response.

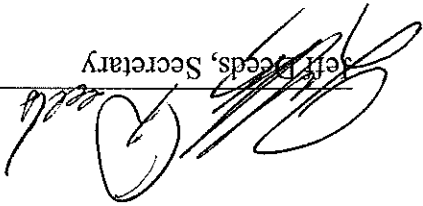
9. Scheduling Future Meetings:

A board meeting was scheduled for April 5th, 2018. Well monitoring devices need to be on the agenda and a Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation meeting will also need to be held to discuss potential grants.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Karen Flanagan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary

Please sign-in 3-1-18

Steven Walters D&R

Kelly Stewart

OWR

Curtis Brown

David Pfeiffer

John F. Novak - 985-299-0017

Joe Waldman 785-623-3196

PR [unclear]

[unclear]

Feddland 785-890-2599

Goodland

Goodland

Travis [unclear]

Gregory E. Gore

[unclear]

Bert S

Tom S

Wilbur H.

Don

?

Alan Townsend X 785-881-0686 - alantks@ms.com. Sherman
could serve on Advisory Committee

