

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
March 4, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The March 4, 2020 board meeting was opened at the GMD4 office in Colby, Kansas by President, Brett Oelke.

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Monty Biggs, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagin, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers, Dylan Loyd.

Board members absent: Ted Nighswonger

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; and Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart – DWR; Keadron Pearson – KWO, Richael Young and Alexander Stejskal – Mammoth Water.

Additions to the agenda were noted:

Manager's Report – h. Water Levels

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Karen Flanagin moved that the consent agenda be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Karen Flanagin moved that the February minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shane Mann moved the updated financials be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Nothing was presented.

4. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There are 4 bills that Shannon is keeping her eye on:

SB270 involves allowing water rights that were certified after 2009 to be placed in MYFA's. It has passed in the Senate, and is now in the House.

SB329 involves establishing that the Chief Engineer of DWR is not required to be an engineer. It is stalled in the Senate.

SB182 involves providing for water measuring device inspections and limiting the liability of water right owners regarding water measuring devices and the use of water measuring device technicians. A hearing in the Senate has taken place.

SB294 involves establishing notice and public hearing requirements prior to approval by a governing body to exceed its revenue neutral rate for property tax purposes. It has passed in the Senate, and is now in the House.

b. BARFIELD RETIREMENT

Shannon attended the reception held in Topeka for David Barfield's retirement. Barfield's future plans include Kansas Water Resources Consulting, which is his new consulting firm. Chris Beightel will serve as acting Chief Engineer.

c. RAC MEETING

The Upper Republican RAC meeting that was scheduled for March 3rd was cancelled.

d. INTERN

Shannon has an interview scheduled with Landon Reicks on March 5th, at the NWKTC. She will also talk to the Precision Ag students about the GMD.

e. KANSAS WATER DAY – TOPEKA MARCH 19TH

The KWO is putting on a Kansas Water Day event in the Capitol Rotunda on March 19th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The KGMDA (Kansas Groundwater Management District Association) plans to have a table, so Shannon will be there to represent GMD4.

f. OGALLALA AQUIFER SUMMIT – AMARILLO MARCH 31ST – APRIL 1ST

Shannon will be attending this event. If board members are interested in attending, we need to know as soon as possible to make arrangements.

g. REPUBLICAN RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

Chelsea Erickson of the Stockton Field Office attended this meeting. She shared that the general theme was focusing on conservation and trying to get the Colorado GMDs to set allocations.

h. WATER LEVELS

Shannon shared a copy of an initial map, which may have more adjustments made due to re-measurements of some wells.

5. FIELD REPORT

Dan has stayed in the office, to assist with the online water use reports. He has also been able to get acre certifications done for the 5-5-11s as producers come in to do reporting. Dan and Shannon traded in the old Yamaha 4 wheeler and picked up the new one from Colby Ag Center yesterday.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

There was no conference call this month. Kelly Stewart will check on the progress of the water use calculator.

Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, and attorney for attorney client privileges. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for an additional 5 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, and attorney for attorney. The motion was seconded by Monty Biggs and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

There have been no legal updates at this time.

b. ROB AIKEN

Brett Oelke has a couple of concerns dealing with the independent model that Rob is developing. The model cannot determine the difference between non-irrigated crops and irrigated crops, as well as assuming all crop is corn. The board will not support the continuation of this model.

c. POSITIONS 10 & 11

With changing board position 11 to an At-Large Member, Shane Mann resigned his board Position #11, so that he would be considered for the board Position #10 Logan/Gove.

Dylan Loyd moved to accept Shane Mann's resignation for Position #11. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Lynn Goossen recommended to appoint Shane Mann to Board Position #10 Logan/Gove.

Karen Flanagan moved to appoint Shane Mann to Board Position #10 Logan/Gove. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

An advertisement for the At-Large Board position has been placed in the area newspapers, which are to run for 3 weeks. At this time, we have not had any interest in filling the position. Discussion ensued as to possible candidates.

d. TAPPH20

Lynn Goossen is piloting this water meter tracking application. Lynn showed how the application works. He said it was very easy to get started. Shannon had examples of the reports that can be emailed to the producer to see the amount of water used, as well as the LEMA allocation amount for each water right. Lynn feels it is very user friendly, and could be the management tool that the GMD4 irrigators need to help track their water usage. He also suggested that it could be an effective way to produce alternate metering records for DWR when there are meter malfunctions. Michael Young and Alexander Stejskal were on hand to address any concerns and questions regarding the application. Discussion ensued as to how to get this tool into the hands of our producers. The board agreed that the accounting/bookkeeping should go through the Foundation.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. MASTER IRRIGATOR

Lynn Goossen presented at the Colorado Master Irrigator program. He would like to see something similar in GMD4 to help guide our producers. Shannon has some leads on possible funding. The board was in favor of putting this program together.

b. NEWSLETTER

Shannon would like to have the spring newsletter sent out within the next month. Ideas for articles included the Master Irrigator program, TAAPH20 app, and summer interns.

8. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart reminded everyone that the Water Use Reporting deadline was March 1, 2020. He reported that 93% of the reports were filed online. Producers who have not filed a water use report will be fined \$250/water right, in addition to the \$20/water right paper filing fee. Late reports must be mailed in with the fee and penalty amount.

Keadron Pearson reported that the Upper Republican RAC meeting should be rescheduled by the end of the week. There are still vacancies on the RAC, if anyone is interested on serving. A Cover Crop Field Day at Circle C Farms Water Technology Farm is scheduled on April 2, 2020 near Healy, Kansas from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The next Kansas Water Authority meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2020 in Hutchinson.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

No comments received.

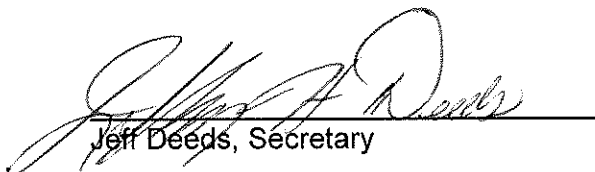
10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th, 2020 at 10 am CDT at the GMD 4 office in Colby.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary