

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

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

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

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagin, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers & Marsha Schilling.

Board members absent: Monty Biggs, Dylan Loyd, and Ted Nighswonger

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff and Taylor Van Eaton – GMD4 Intern; and Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR; Armando Zarco and Keadron Pearson – KWO, David Barfield – KWR Consulting; Sarah Sexton-Bowser and Ignacio Ciampitti – K-State; Charlie Messina and Dan Berning – Corteva; Matt Smith – Playa Lakes Joint Venture; GMD 1; Jose Rotundo; Ryan McCormick, and “Caller 1”.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Jody McCain passed around updated financial statements to reflect transactions at the end of May that were not included in the financial statement included in the mailed board packet.

Lynn Goossen moved the updated financials be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Shannon introduced Marsha Schilling, and had board members introduce themselves and give the counties they represent. The board received a Thank You note from David Barfield for his retirement gift and passed it around.

Shane Mann stated that the City of Quinter is now in “Stage 2 Watering”, with an Odd/Even watering schedule for residents. There is no watering between 10 am and 8 pm.

4. MANAGER’S REPORT

a. SUMMER INTERN

Taylor Van Eaton from FHSU has joined us for 300 hours this summer to mainly install seals, and will have a few other duties as needed. She introduced herself and provided some background on her education. Taylor also has a background in GIS.

b. COVID 19 OFFICE PROCEDURES

Shannon has been monitoring advice from the CDC, KDHE, and the Governor's office and has stayed in contact with Brett Oelke of any concerns. As of May 18th, the office has been open to the public. Shannon asked the board if they would still like to receive a weekly update. The board agreed that a bi-weekly report will suffice for now.

c. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislative session dismissed at 7:55 am, May 22nd, after wrapping up a 23+ hour final day of work for the 2020 Legislative session. Shannon called attention to Sean Miller's summary that had been sent to members in their packet.

d. TAPPH2O UPDATE

We have had approximately 160 meters signed up as of the meeting. We did get a one minute video put up on the website and Facebook page. Shannon asked the board if they felt more promotion, such as a postcard, is needed. The board agreed that word of the mouth is sufficient for now.

e. MODEL UPDATE

Brownie Wilson thinks the model will be ready later this summer. We did extend the contract out until December 31st to give everybody room to breathe in case there is a snag in plans.

f. K-STATE MAILING

A local producer sent a mailing he had received from K-State to Shannon, with questions as to where the information came from and why he had received it. We also received a couple of calls pertaining to the mailing. They were encouraged to contact K-State and share their disgruntled opinion with the originators. Shannon researched it and has been in contact with those responsible for mailing it.

g. BUILDING MAINTENANCE

The large sign in the parking lot is down and the two round signs that were on it are now on the front of the building. Patrons can now identify where we are located easily. Bud Stupka has almost completed the concrete work done on the southwest side of the building. Lastly, Jody has been shuffling the files around for more room and thinks it would be beneficial to expand the shelving unit. Dennis Meitl had come in to repair/reinforce/shore up the existing shelving. We had asked for a quote on expanding the current shelving. It was agreed to move this item to #7 New Business – g. Shelving.

h. RAC MEETINGS

Shannon attended two video conference RAC meetings. They have been sorting through the goals and action steps to make them more relevant to the current needs of the basin.

5. FIELD REPORT

Dan reported he was able to finish up several requested rate tests for producers who had received compliance letters from the state; before he had shoulder surgery. However, since Taylor has been in the field, an additional 4 meters have been found that need tested.

Taylor reported that she has installed approximately 140 seals so far. She had found four meters without original seals. She will assist Dan with the 4 rate tests that need done.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

During the monthly conference call an official alternative meter list was established, as there had been some confusion. The state has been working hard on getting the calculator up and running for the website. Rebecca and Shannon met last week to review some of the spreadsheets and data related to the LEMA and accounting.

The Petitioner's filed a motion to appeal. They have 21 days to file docketing paperwork.

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

b. MASTER IRRIGATOR PROGRAM

Shannon included examples of a couple of modules she has created so far. The program needs an official name. The board agreed that Northwest Kansas Certified Irrigator Program. Also, GMD1 has expressed interest in looking into incentives for the program. She will continue developing the program as discussed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Ray Luhman

A brief discussion was held regarding hiring someone to work spreadsheets.

Shane Mann moved to hire a Ray Luhman at \$25/hr. for no more than 999 hours/year on an as needed basis to work spreadsheets. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

b. David Barfield

Shannon distributed a proposal for services available to the board by KWR Consulting. David then gave a presentation on the benefits of his skill set.

Brent Rogers moved to hire David Barfield on retainer as a consultant. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

c. Tech Farms Contribution

The Kansas Water Office has asked the board to be a 2020 Tech Farm Sponsor. Three tech farms are located in the district. The Foundation has provided support for

the NWKTC. The board agreed that for now they want to continue to support the NWKTC Tech Farm through the foundation only.

- d. Sarah Sexton-Bowser (K-State) & Charlie Messina (Corteva) @ 10:30
Sarah and Charlie are working together to find the needs for water technologies and management approaches to maximize crop-water response. Corteva supports crop improvement efforts across the business with work in predictive agriculture. Charlie shared a PowerPoint presentation on what Corteva is working on. After discussion the board would like to know specifically what they want from GMD 4.
- e. Matt Smith – Playa Lakes Joint Venture @ 11 am
Matt presented information on the collaborative conservation grant that will support and promote water use efficiency through irrigation water management and playa wetland restoration in western Kansas by increasing technical assistance capacity and community outreach activities. He is also seeking financial support/pledging from the GMDs. The board supports it, but thinks NRCS should handle the financial support.
- f. Executive Session – Staff Contracts

At 12:38 pm Lynn Goossen moved the board of directors go into executive session until for 30 minutes with Adam Dees and individual staff members to discuss salary contracts. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 1:08 pm Brent Rogers moved to extend the executive session for 30 minutes with Adam Dees and individual staff members to discuss salary contracts. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved to offer staff contracts as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

- g. Shelving
The board members moved to the file room to view the shelving in question.

Brent Rogers moved to approve the quote from The Tool Box for building and installation of a new shelving unit. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

8. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart reported that his office has been working fully staffed, with half working from home on a rotation basis. Their front door is still locked to the public, however. Most business is being taken care of through internet interaction and telephone. This week is the third week that employees have been out in the field again. Kelly reported that Chris Beightel will be collaborating with KGS on the model project.

Rebecca Hageman reported that she had met with Shannon last week to work through the LEMA accounting spreadsheet data. Rebecca has been working on making the necessary

updates/corrections. The McCarty Dairy WCA is now in processing at headquarters, and is available online.

Keadron Pearson reported the next Kansas Water Authority meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020 via GoTo Meeting. Information to join the meeting is available on the KWO website. An Upper Republican RAC meeting via teleconference is being scheduled for July, with Budget Considerations being evaluated. The Governor's Conference is scheduled for November 9th and 10th in Wichita. However, due to COVID-19, there may be restrictions that could affect the conference.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

No comments received.

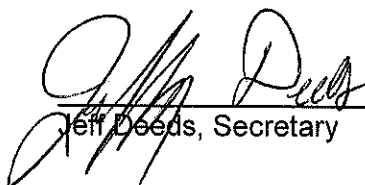
10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 9 am CDT at the GMD 4 office in Colby. Teleconferencing will continue, the meeting details will be sent to board members and agencies, as well as posted on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary

