

## **NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4 JULY 8, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

### **1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA**

The July 8, 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:

Monty Biggs, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Ted Nighswonger (via video) & Marsha Schilling.

Board members absent: Jeff Deeds, Dylan Loyd, and Brent Rogers.

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; Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR; Keadron Pearson – KWO; Richael Young – Mammoth Water; Sean Miller, Kira Everhart-Valentine, and Ray Luhman.

An addition to the agenda was noted:

Consent Agenda – 2. B Add Corrected Yearly Budget Balance Reports (Jan. – June)

### **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Brett Oelke asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the June 4, 2020 minutes and June expenditures. Receipt of the June financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$30,717.17 were approved.

**Shane Mann moved the minutes and expenditures for the month of June be accepted. The motion was seconded by Monty Biggs and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

Due to the projected expense/income calculations in the Quicken program, the Budgeted Expense amounts in the “Yearly Budget Balance” reports for February – June were inflated. Jody spoke with Quicken support, and found that there is no way to turn off the projected income/expense computing in the program. After speaking with our accountant, Quickbooks accounting software has been ordered. It does have a toggle switch in the program to turn off projected income/expense, so that the Budgeted Expense amounts will stay fixed.

Jody disbursed the corrected Yearly Budget Balance reports for January – June 2020.

**Monty Biggs moved the corrected Yearly Budget Balance reports for January – June 2020 be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

Jody dispersed an updated Outstanding Encumbrance sheet. The Commercial Sign bill has been paid. So the only outstanding item is the model payments balance.

### **3. OPEN FORUM**

Everyone is in agreement that rainfall is needed.

### **4. MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **a. COVID 19 OFFICE UPDATE**

For now it is business as usual. The Governor has put the call on social restrictions to the counties. If Thomas County demands doors be closed then we will do so with at least one person in the office to answer phone calls and handle regular business uninterrupted.

#### **b. TAPPH2O UPDATE**

Sign-ups have been extremely slow since our last meeting. Most of the sign-ups have been through word of mouth. Shannon has been in touch with Richael of Mammoth Water to discuss how to promote it more with just over 200 using the app at this time. Richael is willing to help with social media boosts. The board agreed it is time to send out a postcard to those water right holders with more than three water rights.

#### **c. RAC MEETINGS**

Shannon attended a video conference RAC meeting on Monday. Most of the discussion was in regard to the budget. Shannon thanked the Water Office and Water Authority for the support given to the model, tech farms, and the WCAs. As the development of the Certified Irrigator program continues we will seek support for it as well.

### **5. FIELD REPORT**

Taylor has installed 430 seals so far. She is finding compliance issues with several of them as she goes. When these are found she brings them back to Dan at the end of the day and he contacts the appropriate person to bring them into compliance. The majority of these water users are very grateful and have complied in a timely manner. Several of these issues have required rate tests that Taylor has been doing with Dan supervising. We are in hopes certified to do rate tests soon so that she can do these independently in the field.

### **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **a. GMD 4 LEMA**

Kelly, Rebecca, and Shannon had a quick monthly conference call on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Nothing of huge significance was discussed but Shannon did bring up an issue that had been brought to her attention by several people. That issue being can more

LEMA quantity be used if one converts irrigation water to stockwater. There is some concern over expanding feedlots and a potential meat-packing plant.

July 17<sup>th</sup> is the actual date the Petitioners have to file the docketing paperwork. It was decided to discuss it further when they go into executive session.

The LEMA calculator is up and running on the KDA LEMA allocation website.

**b. CERTIFIED IRRIGATOR PROGRAM**

The board agreed that the framework Shannon has put together looks great. They would like her to proceed. GMD1 is looking into incentives for the program. It was mentioned that the Hansen Foundation would be a good place to start for funding, as this is an educational program for local producers. Shannon will collaborate with Weston McCary to start the process of putting together speakers for the videos.

**c. CORTEVA / K-STATE**

Shannon had a follow up discussion with Sarah. Right now they are looking for 1 or 2 producers to talk with regarding their planning/management strategies when it comes to the 5 year LEMA. Shane Mann has agreed to speak with them.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL**

**Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for 30 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, and attorney for attorney client privileges. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, and attorney for attorney client privileges. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**b. BUDGET PREVIEW**

Shannon distributed a budget worksheet with 4 proposed budgets. Shannon explained the differences between them. Discussion was held.

**Karen Flanagin moved to suggest Budget option #1 to be used for the hearing in August. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**8. AGENCY REPORTS**

Kelly Stewart introduced Rebecca Hageman in person, finally. She is Steven Walters's replacement. He reported that the Stockton field office has been working fully staffed, with half working from home on a rotation basis. Their front door is still locked to the public.

Sunday the online Water Use Reporting system will be shut down. Anyone still needing to report water use for 2019 will have to send in a paper copy, along with the \$20/Water Right fee. They will need to pay the penalty fee as well. This year 90% of water use was reported online.

Rebecca Hageman has been working on WCAs, as well as getting letters out to those who reported broken or repaired meters on their water use reports, regarding any adjustments needed for the 2019 year.

Keadron Pearson reported the next Kansas Water Authority meeting is pending. The total number of Tech Farms in the state is 21; therefore the Water Office has added a few more positions to help Armando with these. Keadron will also be helping with the Tech Farms in GMD 1 & GMD 4. There are still 4 vacant positions on the RRC.

**9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:**

No comments received.

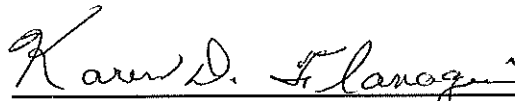
**10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 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. The 2021 Operating Budget Hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted:

  
Karen D. Flanagan  
Karen Flanagan, Acting Secretary