

**NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4**  
**September 7, 2022**

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

The September 7, 2022 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, Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent: Jerry Binning and Karen Flanagin.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Colter Stoll – GMD 4 staff; Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR; Keadron Pearson – KWO (virtually).

A Change to the agenda was noted:

**Add 8. a. Public Outreach.**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Brent Rogers moved the minutes of the August 3, 2022 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

Shannon distributed a copy of the updated financials.

**Ted Nighswonger moved that the updated financial reports and expenditures for the month of August be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

Shannon asked Jody to compile interest rates on CDs, which was distributed to the board to consider for Foundation funds. After brief discussion, the board wanted 3 CDs of varying amounts and different terms set-up.

**3. OPEN FORUM**

Shannon informed the board that Vernon Flanagin passed away Tuesday morning, hence Karen's absence. Shannon will keep the board informed on service details, once they are available.

Brent Rogers noted that Richael Young with ERA Economics (TAPPH2O) had contacted him regarding attending the GMD 1 board meeting. Lynn Goossen stated she had reached out to him as well and he attended the meeting. Shane Mann and Nathan Emig were contacted as well and they attended virtually. Discussion ensued on some of the issues that Shannon addressed with Richael when they met in person.

#### **4. AGENCY REPORTS**

Kelly Stewart noted that the field office has been non-stop busy with LEMA phone calls. He noted that other producers outside of GMD 4 have also been calling to check on their authorized quantities, because of the drought. Staff has not been able to make it out to the field, due to the overload of paperwork generated by the phone calls. Rebecca Hageman noted that she did make it out to do a WCA check, which Colter accompanied her on. There was concern with the term permits not being approved fast enough for producers to know if they were okay to legally pump. Kelly stated that if they over pumped and had filed the proper paperwork prior to over pumping their water right that he would not take immediate action.

Keadron Pearson reported that approximately \$250,000 total has been expended for irrigation technology cost-share in the South Fork Republican River Basin, with 71 applications approved in the second year of the cost-share program. A third year cost-share program will be opening soon. Keadron also noted that the final draft of the Kansas Water Plan is posted on the Kansas Water Office website. She is planning a RAC meeting for October.

#### **5. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Shannon reported that the office has also been bombarded with phone calls and walk-in traffic checking LEMA and water right balances. She noted that term permits are being issued for wells needing to finish out this growing season. Those term permits are only being issued to water rights where a "donor" well can be found within two miles and has plenty of water right AND LEMA quantity to donate via a term permit.

August 10th Brent Rogers and Shannon attended a KWA policy meeting in Salina. It was very well attended, as intended, by stakeholders to the failed HB 2686. Several questions were asked and discussion was had in small groups with thoughts gathered collectively.

The Republican River Compact held its annual meeting in Burlington, Colorado on August 31st. Shannon attended via Zoom, which unfortunately was hacked. After getting back on track, the meeting went well with everyone getting along.

GMD 1 has its first District-Wide hearing on October 18<sup>th</sup>, which Shannon plans to attend. Kate and Shannon have started meeting in-person monthly for many reasons but mostly to have dialogue on keeping the success of LEMAs alive. They also want to work together in state-wide matters as well.

September 12th a film crew for Sorghum Checkoff will be here to interview Shannon. When things slow down a bit, we plan on trying to get a newsletter out the door, and would like ideas for what to include.

The Governor's Conference is November 16th & 17th in Manhattan. A draft agenda was included in the board packet. Please let the office know if you want to attend, so that reservations can be made.

Lucas Haag with K-State Northwest Research-Extension Center contacted Shannon regarding sponsorship of a Limited Irrigation Corn Management Field Day to be held on September 13, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Colter will be attending this program.

**Brent Rogers moved to sponsor the field day in the amount of \$500 out of the Education budget line. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

## **6. FIELD REPORT**

Colter reported he worked 180 hours, with 60 of them being in the field checking 105 wells and 5 rate tests. Per Shannon’s request he has been in the office to help with the increased phone and walk-in traffic. He also has been working on term permits and 5-5-11 paperwork, now that those checks are complete.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

We are still waiting on an order from the Chief Engineer.

Stockton Field Office caught a violation in the field, of a meter put in the pipe and running backwards. This meter is in a WCA. Rebecca and Colter went to the field to chain all of the wells in the WCA. The board does not want any settlement conference allowed, and wants the water right suspended per the LEMA order

The Woofter - Carpenter should be settled by the end of the week pending signatures. Shannon and Brett signed the document that will give them the acres requested for the 2022-2027 LEMA as the acres in question were irrigated in the 2018-2022 LEMA.

Shannon and Jody will take part in the GMD Audit conference meeting this afternoon. This is a step towards the GMD audit process created by the House Water Committee.

### **b. SD-6**

We are still waiting on an order from the Chief Engineer.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Shannon mentioned the NRCS training taking place in October that she has been invited to be a part of. It is the start of what she hopes to expand on. On Tuesday, Shannon met with Tallee Davis at NWKTC to discuss educational outreach opportunities that we can work together on. The board agreed that you can’t over educate producers and other agriculture related constituents.

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

The question was asked, "What paperwork is needed in SD-6 to move water?" Shannon asked that producers call and ask to talk to her directly, since GMD 4 is in charge of the bookkeeping for SD-6.

**10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next board meeting was not scheduled, as the future of harvest is in question. Shannon will keep the board informed, and a date will be posted on the website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Jeff Deeds, Secretary