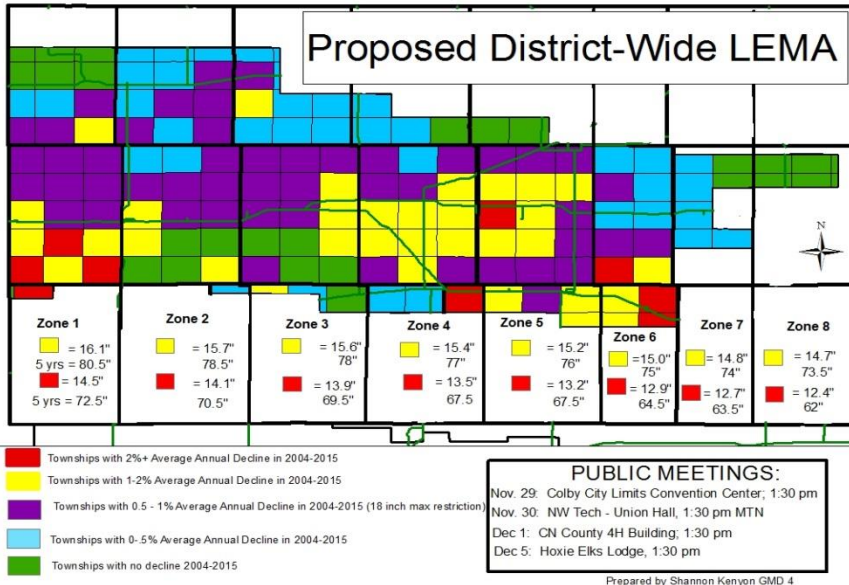


# The Water Table



After hearing from the public last spring on a proposed District-Wide LEMA, the GMD 4 Board of Directors utilized those comments to modify the plan. We will be holding four public meetings. See map above for dates, times and locations. All Water Use Correspondents will be receiving a mailing notifying them of when and where the meetings are going to take place. It will be their responsibility to notify their landowners. We hope to receive great feedback as we move forward in this process. If you are unable to attend any of these meetings, we still want your input. Please call, visit, or drop us an email.

No water right would be reduced by more than 25% except for those being reduced to 18" maximum. Stockwater will be held at 12 gallons/head/day based on facility capacity. Municipalities are encouraged to reduce their unaccounted for water and reduce their gallons/person/day consumption. Data will be periodically reviewed to determine if there was a change in the depletion category of any township. Allocated LEMA amounts would be adjusted after these reviews.

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## Water Technology Farms

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) in cooperation with many others are developing Water Technology Farms (WTF). Several have been developed so far and they are actively seeking for one in our district.

These farms utilize the latest technology to produce crops for evaluation of the effective use of the technology for water savings.

Technology used include various soil moisture probes, mobile drip irrigation, and a variety of spray nozzles. K-State Research and Extension are actively involved in conducting the research.

For more information about exiting WTF's please see the KWO website. If you would like to have a WTF on your farm, please contact our office or the KWO.

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"To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed." – Theodore Roosevelt

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### Dan's Field Notes

#### Meters, Meters, Meters!

- Visit them weekly to be sure they are working.
- If one is malfunctioning, call the GMD 4 office as soon as possible. We will provide you proper direction in the paperwork and make contacts for you.
- Have an alternate metering device such as pivot or engine hours.
- Remember: the Division of Water Resources can assume you have pumped all of your annual quantity if they inspect a faulty meter and you have no way of proving otherwise.

### RRCA Update

The Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) held their annual meeting in Burlington, Colorado in August. During this meeting, several milestones were accomplished. All states agreed that both Colorado and Nebraska will get full credit for their pipeline augmentation deliveries. To remain in compliance, Colorado has agreed to dry up another 25,000 acres in the South Fork Republican Basin.

They also agreed to explore ways to account for and store water in Bonny Reservoir. Many of our stakeholders have expressed discontent over the draining of Bonny Reservoir and it is exciting to hear they will begin discussions on how to account for water if stored in Bonny Reservoir. For more up-to-date information, the administration is developing a website for the public to gain more understanding. We will provide a link to that on our website when it becomes available.

## 2017 Water Talk Series/ GMD 4 Annual Meeting

GMD 4 will hold its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the KWC and RMA. Come spend the day with us learning about limited irrigation crop insurance, water technology, talk to vendors, and attend the GMD 4 Annual Meeting. More details to come as the event is developed. Save the date for February 1<sup>st</sup> and keep checking back to our website and Facebook for more information as it becomes available.



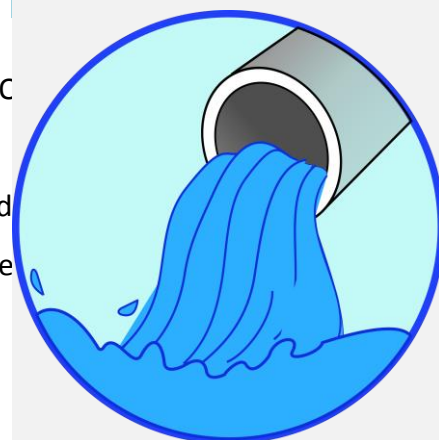
(Left) Dan Simmering, GMD 4 Field Technician, conducting a rate test.

## Water Conservation Areas

The Division of Water Resources (DWR) is inviting all water right owners to develop a Water Conservation Area (WCA). Any water right owner, or group of water right owners, can develop a plan to reduce water usage in their area. They do not make any permanent changes to the water right and be ended at any time. Each WCA is unique and voluntarily created by the water user(s) that agree to develop one.

There have been many developed since the tool became available in April of 2015 and more being considered. One of these is within the GMD 4 District. Talks in Wichita County are underway to develop a WCA that includes numerous producers and a feedlot.

So, if you, or a group of water users in your area, want to agree to save water and have an idea on how to do that in your area, please contact our office or Steven Walters at the DWR Stockton Field Office. Want to conserve water but not sure of an idea? Our office, or Steven, can get you started and do the paperwork. More information and several existing plans can be found on the Kansas Department of Agriculture website.



### **Pumping the Tailwater** Ray Luhman

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)** may be the wave (or at least ripple) of the future. I think that the flexibility along with the water savings afforded by WCAs may be a very good way to custom tailor a water savings program to each specific project or project area. We'll have to wait and see how well they are accepted by the public, but there does seem to be moderate interest at this time. I encourage anyone who is thinking about a WCA to contact the district or DWR.

**Project expansion.** I think that the time for expanding irrigation projects, with a corresponding increase in water use, is past. Given the declining resource it now becomes paramount that we look at ways to lessen our water use in order to reduce declines and extend the life of the aquifer. I do believe, however, that acreage increases that spread less water over more acres is an area that needs to be explored and expanded. If a reduced amount of water use is already permanently in place I think that individuals should have some increased capabilities to add acres in order to facilitate crop rotations and other techniques. Remember it's the amount of water pumped, not the acres irrigated, that has an impact.

Finally, I would like to again recognize the GMD #4 Board of directors for their continuing efforts on a district-wide LEMA. This has been, and is, an extremely complicated effort, especially when considering all sides of the issues. I believe that the current proposal, while possibly not saving as much water as the former proposal, is a good step in the right direction.

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Like us on Facebook!

Find us on the Web:  
[www.gmd4.org](http://www.gmd4.org)



### Important Dates

**Monthly Board Meetings – First Thursday of every month @ 9 am.  
(Except February & December)**

**LEMA Meetings – Nov. 29, Colby City Limits Conv. Center, 1:30 pm  
Nov. 30, NW Tech – Union Hall, 1:30 pm MTN  
Dec. 5: Hoxie Elks Lodge, 1:30 pm  
Dec. 6: CN County 4H Building, 1:30 pm**

**2017 Water Talk Series/GMD 4 Annual Meeting: Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, NW Tech,  
Union Hall**

### Staff and Board of Directors

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  - Shannon Kenyon – Assistant Manager [skenyon@gmd4.org](mailto:skenyon@gmd4.org)
  - Dan Simmering – Field Technician [dee@gmd4.org](mailto:dee@gmd4.org)
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- |                             |                  |               |
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| Shane Mann – Vice President | Doug David       | Monty Biggs   |
| Jeff Deeds – Secretary      | Roger Zwegardt   | Scott Maurath |
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