

The Water Table

DISTRICT-WIDE LEMA UPDATE

GMD 4 is still moving forward with developing a District-Wide LEMA. After hearing from the public at scheduled meetings throughout the district, several changes are being made based on the feedback we heard. We appreciate all the feedback we have received and are motivated to move forward with the LEMA in thanks to public encouragement.

What's the next step? At the monthly board meetings, the board of directors discuss minor details in a draft proposal that will be submitted to the Division of Water Resources once it is

final. Several changes are being made to the draft proposal monthly. Once the board of directors feels the draft is suitable to submit a final proposal, then it will be presented to the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources for review. He may choose to make suggestions for change or accept the document and move forward by scheduling public hearings.

Some have called or come into the office wondering what their LEMA allocation will be. To make it easier, you can find a spreadsheet uploaded to our website at www.gmd4.org. Find the link that says "What's my preliminary allocation?" and you can look up your LEMA allocation by water right number. If your water right is part of a group of water rights, you will need to locate the senior most water right within that group for a group allocation. These numbers are preliminary and could change. If you don't agree with the program acres assigned in the document or want clarification, please contact our office. There will be an appeals process incorporated into the LEMA for you to demonstrate your allocation is incorrect.



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Sheridan 6 LEMA Renewal

A meeting was held in December at the Hoxie Elks Lodge to discuss continuation of the SD-6 LEMA. Public comment was heard by the SD-6 Advisory Committee. Following the public meeting, the committee made recommendation to the GMD 4 Board of Directors to renew the LEMA and allow for a maximum 5" carry-over.

The GMD 4 Board of Directors voted in favor of the committee's request. A request to renew the LEMA with the 5" carry-over has been formally sent to the Division of Water Resources. May 31st, 2017 has been tentatively scheduled to hold those hearings at the Sheridan County Courthouse. The Division of Water Resources will be notifying all landowners in SD-6 of these hearings by mail.

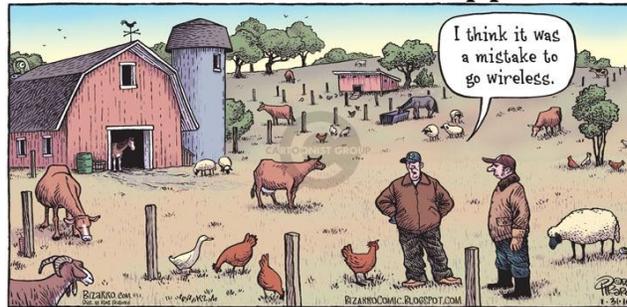
"To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed." – Theodore Roosevelt

Dan's Field Notes

Once again, just a little reminder regarding your meters. Before long many of you will be readying your wells for the 2017 season. As you fire up your wells you should also take a moment to notice if the meter appears to be working as it should. Remember, the meter has been idle all winter and the same for the motor and the rest of the well equipment. No reason to wait until the middle of the season to find out if the meter is working properly. It may be better to have the meter serviced early in the season than in the heat of July and August.

If you find your meter not working properly and it needs to be taken in for service, you need to notify the Division of Water Resources or GMD 4 promptly and provide the proper form with documentation within 30 days of getting the meter repaired or replaced. The form can be found online at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/docs> or contact the Division of Water Resources by telephone to obtain the form. We can also assist you at our office.

Water Meter Calculator App



Do you have multiple people check your water meter? Can't remember the last time you looked at it and what it said? Want to know how much you have left for the year? How many inches is that? Well, we're working on an app for that and more. Several apps have been developed that are geared toward water meters, and the district is taking a look at several to possibly adopt one or create a new one for our water users.

We would enjoy your input into what you think it should have to help you in keeping track of your water usage easier. If you know of any apps out there that you enjoy working with, then we would also enjoy hearing about those as well. We are hoping to have something for the 2018 irrigation season, if not sooner.

2017 Annual Meeting

February 1st, 2017 was our annual meeting at Northwest Technical College in Goodland. We had excellent attendance and two contested board positions for the election. Roger Zwegardt and Lynn Goossen remain serving on the board of directors, and we welcome Nathan Emig of Goodland who replaced Dave Rietcheck.



(Left) GMD 4 Annual Meeting, NW Technical College, Goodland

Water Conservation Areas

We have one Water Conservation Area (WCA) in the district with one pending! We are excited to hear of local areas taking control of their conservation efforts. If you would like more flexibility in how your water rights can be managed, or even a group of local producers to have more flexibility in water management, please contact Steven Walters at the Stockton Field Office.

Water Technology Farms

The Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is promoting water technology farms through the Kansas Water Office. Money is available to develop several the first year in partnership with Northwest Kansas Technical College and their new Precision Agriculture program. If you have been thinking of using new technology in your operation, please contact the GMD 4 office, and we can provide more information and put you in contact with the appropriate people.



Pumping the Tailwater Ray Luhman

Not a lot new going on, still working on the 2 LEMAs.

The SD-6 proposal has been accepted by the chief engineer. He will hold the 2 required hearings in late May. There was not a lot of change in that plan except for allowing for a maximum carry-over of 5 inches per eligible acre if available. I don't expect any hitches in the hearing process, so this should probably be a go.

We are still adding detail to the district-wide LEMA. There is the possibility that some of the township categories along the southern district boundary may change. All of these potential changes would lessen the impact so I don't think that there is a need for another round of public presentations. I would hope that the board will make a proposal to the chief engineer within the next 2 months. We'll see.

As always please contact this office or a board member if you have questions.

NW KS GMD 4

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Important Dates

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

**May 31st – Sheridan 6 LEMA Hearings (subject to change) @ 10 am,
Sheridan County Courthouse**

Staff and Board of Directors

- Ray Luhman – Manager rluhman@gmd4.org
- Shannon Kenyon – Assistant Manager skenyon@gmd4.org
- Dan Simmering – Field Technician dee@gmd4.org
- Rita Wade – Administrative Assistant rwade@gmd4.org

Brent Rogers – President	Nate Emig	Lynn Goossen
Shane Mann – Vice President	Doug David	Monty Biggs
Jeff Deeds – Secretary	Roger Zwegardt	Scott Maurath
Justin Sloan – Treasurer	Mitchell Baalman	

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