

SD-6 LEMA LEDGER

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Keeping Up To Date

In order to keep everyone in the SD-6 LEMA more up to date, GMD 4 has chosen to create this simple, one page newsletter. We'll endeavor to tell you only what you need to know, or what you specifically ask to hear – don't be afraid to tell us what topics or questions you would like to see covered.

We don't know yet how long this effort will continue, but as we enter into the new LEMA, certainly there will be issues needing extra attention.

All editions to be posted on the GMD 4 website at:

<http://www.gmd4.org/EnhancedMgt/SD6.htm>

Advisory Committee Set

The GMD 4 board on March 7 appointed the SD-6 Advisory Committee per the proposal. The 9 members (and who they represent) are: Gary Moss (Chair); Mitch Baalman (GMD 4); Scott Ross (DWR); Sharon Munk (non-irrigation users); and Grant Gaede, Dennis Rogers, Stu Beckman, Roch Meier and Brett Oelke (SD-6 members). This group is to annually review the LEMA and make recommendations to the GMD and DWR. They will also undertake the LEMA's formal review in the latter half of 2015.

The Committee's first action was to consider and recommend a suite of meter backup alternatives to DWR. These are discussed in this edition as well.

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Meter Backup Alternatives

SD-6 Advisory Committee's first task

The Chief Engineer's Order of Designation was signed on April 16, 2013. Contained therein are all the new conditions for the SD-6 LEMA operators over the next 5 years. **One of the most important requirements will be accurate accounting and reporting of annual water use.** Please take the time to read this bold print again, because it's very important.

While every water right has been metered, and the meters are expected to be the mainstay of accurate water use reporting, meters are equipment that will eventually fail. And unfortunately they ALWAYS fail while being used. This is a bad situation when being under the gun to accurately record use.

Since the penalty for not accurately recording and reporting your water use will be a deduction in acrefeet equal to your full authorized annual water right quantity, you do not want to end the year without being able to provide an accurate annual report. Because of these factors, the GMD 4 board is **urging** everyone to adopt a backup method of measuring water use.

For everyone's convenience, the advisory committee, GMD 4 and DWR have been working on a list of acceptable alternative methods that can easily be used, and if used as described, will provide an acceptably accurate report of water use independent of the meter that will be used in lieu of a faulty meter. These are:

1. Periodic Meter Readings: Record the meter reading and reading date at least every 2 weeks and retain the records for at least 1 year. These can be kept by the water owner/user or emailed to the GMD office for storage. If kept by the owner/user, they must be produced upon request of either the GMD or DWR in the event the meter fails or otherwise comes under question.

2. Power Company Records: If your power source is electricity and the power company has the capability of

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specifying system operating hours (not kilowatt hours) and is willing to produce the records on company letterhead to either the owner or DWR with the owners permission, this option is available.

3. Ag Data Service: For those using an ag data service (such as Ag-Sense) the service data must capture the hours of operation – pivot irrigating. The individual login ID and password/pin# must be made available to DWR and/or GMD4 on request for verification purposes.

At this time, these are the only 3 acceptable meter alternatives, but the committee is still considering others which may be added to the list when confirmed accurate enough to provide the information needed. IF you have another suggestion, please run it by the GMD staff BEFORE you need it to confirm a faulty meter reading.

No alternative is required, but please understand the risks of relying entirely on the required flow meter. We again emphasize that a back up method capable of showing when the meter failed and how much water was pumped while the meter was down will save a lot of angst if the meter does fail in season.

MYFA Options

An October 1, 2013 Deadline

The SD-6 LEMA order allows LEMA allocations to be converted to Multi-year Flex Accounts (MYFAs) - IF applied for on or before October 1, 2013 so that the MYFA and LEMA 5-year periods are the same. The benefit of a MYFA is that the total allocated amount is not subject to the annual authorized quantity of the original water right – like it is with a LEMA allocation.

If interested in having no annual pumping limit for your LEMA allocation, contact the office to have a look at the numbers. Each request has its own calculation so not all water rights may be interested in converting to a MYFA. And don't forget, the deadline is October 1, 2013 and you only have one chance to do this.

RMA Options

There will be limited irrigation crop insurance options for corn and soybeans in the SD-6 LEMA in 2013

Risk Management Agency (RMA) is trying out some new ideas in providing limited irrigation crop insurance coverage in 2013 and their national focus area is the SD-6 LEMA. If you were planning to deficit irrigate corn or soybeans this year and can't claim them as fully irrigated crops, you should talk to your crop insurance agent to see if this option makes sense for you. It will

take a special agreement this year, but these limited irrigation crops will be insurable. It's best to get the coverage before planting (thus eliminating the field inspection and being able to agree with the T-values and contract conditions before accepting the special agreement), but the 2013 final program deadline is July 15, 2013.

The Actual Production History (APH) issue has been addressed, and the limited irrigation program will not affect your fully irrigated APH or any other federal programs that use this value. In essence a second, limited irrigation APH will be established and applied to the program acres for only this program.

RMA reports their intention to convert this program to a normal application as soon as they can. It is undergoing independent analysis as you read this article. Once the program is converted, the use of special agreements will be eliminated.

Governor's Water Efficiency Challenge

Increase ag crop production on restricted water

Governor Brownback is discussing various approaches that might be used in reduced water situations to maintain or even increase ag production. His task force is suggesting a series of pilot demonstration efforts in the SD-6 LEMA that will involve pushing the envelope on stretching limited water supplies and increasing irrigation system efficiencies.

Kansas State University is playing a large role in the design of possible demonstration programs – perhaps starting in 2013 if it's not too late, but continuing on into 2014 most likely. If anyone in the SD-6 LEMA is interested in participating, please contact the GMD 4 office – sooner the better. The key will be to monitor and quantify all inputs and production outputs so that a fair economic analysis can be done to verify the results. The group is hoping to identify the cropping and irrigation practices that are economically the best – without suggesting any particular approach. This information can then be shared with everyone in the area. Kansas wants to help make the most economic return for the limited water authorized in the following 5 years.

The other players are the Kansas Water Office and the Governor's Office, who are both looking out for funding opportunities if new irrigation systems, such as a subsurface drip irrigation, are needed. This is a big chance to help Kansas to help us. Please give it some thought.