

Minutes: Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 April 4th, 2019 Board Meeting

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The April 4th, 2019 board meeting was opened at the GMD 4 office in Colby, Kansas by President, Brent Rogers

Board members present for some or all of the meeting were:

Brent Rogers, Nate Emig, Shane Mann , Jeff Deeds, Ted Nighswonger, Lynn Goossen, Monty Biggs, and Brett Oelke.

Board members absent: Roger Zwegardt & Karen Flanagin

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Ray Luhman, Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart & Steven Walters– DWR; Armando Zarco – KWO; Garrett Reiss – Phyttech

Shane Mann moved to nominate Jeff Deeds as acting Tresurer. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brent Rogers asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the March 7th, 2019 minutes and March expenditures. An updated copy of the March financial report was distributed showing monthly expenditures totaling \$50,025.88 in March were approved.

Ted Nighswonger moved the minutes for March and expenditures be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Brett Oelke and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Nothing was presented.

4. MANAGER’S REPORT

Ray Luhman reported that the Sheridan 6 Advisory Committee met in Hoxie on March 28th. He has created an annual report and sent that to the Chief Engineer. Water table data, water use data, and meters were the main business topics of discussion.

Shannon Kenyon reported the Upper Republican RAC met April 3rd, 2019. Brownie Wilson of KGS gave a presentation on the water levels within the basin. Chelsea Erickson

gave an update on progress to Bonnie Reservoir. Water quality is being discussed as a goal for the RAC. Several business items are waiting until decisions are made on a director, KWA chairman, and KWA members.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. District LEMA

Adam Dees reported that April 22nd is the deadline for the Intervenors to file a reply to our brief. The Thomas County case is still waiting for the District Court to make a decision.

Ray Luhman sent Justin Sloan an email to let him know his appeal would be heard at 10 am. Justin did not show during any part of the meeting for the board to hear his appeal.

A GMD 4 Advisory Committee meeting will be held April 10th, 2019. Shannon distributed some of the data she has prepared and will present to the committee. After review, suggestions were made and additional data was requested.

Ray and Shannon attended a conference call with DWR staff about the GMD 4 LEMA. There are plans to have these conference calls monthly. The main topic of discussion is defining acceptable alternate meters.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Garrett Reiss - Phytech

Garrett gave a presentation on the water saving technology provided by Phytech. The product utilizes telemetry that measures crop stress on corn, soybeans, and cotton to help producers plan irrigation.

b. Alternate Meters

GMD 4 and DWR are trying to compile a list of possible acceptable alternate meters. After some discussion the following were listed: log books (encourage pictures), energy records (natural gas & electricity), pivot hour meter, subscription based loggers, and pressure transducers. The list will also be discussed with the GMD 4 LEMA Advisory Committee. Kelly Stewart confirmed that producers who have had a meter malfunction during the entire growing season will receive a Notice of Noncompliance for 2018, and in 2019 will begin fining \$500.

7. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart reported that the online water use reporting was a huge success with 92% of reports filed online. He fielded several questions on meter repairs. He also notified the board about a penalty done for a producer in GMD 4 that falsified their 2017 water use report and another issue concerning a well in the Ogallala/Saline River Alluvium and the determination of being in the LEMA. Steven Walters mentioned the cost-share program by the SCC. Ted Nighswonger elaborated as he is on the SCC board and provided the

details. Steven also stated that the beta version of the online calculator to determine remaining LEMA quantity is in the works.

Armando Zarco of the KWO gave several updates. The Governor's Conference will be November 7th – 8th in Wichita. The Upper Republican RAC will meet with the Upper Smoky RAC sometime in the first two weeks of June. April 18th is the KWA meeting in Abilene. They will meet again July 30-31 in Goodland. He also reported that they have funded five more technology farms and there will be field days in July and August. Armando attended both the GMD 1 and GMD 3 board meetings. Both of those GMD's nominated Greg Graff to serve on the KWA. GMD 1 had election issues at their annual meeting and he provided an update to that.

8. OPEN SESSION-Public Questions/Comments:

Ray Luhman stated that we had not heard anything on the Logan County position. Several contacts were suggested. He also reported that he is thinking of retiring July 1st, 2019.

Brett Oelke moved to go into executive session at 11:10 am for 10 minutes with Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, Dan Simmering, and Adam Dees for the purpose of personnel discussion. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Session expired.

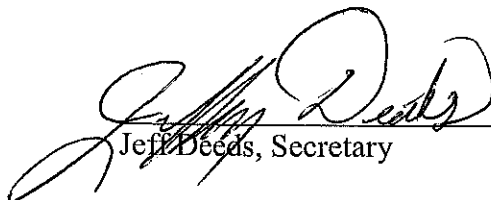
9. Scheduling Future Meetings:

A board meeting was scheduled for June 6th at 9 am in Colby at the GMD 4 office.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, Monty Biggs moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Dees, Secretary

