

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
February 12, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The February 12, 2020 board meeting was opened at the Lions Room of the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, Kansas by President, Brent Rogers.

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Monty Biggs, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagin, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers, Dylan Loyd, and Roger Zwegardt.

Board members absent: Ted Nighswonger

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; and Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Stephen Lauer – Kansas State University, Kelly Stewart – DWR; Armando Zarco and Keadron Pearson – KWO, and Mike Schultz.

Additions to the agenda were noted:

Manager's Report – j. Intern, k. Water Levels, and l. Trust Documentation
New Business – c. Audit, d. Attorney Contract, and e. Election of Officers

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brett Oelke moved that the January minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

We had received notice the 3rd of February that we had received our first 2020 distribution payment from Cheyenne County, via ACH on the 21st of January. An updated copy of the January financial reports were distributed showing monthly expenditures totaling \$25,771.62.

Lynn Goossen moved the Updated Financials be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Monty Biggs and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Shannon announced that Lynn Goossen has been appointed to the Kansas Water Authority.

Shane Mann mentioned a meeting in Colorado pertaining to water quality issues.

4. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. WATER TECH EXPO

Shannon attended this event on January 9th, in Garden City, and highly recommended that irrigators should attend next year. She felt it was a great event held by the KWO to showcase the Water Tech Farms, water technology vendors, and network with others.

- b. LEMA & WCA RULE & REGULATION CONFERENCE CALL**
The GMD managers held a conference call with DWR following an updated draft on these proposed rules and regulations. A few items the board had initially suggested were not included. The rules and regulations are still going to be reviewed by other interest groups.
- c. LEGISLATIVE RETREAT**
Shannon attended this event in Topeka, February 4th – 5th. She did have a chance to connect with several of the Legislators.
- d. MAMMOTH WATER**
Lynn Goossen has agreed to pilot the TAPPH2O meter tracking application. Shannon has been working with the group to get them the information they need. They plan to have examples of what it looks like to GMD 4 growers with the reports and platform soon.
- e. GMD3 LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT PAPER**
A GMD Memo Manifesto was presented at the Kansas Water Congress by Burke Griggs that outlined a concept paper circulating among the GMD managers. Several of the GMD's disagreed with the ideas and concepts within the paper but it was presented to the Kansas Water Congress as all GMD's were in agreeance with the ideas and concepts within the paper. Shannon informed everyone at the Kansas Water Congress that not all of the GMD's were in agreement with the view of the concept paper.
- f. WATER USE REPORTS**
We have helped many producers with their online reporting. Foot traffic in the office seems to be heavier than last year. Kelly Stewart reported that about 49% of users have reported so far.
- g. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**
There are currently four Senate bills right now that Shannon will be keeping her eye on. Nothing that is of major concern to GMD 4 at this time.
- h. KANSAS FIELD CONFERENCE**
This is an invitation only event scheduled for September 9th through the 11th in Colby that has a good attendance by legislators. They do this annually and visit a different part of Kansas every year. Western Kansas got picked for 2020 with water as kind of the theme. They would like to do a dinner and reception with the GMD 4 board as well as a presentation and maybe a panel that evening as well. Shannon has been promised a spot on the bus and would like a board member or two to also attend the day events on the bus.
- i. BARFIELD RETIREMENT**
Shannon will attend David's retirement reception in Topeka on February 27th. If any board members would like to ride along, please let her know so vehicle arrangements can be made. A card was circulated for signatures and a \$100 gift certificate to the running store in Lawrence he enjoys will be bought.

j. INTERN

Shannon interviewed a prospective intern at Fort Hays State University, on her way home from the Legislative Retreat. Brynn Wooten has accepted the internship. Shannon and Dan are excited to have Brynn join us, as she has a background in GIS. As per the FHSU intern program, Brynn will work 300 hours for GMD 4. Shannon was also contacted by a NWKTC student interested in the position of summer intern.

Discussion ensued as to the need of a second intern and the equipment they would need.

Roger Zweygardt moved to hire a second intern at \$15/hr. for the summer. The motion was seconded by Brett Oelke and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved to purchase another tablet for the 2nd intern to use. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

k. WATER LEVELS

Shannon distributed a handout of preliminary water level change information.

l. TRUST DOCUMENTATION

To streamline paperwork for voter eligibility, certificates of incumbency have been created for GMD4 use. Shannon distributed a copy of the Trustee form, which we will use for future annual meetings. There is also a Corporation, Estate, Manager-Managed LLC, Member-Managed LLC, and Tenant form. Proof of voter eligibility must be on file in the GMD 4 office so that an incumbency can be filed in subsequent years instead of resubmitting proof every year.

5. FIELD REPORT

Dan has completed his January checks of the 5-5-11 water rights. He has started to do the annual mailing for acre certifications. He has been helping with walk-in water use reports as well.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

There was no conference call this month, however Shannon was in Stockton and visited with Kelly regarding a water use web calculator, and the need for real-time data going into the last year of the LEMA.

There have been no legal updates at this time.

b. Annual Meeting Budget

Shannon distributed a copy of the proposed 2021 budget. There were no big changes from the 2020 budget.

c. Revised Budget

An error in the Reserve for Contingency budget line for the 2020 revised budget was found after the budget hearing in January. Shannon distributed a corrected version. The

only difference is the Reserve for Contingency item as she calculated the cash on hand incorrectly.

Monty Biggs moved to accept the corrected 2020 revised budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

d. Concrete Contracts

Dan contacted 3 local contractors for bids on the concrete work needed on the southwest side of the building. Shannon distributed the copies of the bids.

Brett Oelke moved to approve the Stupka Construction bid. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

e. 4-Wheeler sealed bids

One sealed bid was received and Shannon was instructed to pursue the bid.

f. Rob Aiken – Letter to KWO

Rob Aiken asked for a second letter to be sent to the Kansas Water Office. After discussion, it was decided to not send a second letter and advise Rob to get more support from other agencies and/or GMD's before additional support from GMD 4 would be sent.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Thomas County Community Foundation

Barry Kaaz with the Thomas County Community Foundation is putting together a Farmer/Rancher BBQ Appreciation Lunch. He is looking for funding. After discussion, the board agreed not to provide funding.

b. Annual Meeting

Shannon went over the agenda for the annual meeting, and the responsibilities of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the election moderator.

c. Audit

Shannon distributed copies of the Audit. There were no significant findings.

d. Attorney Contract

Adam Dees presented his contract for 2020. There are no changes from last year.

Lynn Goossen moved to approve the attorney contract. The motion was seconded by Brett Oelke and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

e. Election of Officers

At 11:45 am MST, Shane Mann moved to recess the monthly board of directors meeting until after the annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen Flanagin and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

At 3:00 pm MST, the monthly board of directors meeting resumed.

Brent Rogers thanked Roger Zwegardt for his years of service and dedication to the board. Dylan Loyd was introduced as the new Position #1 Cheyenne County board member.

Brett Oelke moved to nominate Lynn Goossen as the Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Dylan Loyd moved to cease nominations and cast unanimous vote for Lynn Goossen. The motion was seconded by Brett Oelke and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved to nominate Jeff Deeds as the Secretary. The motion was seconded by Monty Biggs and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Brett Oelke moved to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Jeff Deeds. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shane Mann moved to nominate Brett Oelke as the President. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shane Mann moved to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Brett Oelke. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Monty Biggs moved to nominate Nate Emig as the Vice President. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Jeff Deeds moved to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Nate Emig. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

8. AGENCY REPORTS

Chief Engineer David Barfield asked Kelly Stewart to pass on his appreciation of the board's dedication to working together with his office. With Barfield's retirement, there is question as to who will become chief engineer. The Secretary of Agriculture is looking at the salary issue, as the Kansas Chief Engineer's salary is one of the lowest in the country. Kelly also gave an update on the Smoky Gardens lake project.

Armando Zarco introduced Keadron Pearson, RAC planner for western Kansas. Keadron is based out of the Garden City office. Armando reminded everyone that the Upper Republican RAC meeting will be March 3, 2020 at 10 am at the GMD4 Board Room. The next Kansas Water Authority meeting will be April 14, 2020. This year's Governor's Conference is set for November 9th – 10th in Wichita. Armando gave an update on the Compact funding settlement. He also gave an update on the GMD1 LEMA which will be discussed at their annual meeting next week.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Brett Oelke reported that the land he had inquired about last month had been in an NRCS program. The land is now out of the program, and able to be irrigated.

Shannon noted that after data is received from Brownie Wilson, the LEMA advisory committee will meet hopefully in April.


10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th, 2020 at 10 am CST at the GMD 4 office in Colby.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary