

**NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4**  
**September 2, 2020**

**1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA**

The September 2, 2020 board meeting was opened at the GMD4 office in Colby, Kansas by President Brett Oelke and via teleconference.

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Monty Biggs, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagin, Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Ted Nighswonger, Brent Rogers & Marsha Schilling.

There were no board members absent

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR; Armando Zarco and Keadron Pearson– KWO (via video); and David Barfield (via video).

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Brent Rogers moved that the consent agenda be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

Brett Oelke asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the August 5, 2020 minutes and August expenditures. Receipt of the August financial report showing monthly expenditures totaling \$52,866.84 were approved.

**Ted Nighswonger moved the minutes of the August 5, 2020 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Karen Flanagin and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**Shane Mann moved that the financial report and expenditures for the month of August be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**3. OPEN FORUM**

Nothing was presented.

**4. MANAGER’S REPORT**

**a. TAPPH2O UPDATE**

We have not had any new sign-ups since the last meeting. With irrigation season wrapping up soon we do not foresee any more for this year. Richael is working on an

online platform that should be available soon. We have had several calls from producers wanting to know "Where am I at on usage?"

Nate Emig had a concern about the turnaround time on data reports.

**b. ALLOCATION LANGUAGE**

It was brought to Shannon's attention that producers are confused with the word "allocation" for their annual quantities as well as their LEMA quantities. It was discussed that we start using the words "LEMA account" instead of allocation. David Barfield clarified that the DWR uses the term "authorized quantity" not allocation.

**c. CERTIFIED IRRIGATOR**

With the curriculum developed, we are now waiting on funding to begin filming. We have a potential \$40,000 grant from The Nature Conservancy that Shannon is waiting to hear back on. If it is denied then I will seek out funding from the Hansen Foundation. She did pitch it to the GMD 1 Board of Directors and they will be partnering with us. The Graphic Arts department at NWKTC is working on a logo design contest, so that the board has options to choose from for a logo. Lynn Goossen said that he thought there would be funds available through the KWA.

**d. NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter has been sent to be printed. It may take a few days to get them taped for mailing but RSVP will help, providing it is at their building so folks can tape them on their own time.

**FIELD REPORT**

Dan is still working on 5-5-11 checks. He has a total of approximately 57 to do. He has about 6 to 8 left to do. Per Dr.'s orders he has put off doing the checks that he uses the 4-wheeler to ride in on, due to the unloading and loading out of the pickup. For the newer board members, he was asked to explain what the 5-5-11 checks entail.

Kelly Stewart reiterated the significance of Dan doing these checks. He can let producers know if they are close to going over, as well as catching any violations of acres. These violations can lead to a 2 year suspension and the base acres revert back to the original amount after the 2 year suspension is over.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. GMD 4 LEMA**

There was no monthly conference call.

Adam Dees reported that at this time we are still waiting for a dismissal to be filed. Shannon reported that she has had calls from several producers wanting to know where they are at in regards to their LEMA account. She has been working with them, as well as encouraging them to use the LEMA calculator.

**b. gWORKS**

Shannon received a detailed letter back from Janelle, which was included in board members packets. Shannon asked the board what they wanted to do, as there are

only two options: stick with it or get out of the contract. Dan did report that he had finally gotten an email back from one of the techs regarding the syncing issue with Taylor's tablet. The tablet has now been synced and the data is accessible. Shannon has been in touch with Brownie Wilson regarding a possible platform.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. EXECUTIVE SESSION W/ KELLY STEWART**

**Brent Rogers moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, Kelly Stewart, and attorney to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, Kelly Stewart, and attorney to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

### **b. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL**

With the elimination of the assistant manager position, Shannon had sent a copy of updated job descriptions in the board packet. The auditor may request these in the future.

**Ted Nighswonger moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, personnel as needed, and attorney to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, personnel as needed, and attorney to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board of directors, personnel as needed, and attorney to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**Ted Nighswonger moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board of directors, personnel as needed, and attorney to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board of directors, Dan Simmering, and attorney to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**Brent Rogers moved to go into executive session for an additional 5 minutes with the board of directors, Dan Simmering, and attorney to discuss personnel matters. The**

**motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**Dylan Loyd moved to approve the amended job descriptions. The motion was seconded by Monty Biggs and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay votes).**

## **7. AGENCY REPORTS**

Kelly Stewart reported that his office is back to business as usual. They have had calls from producers on changes. Staff has been back to standard field work. One change that they will be looking at this legislative season is modifying the language in the MYFA to include those with water rights perfected after 2009. As it stands those producers are excluded.

Rebecca Hageman reported that she is now certified for rate testing. She is looking forward to getting out and helping with field work.

Keadron Pearson is still working from home, as the office is covered by limited staffing. Still working with the South Fork Republican River Compact deal, which will benefit producers in the Cheyenne County area according to the agreement.

Armando Zarco reported that the tech farm update is available on the website. They are still collecting data. He also wanted to remind everyone that the Winter Tech Expo is slated for February in Garden City.

## **8. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:**

David Barfield discussed the LEMA hearing information for GMD 1 that was conducted in person as well as virtually in Leoti on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Still waiting for a decision from the Chief Engineer. He also gave a summary of the recent agreement at Quivira.

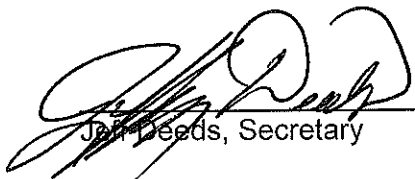
## **9. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 9 am CDT at the GMD 4 office in Colby, unless any action items arise before then. Teleconferencing will continue, the meeting details will be sent to board members and agencies, as well as posted on the website.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary