

**NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4  
November 18, 2020**

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

The November 18, 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:

Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan (virtually), Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd (virtually), Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Ted Nighswonger, Brent Rogers & Marsha Schilling.

Board members absent: Monty Biggs.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain (virtually) and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR (virtually); Armando Zarco – KWO (virtually); Richael Young – Mammoth Water (virtually); Sean Miller and Kent Higerd.

Additions/changes to the agenda was noted:

Move item b. Certified Irrigator to c. under Unfinished Business  
Add Item g. Playa Lakes to New Business

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Brent Rogers moved that the consent agenda be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

Brett Oelke asked if there were any concerns over the consent agenda, consisting of the September 2, 2020 minutes and the September expenditures. Receipt of the September, and October financial reports were distributed showing monthly expenditures totaling \$29,924.88 in September and \$25,835.28 in October were approved.

**Ted Nighswonger moved the minutes of the September 2, 2020 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**Nate Emig moved that the financial reports and expenditures for the months of September and October be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**3. OPEN FORUM**

Nothing was presented.

#### **4. MANAGER'S REPORT**

**a. SEPTEMBER UPDATE**

Shannon had sent an email to board members on October 7<sup>th</sup> with an update of happenings within the office and field. No one had questions, so she moved on to the next item.

**b. CERTIFIED IRRIGATOR**

The certified irrigator program was moved to c. under Unfinished Business.

**c. SENATOR MORAN VISIT**

Senator Moran, NRCS Acting Chief Kevin Norton, and about 50 other people were in attendance on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Hoxie Feedyard to hear about the SD-6 LEMA. Shannon gave the general overview of the plan, while Brett Oelke provided the farmer's perspective. There were several good questions from the audience. Shannon noted that Kevin Norton stated several times of putting NRCS program eligibility back into local offices. Brent stated that we should reach out to Kevin Norton to offer ideas.

**d. KGS Legislative "Tour"**

Last summer KGS came and made a short film that was presented to legislators on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Ken McCarty and Weston McCreary were also involved with that film. After the video was shown to participants, they served on a panel to answer questions.

**e. GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE**

Shannon attended the Governor's Conference virtually last Monday and Tuesday. She also presented a pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation on the certified irrigator program development. Several people have contacted Shannon regarding the program since the presentation. She noted that the videos could be found on the KWO website.

**f. MODEL UPDATE**

Due to Covid-19 and the staffing issues associated, the delivery of the model has been pushed back. The contract has been extended to include the 2020 pumping data. Shannon did reiterate the need to have this model sooner rather than later.

**g. DWR & KWO UPDATE**

Earl Lewis, former Director of the Kansas Water Office has been named Chief Engineer for KDA. A replacement for the KWO has not been officially named yet. Cara Hendricks is the Acting Director at this time. Connie Owens, once Senate confirmed, will be the new Director of the KWO.

#### **5. FIELD REPORT**

Dan has been working on installing seals and been checking 2020 quantity pumped in the western part of the district. With the extreme dry conditions in that area it would be ideal to find those who may have over pumped and get them into a MYFA before facing a penalty.

## 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### a. GMD 4 LEMA

The lawsuit is over. As per the model update, Shannon has reiterated to KGS that the model is a crucial tool that will be beneficial going into year five of the LEMA. She has also created a map that was sent to the board of directors in their board packet showing township colors if the LEMA were to be renewed in 2021.

### b. PERSONNEL CONTRACTS

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

**Brent Rogers moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, 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 adopt the revised Employee Handbook with revisions. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**Brent Rogers moved to sign revised staff contracts. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### a. EXECUTIVE SESSION W/ KENT HIGERD

**Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the board of directors, the manager, Kent Higerd, and board attorney to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

No action taken.

### b. MAMMOTH WATER

Richael Young with Mammoth Water gave an update and the progress being made with the dashboard for the TAPPH2O app. Some of our producers are testing out the dashboard now. Mammoth has been working with KDA to be able to submit their water use reports through the dashboard. However, it will take some work on KDA's tech side to make this happen. Discussion as to more upgrades, notifications, and alerts were discussed, as well as marketing ideas for this next year.

### c. BARFIELD ASSISTANCE

David Barfield was not able to join the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. He will be on next month's agenda. Shannon provided the board with a list David provided to her showing potential work he could do for GMD 4. He will be presenting at the December meeting.

**d. ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting usually takes place the second Wednesday in February. With the increasing numbers of Covid-19 and many organizations cancelling in person annual meetings, Shannon feels it is important to start formulating plans as to how to make it happen. Adam will check the statutes regarding the election and in person voting. It may be that we need to make a plan A, B, & C depending on mandates and restrictions at the time.

**e. CHRISTMAS PARTY**

With the next regular meeting scheduled only 2 weeks out, it was decided to move the meeting to December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. CST to be held in the board room. The Christmas party will follow after the meeting with pizza and drinks provided. Spouses are welcome to join.

**f. MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

With the lawsuit over, it was time to update the management program with the correct board member names and positions, as well as the updated data. Shannon reviewed with the board what changes were made.

**Ted Nighswonger moved to approve the management program as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).**

**8. AGENCY REPORTS**

Kelly Stewart reported that the Stockton Field Office has once again closed, but will see producers by appointment only. Field work has been ramped up out west, in hopes of helping those producers who may need to get signed up for MYFA's to prevent penalties later. They have been running into meters that are 10 years old or older and have not been serviced or inspected since.

Armando Zarco filled in for Keadron Pearson, as she was attending the GMD 1 board meeting. He reported that there has not been an official announcement of a new director. The Governor's conference has attendance of approximately 350 people on the first day, with about 300 attending on the second day. The KWA is hoping to meet in December.

**9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:**

Nothing was presented.

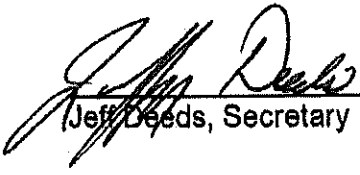
**10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 4 pm CST at the GMD 4 office in Colby. 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:



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Jeff Deeds, Secretary

