

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
April 15, 2026

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The April 15, 2026 board meeting was opened at the GMD 4 Office, Colby, Kansas by President, Brett Oelke.

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

Jerry Binning, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke and Brent Rogers.

Board members absent were Carl Davis, and Marsha Schilling.

Others present for some, or all the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, Trent McCain, and Jack Polifka – GMD 4 staff; and Jake Kling – GMD 4 attorney; Rebecca Hageman and David Means -- DWR; Dean Krehbiel --NRCS; Keadron Pearson – KWO (virtually); Robert Bell, Baker Bugbee, and Tayber Haremza.

Changes to the agenda were noted:

ADD: 8 d. Water Quality and 9 f. KGS Proposal

EDIT: 9 a. Board Vacancy – Executive Session

Jerry Binning moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

2. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Brent Rogers moved that the minutes of February 18, 2026, board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. EXPENDITURE & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Jeff Deeds moved that the financial reports and expenditure reports for the month of February and March be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

4. OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report.



5. AGENCY REPORTS

David Means reported that their office has been reviewing the 2025 Water Use Reports for errors, and possible overpumps. They have been working with McCrometer on the overrun bearings that are being put in the meters.

Rebecca Hageman reported that she is back in the office, working to get caught up on meter repair forms, back-up records, and correspondence to producers.

Keadron Pearson reported the KWA meeting took place on April 8th at Great Bend. Information on Data Centers was presented. The Upper Republican RAC met in Colby on April 7th, with water quality being the focus of discussion. There will be a Water Authority meeting on June 10, 2026, in Scott City.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Manager Updates

Jack, Trent and Shannon had a great conversation with KGS on their water quality AWQUA program. We are gearing up to collect samples for them and send them to their lab. Jack is in hopes that producers will be willing for us to gather samples at the Irrigation System Assessments but will be strictly voluntary. This will come with a cost to GMD 4 for shipping the samples. We can incorporate that into the budget at the August budget hearing once we get a better idea of what shipping costs look like.

NRCS has initiated a High Plains Water Conservation Framework. We had an initial meeting in Salina. Dean Krehbiel, Assistant State Conservationist, will talk about this later in the meeting.

The Kansas Regional Water Plan has kicked off with meetings that Shannon has been listening to. This is the plan where the KWO has chosen the Upper Republican and Verdigris River basins to "invade" without local input. So far, they are staying true to their word and only sent out surveys to municipalities.

There was a RAC meeting in March where funding and projects for the Upper Republican were discussed.

All staff spent a day and went to the Stockton Field Office for a collaboration meeting. Most of the discussion was related to fieldwork and being consistent with compliance. We did find ways to help each other out and increase efficiency and communication. Everyone thought it was beneficial and we may schedule more collaboration days as needed.

The legislature has closed!

b. Future Opportunities

Katie Durham and Shannon were asked to speak at a conference in Houston for the Meat Institute. Shannon feels her place is here, helping her producers.

The Task Force Workgroup will be meeting again sometime in April. Those meetings have been very interesting as they work through the Kansas Water Appropriation Act. No word yet on future Task Force meetings. The "report" was released but just provides a summary of the few meetings so far.

On April 9th there was an Ogallala Roundtable "chat" via Zoom on "Financing America's Farms and Ranches". This gives Shannon great concern because of the increase in NGOs and government involvement in water. Jack was able to listen to the chat.

April 29th & 30th is the Kansas Infrastructure Hub Summit. It's in Hays this year so Shannon will attend as it is free and water is a large topic.

There will be another DWR Coordination meeting on May 1st.

June 2nd is the Central Plains Drinking Water Quality and Rural Health Symposium in Lawrence.

Shannon will start working on Assessments again.

7. FIELD REPORTS

a. Trent has been busy contacting those that need a rate test. He has completed certification testing and should receive his certificate soon. He has been in the field visiting meters on the 5-year list and follow-up for those that needed a revisit.

b. Jack assisted in wrapping up the 2025 Water Use Report season and continued advancing ITI program implementation, with 46 evaluations across 25 producers now onboarded and pending field testing as irrigation systems come online. Pre-season efforts also included conducting follow-up meetings with evaluated producers, preparing for collaboration with KGS on water quality testing, and coordinating with DWR-Stockton to improve consistency in meter compliance, communication, and correspondence tracking. Field activities have begun, including some static water level measurements, sonic flow testing, and follow-up visits on completed evaluations. Jack is also working to improve the onboarding process by offering pre-meetings to better assist producers. Additionally, increased demand for accurate flow verification during ITI evaluations has identified the need for an additional sonic flow meter, to improve field efficiency and equipment availability. Jack got a quote from Instrumart for \$17,425. This includes calibration of the flow meter but does not include shipping. KWO has agreed to reimburse us for the cost of the flowmeter.



Shane Mann moved to purchase a second flow meter for the quoted price from Instrumart with the calibration. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

The first public hearing has been set for May 27th, starting at 9 a.m. CT at City Limits Convention Center in Colby.

b. SD-6

"What's left" letters have been mailed to producers/water use correspondents. The first public hearing has been set for May 26th, starting at 2 p.m. CT at the Sheridan County Fairgrounds. (4-H Building)

c. ITI Contract

The ITI program is moving along fantastically! The DOC has additional funds to add to the program.

The DOC has sent Amendment #1, extending the use of funding from Contract ITI-TSP/2025-04 through December 31, 2027. Amendment #2 provides an additional funding to be paid for "Post-Improvement Evaluation" follow-up field visits to be completed.

Brent Rogers moved to approve the Amended Contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

There has been funding added for the 2026 ITI contract period, to be used for cost share. Shannon did have some concerns with some of the language in the contract but believes she can work with the DOC to come to an agreement, with agreeable language negotiation.

Brent Rogers moved to approve the next ITI Contract, with agreeable language negotiation by Shannon. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

With the additional money from the next contract, a raise in cost share was discussed due to rising costs of agricultural equipment and technology.

Jeff Deeds moved to increase the amount of cost share per evaluation to \$4,500, with a total of \$9,000 per producer. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).



9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Vacancy – Executive Session

At 11:42 a.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes with the manager, board, and attorney to discuss non-elected personnel and attorney/client privilege. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

- b. Dean Krehbiehl – NRCS Assistant State Conservationist**
Dean talked about the High Plains Water Framework for Kansas that was introduced to the GMDs, KWO, DOC, K-State, and the Environmental Defense Fund. Shannon included the partner brief in the board packet. Discussion was had on the framework with concerns voiced.
- c. Jake Kling – Annual “Dos and Don’ts of Being on the Board**
Jake went over the Kansas Open Meeting Act (KOMA).
- d. Open ET Policy Development**
Open ET has been looming in the agricultural world for a few years now. Shannon gave a summary of the handout included in the board packet. This will obviously be a topic of discussion in the future. At this time, she wants the board of directors to think about how the board wants to handle the rising technology in policy.
- e. Executive Session: To Protect Trade Secrets**

At 11:00 a.m. Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the manager, board, attorney, and Tayber Haremza to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

The executive session expired.

Brent Rogers moved to approve a waiver of the 300’ change in Point of Diversion for Tayber Haremza. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

10. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Nothing to report.

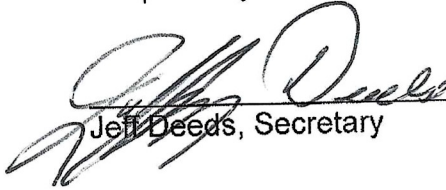
11. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting will be June 3, 2026, starting at 9 a.m. at the GMD 4 Office.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary