

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
June 3, 2026

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The June 3, 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:

Carl Davis, Nate Emig, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Schilling

Board members absent were Jerry Binning, Jeff Deeds, and Dylan Loyd.

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; Kelly Stewart -- DWR; Keadron Pearson – KWO (virtually); Baker Bugbee and Karen Flanagin.

Shane Mann moved to appoint Brent Rogers Acting Secretary in Jeff Deeds absence. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

2. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Lynn Goossen moved that the minutes of April 15, 2026, board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. EXPENDITURE & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Updated financial statements for the month of May were distributed.

Shane Mann moved that the financial reports and expenditure reports for the months of April and May be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

4. OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart noted that he attended the SD-6 and GMD 4 LEMA hearings last week and had submitted written testimony for both. He wanted to remind everyone that late 2025 Water Use Reports now have a \$1,000/water right fine associated with them. Rebecca Hageman is no longer with DWR, but finished cleaning up the possible overpumps list, LEMA tracking tool issues, and problem meter issue list.

Keadron Pearson reported the next KWA meeting will be on June 10, 2026, in Scott City. The KGS Field Conference is scheduled for June 8-9, in Scott City also. The Kansas Water Plan Partnership Initiative applications are now being taken. The deadline is July 10, 2026.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Manager Updates

Shannon will attend the scheduled June 23-24 Task Force meeting. There have been some ideas coming from the Working Group on how to restructure water in Kansas. In talking with other Task Force members, Shannon anticipates bits and pieces from each of their plans to be picked for an overall plan coming from the Task Force.

Shannon met with the Charm group again. She has a concern with water quality and the utilization of local biomass.

The Kansas Water Office and their Strategic Planning in the Upper Republican is up and running. They are so far sticking to what they promised and only looking at municipalities.

Shannon attended the KGMDA meeting on May 12th. All the GMDs are extremely busy right now as the deadline for HB 2279 is June 30th for submitting Action Plans. Most of those drafts are on the respective GMD's websites.

As of yesterday, Shannon had the preliminary work on assessments completed. The next step is putting the 2027 draft budget together. She would like the board's input on it before the budget hearing scheduled in August.

b. Future Opportunities

June 8th and 9th is the KGS Legislative Tour. It is out of Scott City this year so Shannon will be attending, and June 10th is the KWA meeting, so she will stay down there for that. On the same day as the KWA meeting there is an Ogallala Roundtable Tour. The attendee list for this is quite interesting; composed of a lot of NGOs, Open ET gurus, and others. There is a dinner in the evening that she will attend.

7. FIELD REPORTS

a. Field Tech

Trent has been busy in the field working on 2026 compliance checks, as well as over pumps, reductions, and performing rate tests as needed. In the upcoming months, he will concentrate on SD-6 and 5-5-11 compliance checks. When not in the field, he is in the office printing compliance reports, contacting producers with issues and assisting Jack with onboarding paperwork as needed. He also keeps the vehicles/equipment and building maintained, and performs other duties as assigned.

b. Irrigation Specialist

Jack has been working on conducting system evaluations and doing onboarding for additional evaluations, completing reports, and conducting follow-up meetings. He is doing more pre-work before start-up, to compare to the pumping data. Jack noted that he was having trouble getting information back from some of the equipment/service providers. Visits to their places of operation, to gather the information in person have rectified the situation, so far.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

The first public hearing was May 27th at City Limits Convention Center in Colby. Shannon felt it went well. There was only 1 public testimony given. Shannon has already submitted a follow-up testimony in reply to that testimony. We do not have a date for the second hearing yet.

b. SD-6

The first public hearing was May 26th, at the Scout House in Hoxie. There was only 1 public testimony given.

Producers should be aware there is a KSU graduate student project taking place during the first week of June in the SD-6 region.

c. Water Quality

We have collected and submitted several samples to KGS. We plan to collect more in the near future, but there is only a few days between when the samples are collected and when they need to be in the lab, so future coordination is going to be key.

We have also received phone calls regarding cathodic bore holes. Currently, GMD 2 and GMD 5 have regulations regarding these. The board felt they needed more information before making any decisions.

d. Board Vacancy

Brett Oelke presented Karen Flanagan a plaque in appreciation for her 9 years of service to the GMD 4 board.

Shannon only received one letter of interest, from Baker Bugbee, for the vacant position.

Brent Rogers moved to appoint Baker Bugbee to fill the 05 – Thomas County position for the remainder of the term (until February 2027). The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Governor’s Conference

In the past the GMDs have pledged \$300 each for a combined sponsorship for the Governor’s Conference.

Brent Rogers moved to pay \$300 for the GMDs sponsorship of the Governor’s Conference. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

b. ITI/RCPP

The initial ITI program involved federal money through the RCPP program that got nixed by DOGE. The Legislature and some agencies want to try to access those federal funds. Shannon suggested installing more index wells in GMD 4 would be a beneficial use of those funds. Shannon asked the board for other ideas. A suggestion was for those with water quality issues to apply for funding for reverse osmosis systems in their homes.

c. Executive Session: To Protect Trade Secrets

At 10:34 a.m. Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the manager, board, attorney, staff and Kelly Stewart to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

The executive session expired.

10. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Jake Kling gave a quick overview of the “Dos & Don’ts” of serving on a board, for new board member Baker Bugbee.

Nate Emig inquired about the trimming of the trees on the west side of the parking lot. Shannon has Trent checking into another company that may be more reasonably priced.

11.SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

Due to possible harvest, and a schedule conflict for Shannon, the board decided not to meet in July. The next board meeting will be on August 5, 2026, starting at 9 a.m. CDT at the GMD 4 Office. The 2027 Operating Budget Hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. Should a board quorum not be possible on August 5th, Wednesday, August 12, 2026, will be the alternative date - with all other meeting details remaining unchanged.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



Brent Rogers, Acting Secretary

