

**NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4**  
**February 10, 2021**

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

The February 10, 2021 board meeting was opened at the City Limits Convention Center in Colby, Kansas by President Brett Oelke.

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Schilling

Board members absent: Monty Biggs and Lynn Goossen

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Jeff Deeds moved that the consent agenda be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**Marsha Schilling moved the minutes of the January 6, 2021 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**Nate moved that the financial reports and expenditures for the month of January be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**2. OPEN FORUM**

Shannon shared a thank you letter from Dan Crist for the D.A. Crist memorial. His father served on the board from 1976 to 1979.

Shannon also shared Monty Biggs' parting statement to the board members, since he was not able to attend and he will not be running again for the Rawlins/Decatur Position #1 seat.

**3. AGENCY REPORTS**

Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman were not able to attend the meeting. However, he did report to Shannon that about 44% of the Water Use Reports have been filed online, which is about the same as last year. Kelly feels that the help needed in person with filing online has declined this year. DWR projects that 90% of the water use reports will be filed online, with only 10% via paper mail.

Keadron Pearson with KWO is still working from home, and was not able to attend. The Upper Republican RAC meeting is scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that

there are four vacancies on the RAC committee. There is cost-share opportunities on irrigation technologies within the South Fork Republican River Basin in Kansas. More information can be found on the Water Office website.

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

##### **a. JANUARY UPDATES**

Producers in for Water Use Report assistance has been steady. Staff feels that there may be less traffic as the past couple years, as producers are getting comfortable using the website.

Shannon attended her first virtual Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA). She found it to be very interesting and informative on what other western states are doing and the issues they are faced with. She had a schedule conflict and had to leave early, but was voted in as a board member for the next three years.

On January 21<sup>st</sup> Shannon visited with the Precision Ag students of NWKTC. She guided them through filling out the online Water Use Report. Shannon said they asked several good questions, which involved a bit of critical thinking.

##### **b. FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES**

Shannon distributed a handout showing a breakdown of how South Fork Republican River Basin funds for irrigation technology have been dispensed. As stated earlier, not all monies have been expended, so those in the SFRRB may be eligible for funds towards technology.

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, KGS is hosting a webinar entitled "Sustainability Efforts in the Ogallala Aquifer, from Noon – 1 p.m. CST. Brownie Wilson with KGS, Ken McCarty with McCarty Family Farms LLC, Weston McCarty with NWKTC, and Shannon will be featured panelists for questions.

The Ogallala Summit is being held virtually this year on February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. You must register to log-on. So far Shannon and Nate Emig have registered.

##### **c. CERTIFIED IRRIGATOR PROGRAM**

Shannon met with Kael Bloom, the videographer, on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss details. She has also made several contacts to secure speakers covering the array of topics the program will cover. Shannon also met with Annette at NWKTC regarding the graphics via zoom on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

##### **d. WATER TABLE DATA**

Brownie Wilson with KGS had provided "provisional" water level results to Shannon. He was out last week, double checking some measurements. Brownie hopes to present at the March meeting on the GMD4 Model. So the questions that board members had regarding the water level data need brought to the March meeting.

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

Dan has finished his year-end reading checks on 5-511s. He will be mailing out certification maps in a couple of weeks. He will be available in the office to help producers with Water Use Reports.

## 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### a. GMD 4 LEMA

There was no conference call this month. However, Shannon and the board agreed that producers are starting to pay attention to LEMA account management; checking to see how much water is left for 2021 and 2022. The board would like to have DWR send out notices of remaining LEMA quantities after the 2020 Water Use Reports are in and certified.

### b. MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Now that the lawsuit is over, it is time to update the management plan with names of new board members and other necessary changes. Shannon hopes to have a copy ready for board member review in March.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### a. SD-6 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sharon Munk is a non-irrigator on the SD-6 committee. She would like her son, Jeff Munk, to take over her position on the committee.

**Brent Rogers moved to approve Jeff Munk replacing Sharon Munk on the SD-6 Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

### b. AUDIT

The audit is almost complete. They are waiting for the KPERS GSAB 68 valuation report. As soon as it is made available, we will have copies for board approval.

### c. NEWSLETTER

Shannon asked what information the board would like to see included in the newsletter. Several items were discussed.

### d. LEGISLATION

Shannon reported that GMD 4 provided joint testimony with the other GMD's in support of the MYFA bill. There is another bill, HB 2023 on how irrigated ground is taxed that is floating around. Brent Rogers stated that his source thought the bill would be dead.

### e. ANNUAL MEETING

Shannon briefly ran through the agenda and board member roles for running the meeting.

**Ted Nighswonger moved that we recess the meeting, until after the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

At 1:57 pm CST, the monthly board of directors meeting resumed.

f. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Shane Mann moved that board members retain offices previously held. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

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

Nothing was presented.

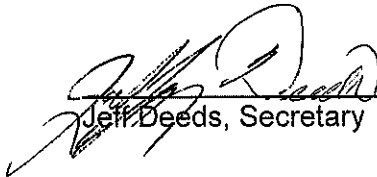
**9. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 9 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