

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
March 3, 2021

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The March 3, 2021 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:

Jerry Binning, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagin, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, and Brent Rogers

Board members absent: Dylan Loyd and Marsha Schilling

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 (virtually); Keadron Pearson, Kirk Tjelmeland, and Sara Maguire – KWO (virtually); David Barfield – KWR Consulting (virtually); Sean Miller – Capitol Strategies (virtually); and Lindsey Emig.

Change to the agenda was noted:

Manager's Report – c. Certified Irrigator moved to the NWKSGCF agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

Ted Nighswonger moved that the consent agenda be accepted as corrected. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Nate Emig moved the minutes of the February 10, 2021 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Brent moved that the financial reports and expenditures for the month of February be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

2. OPEN FORUM

Shannon welcomed Jerry Binning, who replaces Monty Biggs as the Position 2 Rawlins/Decatur Board Member. With the change in board members, Shannon distributed the updated board contact list for members.

3. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart gave an update on HB-2172 which has passed the house with modifications, to include those who were not eligible for MYFA's in the past. He also reported that 89% of the water use reports were filed online.

Rebecca Hageman reported that it would take approximately 1400 letters costing about \$770 to send out the LEMA account information for what has been used for years 1-3 of the LEMA, as well as the balance for years 4-5.

Ted Nighswonger moved to split the cost and pay half of the postage to send the LEMA use/balance letters to producers. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Keadron Pearson reported Dawn Buehler has been appointed as Chair of the Kansas Water Authority. With a chair in place, hopefully a meeting will be scheduled soon. The Water Office has been working on the water plan update.

Sean Miller reported that there was not a lot of water related activity in the legislature. The newly formed House Water Committee was in the learning stages and that the GMD's would be presenting to them on March 17th.

4. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. FEBRUARY UPDATES

Water Use Report filing kept the office busy the last couple of weeks. The deadline for reporting was March 1st.

On February 17th Shannon participated in a panel with Brownie Wilson of KGS, Ken McCarty, and Weston McCarty of NWKTC. They played the video, originally created for legislators, to the public and had a question and answer session after.

Legislation has been pretty quiet. The MYFA bill that GMD4 supported passed the House on February 18th with a 122-0 vote. It is on to the Senate where it will more than likely pass.

On February 18th Shannon had a phone conversation with Richael at Mammoth Water, looking into the possibility of replacing gWorks. This is a long time down the road but she wants to come out this spring/summer and shadow Dan to see what the needs are.

The newsletter was sent to print on February 22nd. We should have it mid-March and ready to mail before the end of the month.

The Ogallala Aquifer Summit that Nathan Emig and Shannon participated in was held virtually on February 24th and 25th. Shannon felt it was an excellent event, which brought up two topics of need 1) Succession planning for producers, and 2) Understanding for conservation in the Ag Lending industry.

b. MARCH OPPORTUNITIES

On March 17th, the GMD's will present a short “who we are and what we do” program to the newly formed House Water Committee. Shannon feels this will be best to do in person.

March 24th K-State Research and Extension will be having a training for all Extension Agents. Shannon has been asked to present virtually.

c. CERTIFIED IRRIGATOR PROGRAM

This item was moved to the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation agenda, as the Foundation will be funding the program.

5. FIELD REPORT

Dan packed up the Panametrics and sent it in for calibration. We should be receiving it back in the next day or so. Hopefully the weather will stay nice, because he does have some meter tests to do for producers that received letters from DWR.

Dan helped several producers with online Water Use Reports. There were some producers with meter issues. This was the perfect time to present the TAPP H2O app, and how it can help catch those issues. One of the other problem areas this year was ownership/water use correspondent changes.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

On February 16th there was a monthly conference call. DWR did a cost assessment of sending out letters informing producers in the LEMA of their quantities as we had agreed they would do.

Shannon has been working with Rob Aiken on another study. He sent her a chart showing inches per acre used outside of the SD 6 LEMA during the first SD 6 LEMA period.

b. MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Shannon reworked the "Enhanced Management Program" on Page V-4 to reflect the LEMA process. It used to be the High Priority protocol, but we are past that and DWR asked her to update it with the LEMA process.

Shane Mann moved to adopt the Management Plan with changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

c. AUDIT

Shannon distributed copies of the audit for board members to look over. Jody noted that the Journal Entries noted in the Governance Letter have been made. In previous years, these could not be made in the Quicken program, but with the change to Quickbooks, they are possible now.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. MODEL COMMITTEE

Brownie Wilson with KGS would like a small group of board members to be available on March 23rd at the GMD 4 office for questions and feedback, after running a few status quo scenarios through the model.

Shannon noted that David Barfield has sent information regarding points to help with the interface, after assisting with the GMD 3 model.

8. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Nathan Emig noted that GMD 4 received recognition at the Ogallala Aquifer Summit, in regards to the board's effort in conservation and the creation of the Certified Irrigator Program.

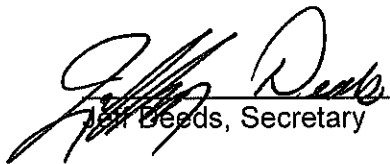
9. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 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 Beeds, Secretary