

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
August 4, 2021

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The August 4, 2021 board meeting was opened at the GMD4 office in Colby, Kansas by acting President, Nate Emig and via teleconference.

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Jerry Binning, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd (virtually), Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger, and Marsha Schilling

Board members absent: Brett Oelke and Brent Rogers

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 (virtually) and Rebecca Hageman – DWR (virtually); Keadron Pearson – KWO (virtually); Sean Miller – Capitol Strategies and Trent McCain.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Ted Nighswonger moved the minutes of the June 16th, 2021 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shane Mann moved that the updated financial reports and expenditures for the months of June and July be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Nothing presented.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman attended the meeting virtually, again due to COVID State guidelines. They are back to wearing masks and making appointments for in person office consultations. Staff are still out in the field doing inspections. He reported that GMD 1 will have their annual meeting next week, where they will be talking about a GMD wide LEMA. Kelly also reported that the Kansas Water Congress, the House Water Committee, and the Kansas Water Authority will all meet in Garden City the week of August 16 – 18.

Rebecca Hageman reported that the LEMA letters were sent out. She has not had a lot of questions, but several address change notifications as a result. Rebecca reported that she is still cleaning up Water Use Report issues due to meter repairs.

Keadron Pearson of the KWO discussed the upcoming Water Authority meeting August 17th in Garden City. The State Water Plan will be the main topic. The Upper Republican RAC met and without a quorum there was no vote but a message was sent to the Water Authority that was similar to last year's message on the budget. There is also an RCPP Grant to remove salt cedars from the Upper Republican and that a stakeholders meeting will be scheduled.

Sean Miller also reported on the upcoming meeting in Garden City on August 17th and 18th. This will be the time for GMD 4 to explain their duties and responsibilities of the board. The legislature is looking at all the various agencies to determine if there are too many.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. JUNE & JULY UPDATES

We have a model! It is up and running with only a few minor glitches to iron out mostly in Sherman County. It is extremely easy to use and Shannon can get results in about 10 minutes. A short demo was provided to the board.

Shannon shared the official letter from the Chief Engineer, approving the updated Management Program. Shannon noted that with the help of Kelly Stewart and DWR, the Management Program was updated successfully.

A new book by Lucas Bessire titled "Running out: Chasing Water on the High Plains" was just released. It's a great read written by an anthropologist from SW Kansas. Coming from an anthropologist it reveals those that are pro water conservation and those that are reluctant, specifically in SW Kansas but we as a "neighboring GMD" are mentioned as being proactive in conservation efforts. A copy is available for checkout from our library.

b. AUGUST OPPORTUNITIES

August 10th, Shannon will be a presenter for the American Society of Agronomy webinar, titled the "2021 Sustainable Agronomy Conference." Attendees will be mostly crop scouts.

August 16th through the 18th Shannon will be in Garden City with a host of events. On the 16th they have asked all five GMD's to present to the Kansas Water Congress. GMD's 2, 3, & 4 will be presenting. Several House Water Committee members are to be in attendance. On the 17th and 18th there is a House Water Committee tour in Garden City followed by a special session of the House Water Committee. Brett Oelke will be a panelist for the LEMA Presentation.

6. FIELD REPORT

Shannon had talked with Weston at NWKTC to see if any of his students would be interested in the summer job position. No one was interested. Shannon introduced Trent McCain to the board. He is temporarily out of his semi, while waiting for a new engine. So he has agreed to do the summer work of installing seals in the district. Trent reported that he has had great experience working with producers in the field and that the ones he talks to are very encouraged with installing the seals.

Dan reported he has been in SD-6, timing meters and doing compliance checks. He did find 1 meter that was not working at all.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

LEMA letters from DWR went out in July. We've had a few phone calls but mostly folks just clarifying what was on their letter. Shannon feels these have been extremely helpful.

We have scheduled public meetings for the GMD 4 LEMA renewal. Postcards went out in the mail on July 22nd. Shannon encouraged board members to attend their local meetings. Dates and times are as follows: August 19th 10 am St Francis 4H Building, 2 pm (MDT) Goodland NWKTC; August 20th 10 am Colby City Limits; August 25th 1 pm Hoxie Elks Lodge. Discussion was had to the content of those meetings and how to incorporate the new model.

b. SD-6

The SD-6 LEMA Public Meeting is scheduled for August 25th at 3 pm at the Hoxie Elks Lodge. Shannon received some data from Jim Butler of KGS that she distributed to the board showing that their efforts are extending the life of the aquifer significantly.

c. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Staff

Marsha Schilling moved to go into executive session at 11:40 am for 10 minutes with the board of directors, Adam Dees and staff as needed for the purpose of performance reviews. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for an additional 15 minutes at 11:50 a.m. with the board of directors, Adam Dees, and staff as needed. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for an additional 15 minutes at 12:05 p.m. with the board of directors, Adam Dees, and staff as needed. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for an additional 5 minutes at 12:20 p.m. with the board of directors, Adam Dees, and staff as needed. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. BUDGET HEARING

At 10:35 a.m. Nate Emig opened the Budget Hearing. Shannon Kenyon noted that there was no previous testimony submitted to the district office before the hearing. She provided testimony to the proposed budget. Nate Emig asked if there was any additional testimony regarding the 2021 GMD4 Operating Budget. There were no members of the public present that gave additional testimony. The hearing was closed at 10:36 a.m.

Jeff Deeds moved to approve the following resolution for the 2022 Budget:

WHEREAS the district membership during the 46th Annual Meeting adopted the proposed 2022 operating budget of \$428,015.00 for consideration at a subsequent public hearing; and

WHEREAS the board scheduled, duly noticed and conducted a public hearing regarding the tentatively adopted, proposed 2022 operating budget on August 4, 2021; and

WHEREAS all testimony and public comment was duly considered;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the 2022 operating budget for the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 shall be approved for \$431,827.00 – as follows:

Budget Line Items	2022 Proposed		2022 Final Assessed	
110 POSTAGE		\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00
111 Newsletter	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	
112 General	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00	
120 PRINTING		\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00
121 Newsletter	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	
122 Administrative	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	
130 DUES	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
140 SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
150 INSURANCE		\$10,400.00		\$10,400.00
151 Office	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
152 Public Officials' Liability				
153 Auto				
154 Workmans' Comp.				
155 Inland Marine				
156 Unemployment	\$400.00		\$400.00	
160 TELEPHONE	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
170 SALARIES AND BENEFITS		\$240,000.00		\$243,812.00
171 Gross Sal, Kpers, SS, Etc.	\$240,000.00		\$243,812.00	
172 Health Insurance				
180 TRAVEL		\$14,000.00		\$14,000.00
181 Board	\$8,000.00		\$8,000.00	
182 Staff	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00	
190 VEHICLES		\$7,665.00		\$7,665.00
191 Repairs/Maintenance	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	
192 Operation	\$4,500.00		\$4,500.00	
193 Tags	\$165.00		\$165.00	
194 Purchase/Lease				
200 CONTRACTED SERVICES		\$91,700.00		\$91,700.00
201 Accounting	\$6,700.00		\$6,700.00	
202 Legal	\$40,000.00		\$40,000.00	
203 Misc. Support	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00	
204 Legislative Support	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	
205 Drilling				

206 Weather Modification			
210 PUBLICATIONS	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
211 Legal Notices	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
220 COOP PROGRAMS	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
221 Administrative			
222 Equipment			
223 Contracted Studies			
224 Education Program	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
230 ADMINISTRATIVE	\$9,150.00		\$9,150.00
231 Office Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
232 Copy Machine	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
233 Computer Maint	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
234 Postage Meter Lease	\$650.00	\$650.00	
235 Bank Charges			
236 Field Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
240 NEW EQUIPMENT	\$13,000.00		\$13,000.00
241 Field	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
242 Office	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
250 CONTINGENCY RESERVE	\$0.00		\$0.00
260 FACILITY	\$19,000.00		\$19,000.00
261 Rent			
262 Maintenance	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	
263 Remodel/Purchase			
264 Building Utilities	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	
REIMBURSED EXPENSES			
300 FOUNDATION	\$0.00		\$0.00
305 Foundation Subscriptions			
325 Foundation Telephone			
345 Foundation Accounting			
350 Foundation Legal			
370 Foundation Tech Support			
	\$428,015.00	\$428,015.00	\$431,827.00

wtr_rt =	848,312
land =	2,715,924
wtr (.349) =	296,060.82
land (.05) =	135,796
	431,857.02
surplus	\$30.00

Shane Mann seconded the motion which passed unanimously via voice vote (no "abstentions" or "nay" votes.)

b. SET ASSESSMENTS

Ted Nighswonger moved to approve the following resolution for setting assessments:

WHEREAS KSA 82a-1030 requires that a land assessment and/or water user charge be levied in order to fund the approved budget; and

WHEREAS there exists as of August 4, 2021 2,715,924 acres of land eligible for assessment and 848,312 acrefeet of water eligible for the water user charge for the 2022 operating budget; and

WHEREAS after due consideration of all testimony it is the board's decision that a 2022 budget of \$431,827.00 should be provided assessment support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the land assessment and water user charge for the 2022 operating budget shall be set at:

**\$.05 per acre of assessable land; and
\$.349 per assessable acrefoot of water.**

Dylan Loyd seconded the motion which passed unanimously via voice vote (no "abstentions" or "nay" votes.)

c. CITY WATER BILL/SPRINKLER/SEPARATE METER

Jody presented a data comparison sheet for the last 4 years of charges from the city for sewer and water charges. It seems that there may be a leak in the sprinkler system or we may have an issue with the meter. The matter is tabled until further information is available regarding charges for a separate meter for the sprinkler system.

d. CONCRETE IN FRONT OF BUILDING

No action taken.

e. PLAYA LAKE LETTER OF SUPPORT

Abram Lollar contacted Shannon regarding a letter of support for a project titled "Low-Tech Process Based In-Stream Structures to Increase Climate Resiliency in the Great Plains". The board felt at this time that they share no support or opposition to the topic.

f. OIL PROBLEMS AT WELLS

Shannon shared pictures of a well that Dan had tried to check last month. With the amount of oil surrounding the well, it could be not only an OSHAA concern for employee safety, but also an EPA issue. The board felt that the owner should be contacted first and given a reasonable amount of time to clean up the mess, before a complaint is filed with KDHE.

g. NEWSLETTER

Shannon asked the board for topics to be included in the newsletter. Discussion included: clean up around wells – trash as well as weeds and the importance of "End of Year Reading" in TAPPH2O app.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Nothing presented

10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 9 am CDT at the GMD 4 office in Colby.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary

