

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
October 20, 2021

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The October 20, 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:

Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Schilling

Board members absent: Jerry Binning, Dylan Loyd, and Ted Nighswonger

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; Earl Lewis, Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR (virtually); Keadron Pearson– KWO (virtually)

Changes to the agenda were noted:

Add 8 c. Lawn
Add 8 d. LEMA Regulations Testimony

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Marsha Schilling moved that the consent agenda be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Brent Rogers moved the minutes of the September 1, 2021 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved that the updated financial report and expenditures for the month of September be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Brent Rogers asked for clarification on the 2 pivots that Dan Haffner had put up, as he has received calls. Kelly Stewart acknowledged that the application was submitted before the district was closed. He has just gotten them up and using them.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman attended the meeting virtually, again due to COVID State guidelines. It has been quiet in their office. Kelly stated that his field team has been working on a

list of water rights that have not been checked within the last 10 years. They have found some missing seals, as well as some non-compliant meters due to newer spacing requirements.

It was also reported that GMD4 may be granted limited access to the DWR Docuware/image drive as a pilot project. This would make it easier to see which meters have been checked by DWR, so as not to double up the compliance checks. Also, Rebecca wanted to remind producers again that the deadline to file for a 2 year MYFA is December 31, 2021.

Kelly also wanted to report that he has been working with the City of Park, after being penalized for over pumping the last 2 years. They have received some grant money to improve their infrastructure.

Keadron Pearson of the KWO reported the full draft version of the State Water Plan was made available for comment, and several comments have come in. KWO is hoping to have the full draft copy ready for the December meeting. She also shared that November 17th and 18th is the Governor's Conference, which will be held virtually.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. SEPTEMBER UPDATES

This month has been pretty quiet with harvest in full swing. Shannon attended a meeting with a group of bankers on lending practices that encourage water use and what aquifer declines can do to local economy.

Shannon shared a copy of WCA data that Rebecca Hageman had put together. The data represents all of the WCA's within the district.

She also virtually attended the KWA meeting where there was discussion about some money that may become available so she will be awaiting more information on that.

The Christmas Party will be a luncheon at the next meeting.

b. OCTOBER OPPORTUNITIES

Landon Marston emailed Shannon to report that their proposal has received funding. The project will begin in January, and touches on many shared interests and will address many of the unanswered questions regarding how to ensure groundwater management systems are effective, resilient to economic and climatic change, and adaptable in the face of such changes.

6. FIELD REPORT

Dan has completed the 5-5-11 checks and has been getting late season readings and working on compliance checks in SD-6. While working in Graham County, Dan found data missing in the Gworks database. He has been working on getting meter information and pictures on the tablet. He has also done a rate test, due to a missing seal.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Shannon had assigned homework for the board. She shared their collective answers to the questions raised via the public meetings. Discussion ensued. It was decided to table this item to the next board meeting where they will make decisions then.

b. SD-6

Shannon included a copy of the draft SD 6 LEMA request in the board packet. She noted the only thing changed was updated data and a more recent feedlot capacity.

Lynn Goossen moved to approve the SD-6 LEMA 2023-2027 request, to be sent to DWR. The motion was seconded by Karen Flanagin and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

c. LAWN

Jody updated the information sheet regarding cost of irrigation along with the cost of lawn maintenance (Green Acres invoices). Shannon had contacted 3 companies, however only one returned her call. His quote included using rock and boulders. Discussion ensued. This item was tabled so that Shannon can discuss other options with the landscaper.

d. LEMA REGULATIONS & TESTIMONY

A copy of the proposed LEMA regulations were distributed. It was noted how DWR worked very closely with GMD 4 on drafting these regulations. A public hearing is coming soon with the opportunity to provide testimony.

Brent Rogers moved to have Shannon submit testimony in support of the new LEMA regulations. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. BRETT OELKE – WAL-MART

Scott Foote had called Brett regarding a conference call with a couple of representatives of Wal-Mart. They are interested in exploring funding to help the water conservation efforts. Brett will keep the board apprised of future communication with them.

b. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Staff Mid-term Reviews

Brent Rogers moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the board of directors, attorney Adam Dees, and staff as needed for performance reviews. 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 11:45 a.m. with the board of directors, ~~Adam Dees~~, and staff as needed. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for an additional 15 minutes at 12:00 p.m. with the board of directors, ~~Adam Dees~~, and staff as needed. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

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

No action taken.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Shane reported he had received a copy to a link to a video of Bill Maher addressing the idea of building pipelines from "where water is to where it isn't".


10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 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