

**NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4**  
**March 2, 2022**

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

The March 2, 2022 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, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Schilling.

Board members absent: Jerry Binning and Dylan Loyd.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Colter Stoll – GMD 4 staff; Adam Dees – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR, and Keadron Pearson – KWO (virtually).

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Brent Rogers moved the minutes of the February 16th board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).**

**Nate Emig 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).**

**3. OPEN FORUM**

Jody distributed the updated contact list for board members and staff.

**4. AGENCY REPORTS**

Kelly Stewart reported that the deadline for Water Use Reports was 5 p.m. on March 1, 2022. Jeff Deeds noted the use of the “Alias” option to add a producer’s nickname for each individual meter/well was a handy tool to make reporting easier.

Rebecca Hageman reported that they have been working to update their 10 year list for well inspections. Shannon asked if they could share that information, to coordinate with field work that Colter is doing to help cover a larger area.

Keadron Pearson announced the next virtual Upper Republican RAC meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Shannon has offered the use of the board room if anyone else would like to join. There are also a couple of new faces at the KWO, Angela Anderson is the Planning & Outreach Lead and Weston McCary has been hired as the Technology Projects Coordinator.

**5. MANAGER’S REPORT**

Shannon attended the Legislative Retreat on February 8-9<sup>th</sup>. Burke Griggs talked about water transfers and 4 areas of concern that make them “imaginary” She took part in the GMD roundtable discussion and attended the Agency roundtable. News regarding the Mega Water Bill was circulating.

With the introduction of HB 2686 Shannon spent the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> in Topeka. Monday was an information day, Tuesday was a Q&A from the committee. Wednesday and Thursday were testimony days. Friday was another Q&A session for the committee, with agency representatives available to answer questions of committee members. On Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> several amendments were brought before the committee by Chairman Highland. Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Representative Newland offered a “gut and go” substitute with only GMD reporting, a portion of sales tax to fund water projects from the Blue Ribbon committee recommendation with no re-organization of agencies. Representative Vaughn asked for additional GMD reporting as in the Chair’s amendment, which also passed.

Shannon briefly discussed the preliminary water level handouts distributed at last month’s meeting. She noted that she was pleasantly surprised the decline was not as much, considering the extremely dry conditions.

A representative from United Sorghum reached out to Shannon regarding a possible Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) through NRCS. If any producers are interested in participating, please contact Shannon.

As soon as 2021 water use report data is available, Shannon will be pulling the SD-6 information, and set up an Advisory Committee meeting date.

## **6. FIELD REPORT**

Colter reported that he spent approximately 26 hours (3 days) in the field and checked 52 wells. He has been concentrating on GMD seals and meter readings. Earlier this week he and Shannon were able to get out and do a more in-depth compliance check training. Colter is working on studying for certification for rate testing through the Stockton Field Office.

Shannon distributed a 4 month goal plan for Colter’s training. He was able to observe a couple of Water Use Reporting appointments with Jody and Shannon. She has also been working with him on creating a change in the place of use map, to help reacquaint Colter with ArcMap.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. GMD 4 LEMA**

After discussion at last month’s meeting regarding golf courses, cemeteries, athletic fields, parks, racetracks, and etc., Adam presented language from statute to be included in the LEMA as:

- 1.13. The following uses will be deemed “non-irrigation” for the purposes of the LEMA and will be encouraged to use best management practices in the watering of:

- 1.13.1 gardens, orchards, and lawns greater than two acres; and

- 1.13.2 golf courses, cemeteries, athletic fields, parks, racetrack grounds and similar facilities

**Karen Flanagan moved to send the updated version of the LEMA request with the addition of 1.13 to the Chief Engineer. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).**

Shannon brought a scenario to the board for an increase in acres through the appeals process. The board suggested those be on a case-by-case basis.

**b. SD-6**

We have not heard anything back from the Chief Engineer.

**c. CONTINGENCY RESERVE #'S**

Nate Emig had asked for a historical look at what GMD 4 has assessed for, what the contingency reserve looks like, and what the budget totals were for the last 15 years. Shannon dispersed a handout of the information. Discussion ensued as to reducing the tax rate, what amount should be kept for reserves, and moving money into the foundation to give back through cost share programs.

**Brent Rogers moved to transfer \$180,000.00 to the Northwest Kansas Conservation Foundation. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).**

**d. Audit**

Shannon presented the 2021 Audit to the board.

**Ted Nighswonger moved to approve the 2021 Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. HOXIE GOLF COURSE**

It was noted that discussion of wording of the LEMA at the last meeting was interpreted incorrectly. Shannon distributed a handout made by Kelly Stewart comparing different allocations and water use for golf courses within GMD 4. Kelly said that DWR can do a term permit for 2022 with limited quantity of a VWR within a 2 mile area of the Hoxie Golf course. That course of action seemed favorable with Brett Oelke volunteering to reduce his water right if it meets the 2 mile parameter.

**b. 5-5-11 LIMITATIONS**

Shannon wanted to bring to the board's attention a situation with 5-5-11 limitations and allowing unlimited acres.

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

Shane Mann noted that Kate Durham will be the GMD 1 manager starting in April.


**10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 9 a.m. CDT at the GMD 4 office in Colby.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted:



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Jeff Beeds, Secretary