

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
April 5, 2023

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The April 5, 2023 board meeting was opened at the GMD 4 office in Colby, Kansas by President, Brett Oelke.

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Jerry Binning, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagin, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann (virtually), Brett Oelke, and Brent Rogers.

Board members absent: Dylan Loyd, Ted Nighswonger, and Marsha Shilling.

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Lynn Goossen moved that the consent agenda be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

Shane Mann moved the minutes of the February 22, 2023 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shannon distributed copies of the February financials and updated March financials to the board.

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

3. OPEN FORUM

Dwayne Kersenbrock, a former NRCS employee, has been asked to return to help develop irrigation plans for NRCS. He wanted to make the board aware of possible money being offered for “green” activities. This money will most likely be dispersed through the EQUIP program (determined by a state technical committee) during 2023 through 2025. Discussion ensued regarding reducing pumping (restrictions) vs. retirement of water rights.

Brent Rogers and Brett Oelke have both been questioned concerning an old well that has been trenched by a center pivot to be used for domestic purposes. Kelly Stewart has also been contacted about this issue. Shannon noted that the owner had come in to talk to her about the project, and stated that it would be for domestic purposes.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart reported that water use reports are in for the most part, and headquarters is in the process of going through them. He noted that Stockton will be receiving the over pump list that will need to be verified. Stockton Field Office will work with GMD 4 to contact producers and verify the accuracy of water use reported. Kelly noted that his personnel is getting out and starting field work.

Rebecca Hageman reported that she has updated the GMD 4 LEMA spreadsheet with changes Shannon has sent her so far. She also has the 2022 water use entered, so it is current. She will be working with Colter and Shannon verifying that the transfer numbers are within the amount requested. Rebecca has also been working on WCAs.

Kelly noted that headquarters has been swamped by the backlog of paperwork that was submitted at the end of last year, and have approved an extra 4 hours per week for David M. to help get term permits processed.

Keadron Pearson reported that the next Kansas Water Authority meeting will be April 19th in Kansas City. They do have a new applicant for one of the available positions on the Upper Republican RAC. She noted that the W.I.S.E. program that took place on March 23rd was well attended, with a good mix of interested parties.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. March Updates

On February 23rd Shannon did a presentation for area Servi-Tech employees educating them on the dos and don'ts of LEMAs. The following week the office was bombarded as usual with last minute water use reports.

March 1st Shannon presented to producers at Neff Seeds on the LEMA renewals and what was going on in the Kansas Legislature. On March 7th she was invited to attend an event hosted by Adams Bank in Colby, where she was able to talk with city leaders about water conservation.

The week of March 13th Shannon went back to Topeka to testify to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in support of HB 2279. She was able to assist Senator Francisco on an amendment. They also worked HB 2302 that we did not take a stance on. There wasn't any money specifically marked for GMD 4 so Shannon stayed out of it since there was a lot of support behind it anyway. The senate committee did make some changes that she didn't see favorably but nothing that can't be worked out if it passes. While she was there, Shannon was able to have great discussions with most of the senators on that committee and was joined by Kate Durham, Tim Boese, and Mark Rude for all or some of those discussions. While, Kate and Shannon had a great conversation with Connie Owen and Mark Unruh about what they would like to see in Western Kansas if HB 2203 passes. They would like to see a person devoted to going around to cost-share recipients or any producers with water-saving technology development and assist them in using it to their best advantage. And would also like to see someone take over the Certified Irrigator program and develop a website that goes with all things water.

On March 23rd, Colter and Shannon attended the W.I.S.E. Tour in Dodge City/Montezuma. They heard from a lot of people in SW Kansas with the desire for

water conservation and specifically feedlots. There was a lot of great networking and partnerships made.

Shannon led public outreach meetings March 29th through the 31st in Hoxie, Oakley, Saint Francis, Goodland, and Goodland. Jody took notes on the four different topics discussed at each meeting. Shannon distributed copies of the condensed comments and asked the board to be ready to discuss possible action plans ideas at the next meeting.

b. Future Opportunities

Colter is going to do the Conservation District Roundup on April 25th with a bunch of fourth graders. We haven't been involved for several years because Shannon didn't have the time to participate. The conservation districts have really helped us out with cost-share and she feels this partnership needs to continue.

Once water use reports have been verified, Shannon will begin to conduct LEMA Advisory meetings. She is waiting on sending out SD-6 letters, as she needs the verified numbers to calculate carry over amounts. Several MYFA applications are being sent out today.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Colter has been busy in the office getting 5-5-11 acre certification maps ready and mailed out. He has also been working on a new system for 5-5-11 limited quantity paperwork, which took some time. It should be more streamlined in the future. Colter tried to do a rate test yesterday, but the producer could not get the engine started. He has 4 other tests scheduled later this week. Colter attended the W.I.S.E. program with Shannon also. Between weather, days off due to a death in his family, and vacation days Colter has not been in the field as much as he would like.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

LEMA allocation letters were sent out. There have been very few appeals so far. Shannon is working with Rebecca Hageman to make sure changes are made to the spreadsheet so they are reflected on the website.

b. SD-6

Letters will be going out soon. There are still a couple of verifications needed. Colter will be going back out in the field for those.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Shannon was hoping that the public meetings would stir some interest, but no one has contacted her as of today. There is interest in Sherman County, but nothing to report at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Cost of Newsletter

The post office has almost doubled the price of bulk mailing costs. It was almost \$1,400 to mail 4,122 newsletters last month. The cost to print the newsletter was

approximately \$1,500. Shannon wanted to know what ideas the board had to reduce these costs. It was the consensus of the board to do an open records request from DWR for a list of water use correspondent emails. Condense the newsletter down to a quarterly pdf copy to be e-mailed to the correspondents. Then send out a text notification that the newsletter is posted on the website, and blast notifications on social media.

b. Jake Kling – Attorney Discussion

Jake went over the Kansas Open Meeting Act (KOMA) Guidelines that were included in the board packets. He discussed what a meeting could look like, and gave examples of scenarios. He also suggested that board members have emails setup through the GMD, so that they are not using personal emails.

c. Quickbooks

Nothing to discuss as the issue was resolved.

d. Shirts

The idea of having a shirt or jacket with GMD 4 logos was brought up after meetings in Topeka. Other GMDs were wearing their “swag” at the Legislative Update, and it was noted by one of our board members. Taylor collected data from two different vendors. Shannon asked the board to look over the information that was provided in their packets, and be ready to discuss it at the next meeting.

e. Executive Session – Dave Ottley

Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the board, Shannon, the attorney, DWR staff, and Dave and Moriah Ottley to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Karen Flanagan and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

f. Executive Session – Sam Flora

Brent Rogers moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the board, Shannon, the attorney, and Sam Flora to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Brent Rogers moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board, Shannon, the attorney, and Sam Flora to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Rebecca Hageman noted that she attended a Republican Party Ladies Meeting where discussion ensued on why the “boots on the ground people” were not active with legislators on making policies.

Karen Flanagan brought up the topic on time limits for the Open Forum and Open Session portions of the meetings. A short discussion ensued.

Karen Flanagan moved to set a time limit of up to 5 minutes per individual addressing the board during the Open Forum and Open Session portions of the GMD 4 board meetings. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

10. FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2023 at 9 a.m. C.D.T. at the GMD 4 office.

The meeting was recessed until after the foundation meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Jerry Deeds, Secretary

