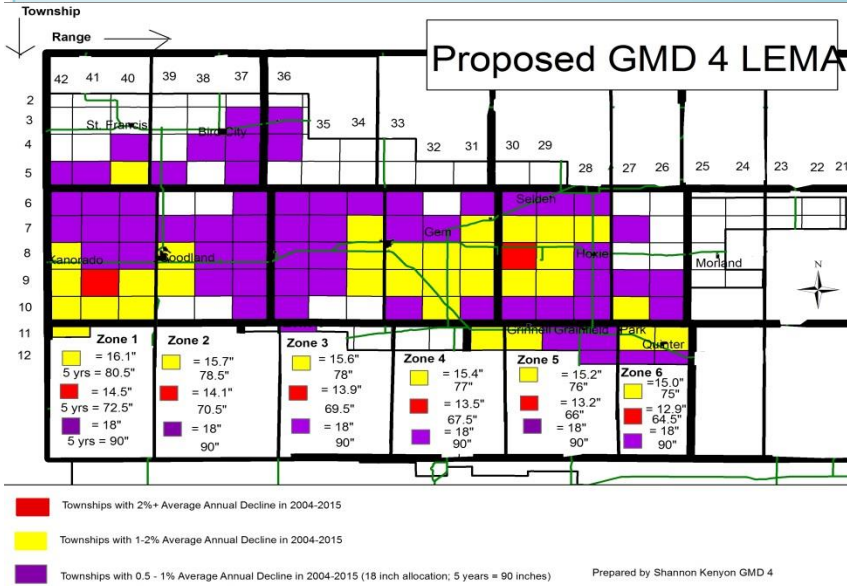


The Water Table



The GMD 4 LEMA went into effect March 1st with the board of directors unanimously accepting the chief engineer’s suggested recommendations. Two public hearings were held for the GMD 4 District-Wide LEMA. The first one was August 23rd and the second on November 14th. The record for the second hearing was closed on December 22nd, and a LEMA Order of Decision with Proposed Modifications was released on February 23, 2018. All documents related to the process are available on the Kansas Department of Agriculture website.

An Order of Designation will be released soon for those water right owners that are affected by the LEMA. The order could be appealed, so we encourage you to stay up-to-date via our website and/or Facebook for the latest. Contact the office with any questions.

As the process moves forward with implementation of the LEMA beginning March 1st and going through 2022, there are several components producers need to know to manage their LEMA requirements. Please see inside for details.

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What is my LEMA Allocation?

An online tool was created for you to easily find out your LEMA allocation.

There is a link to the tool at www.gmd4.org and on the Kansas Department of Agriculture's website.

When you log into the calculator tool be sure to have your water right(s) handy as you will need that for the calculator to locate your allocation. For each water right you want to know the LEMA allocation for just

type in the water right number, and it will tell you what it is.

Remember that this is a 5-year allocation. You are only annually restricted by what your base water right is authorized for.

If you disagree with the number of acres that have been assigned, please contact the office as there is an appeals process.

“Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children’s lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.” ~ Luna Leopold

Dan’s Field Notes

For those water rights affected by the GMD 4 LEMA you will have additional metering requirements. It will be required that you have an alternate way to meter your water usage. Some of those acceptable ways are:

- AgSense
- Pivot hours
- Electric hours
- Dated Pictures
- Log Book
- Pressure sensors
- Additional meter

Another Water Conservation Area (WCA)!!!

In addition to the first WCA in the state, another WCA has been accepted by the Division of Water Resources within GMD 4 and more interest is in the works. We are thrilled to hear of these voluntary plans to conserve water being developed. Their plan will be ten years and reduce the amount of water they have historically pumped. It will also allow them some flexibility with their water rights over 800 acres of authorized acres.

If you would be interested in some flexibility of your water rights or even you and your neighbor’s water rights, you can form a WCA. There is no WCA that is too big or too small. Each one developed is unique to the group forming the WCA. If you would like more information, please contact Steven Walters at the Stockton Field Office 785-425-6787.

GMD 4 Annual Meeting

We had a record turnout at our February 7th, 2018 Annual Meeting in Colby. A total of 147 people signed in for the meeting. Each board position up for reelection was contested, but the incumbents remain on the board of directors for another three years. We appreciate everyone coming to the meeting and hope to see you next year!



GMD 4 LEMA Advisory Committee

We are beginning to form an advisory committee for the GDM 4 LEMA. The committee will consist of 14 members with 11 being from the public representing your respective counties. We will meet annually in the spring to review water use data, water table information, economic data as is available, violation issues, and any other items that need to be discussed.

Topics discussed at these meetings will be presented in an annual report that is provided to the GMD 4 Board of Directors and the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources. Your involvement in the advisory committee would be the discussion on these topics for the annual report.

If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact the GMD 4 office. The positions are appointed by the GMD 4 Board of Directors so anyone interested would be encouraged to provide your contact information and the county you irrigate in.



Pumping the Tailwater
Ray Luhman

STAY INFORMED!!!!

If you have questions about the GMD 4 District LEMA, or anything else for that matter, call GMD 4 or DWR. In order to make informed decisions **you must know the facts.** We probably don't agree on some things or possibly everything, but knowing the facts is essential.



NW KS GMD 4

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Like us on Facebook!

Find us on the Web:
www.gmd4.org



Important Dates

**Monthly Board Meetings – First Thursday of every month @ 9 am.
(Except February & December)**

Staff and Board of Directors

- Ray Luhman – Manager rluhman@gmd4.org
 - Shannon Kenyon – Assistant Manager skenyon@gmd4.org
 - Dan Simmering – Field Technician dee@gmd4.org
 - Jody McCain – Administrative Assistant jmccain@gmd4.org
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Brent Rogers – President | Karen Flanagin | Lynn Goossen |
| Shane Mann – Vice President | Ted Nighswonger | Monty Biggs |
| Jeff Deeds – Secretary | Nathan Emig | Scott Maurath |
| Roger Zwegardt – Treasurer | Mitchell Baalman | |

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