

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
April 3, 2024

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The April 3, 2024 board meeting was opened at the GMD 4 Office, Colby, Kansas by President, Brett Oelke.

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Jerry Binning, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent: Jeff Deeds Dylan Loyd, Ted Nighswonger, and Brent Rogers.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, Colter Stoll – GMD 4 staff; and Jake Kling – GMD 4 attorney; Rebecca Hageman – DWR (virtually); Weston McCary and Keadron Pearson – KWO; and Jim Butler and Scott Ishman – KGS; and Jared Abraham – Aqua Geo Frameworks, LLC.

Jerry Binning moved to appoint Marsha Schilling as acting secretary in Jeff Deeds absence. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Changes to the agenda were noted:

Add 8. b. Executive Session – Attorney Client Privilege

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Shane Mann moved that the consent agenda be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

Shannon noted that the numbering format for the February 21, 2024 minutes was incorrect in the board packet, however Jody has corrected them for copy to be signed.

Nate Emig moved the minutes of the February 21, 2024 board meeting be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shannon distributed the March updated financial report. Several questions were asked regarding expenditures.

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

Shane Mann moved that the financial reports and expenditures for the month of March be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

The board of directors and staff introduced themselves for the visitors.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Rebecca Hageman reported that the Stockton field office has been fairly quiet with Water Use Reporting pretty much done. Rebecca believes that 93% of the Water Use Reports are in, however she is not sure that number includes the paper copies. After data is previewed, an over pump list will be compiled in the near future.

Keadron Pearson reported that 2 RAC members have been presented for consideration for the Upper Republican Advisory Committee.

The next KWA meeting is scheduled for April 17th in Garden City.

A water quality meeting is scheduled for April 18th & 19th.

The W.I.S.E. Tour is scheduled for May 29th in Garden City.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. February / March Updates

Water Use Reports are over! We didn't see as many procrastinators as we have in the past which is a good sign.

March 4th, Colter and Shannon, along with Weston McCary met with Kai Oliver. Kai is a video game maker from the UK and now resides in Nova Scotia. He made a video game modeled after the book “Running Out” by Lucas Bessire that was to receive an award. Depending on the award, he may be expanding the game for educational purposes. I haven't heard any follow-up at this point.

March 6th there was an Agriculture Career Fair at CCC. It was free to set up a table so Shannon decided to go and "advertise" all water positions. She was amazed at how many students did not know of Groundwater Management Districts.

On March 12th Shannon went back to Topeka to testify before the Senate Ag and Natural Resources Committee on HB 2634. That is our bill for the five-year LEMA quantity. There was no opposition testimony and it was placed on the consent agenda. Shannon has been notified that it is on the Governor's desk ready to be signed.

On the way home from testimony Kate Durham and Shannon stopped in Manhattan to talk with Steve Frost on the RCPP Grant. There have been several entities wanting "in on the deal". Kate and Shannon wanted to make sure that he knew where we stood on local control with these funds. It was perceived very well.

March 14th Shannon did a Zoom call with the Thomas County Democrats. It's on YouTube. She spent a good portion of the hour long meeting correcting misinformation.

The Ogallala Summit was held in Liberal on March 18th & 19th. Colter, Lynn Goossen, and Shannon attended this event, which is held every three years. It was sold out! There were lots of folks from all states to collaborate. LEMAs were mentioned very often! And they all noted how much water data Kansas has, compared to the other states.

March 20th was the KWA Subcommittee on the Ogallala in Garden City so all three stuck around for that. There was great dialogue among the members with a vision and goals created that will go to the KWA next month.

Due to illness, Shannon had to reschedule her March 28th visit to NW Tech to educate the Precision Ag students on water and groundwater management.

Shannon continues to work on the Management Program and has asked for Jody's help in reformatting it as it was a bit of a mess.

b. Future Opportunities

April 17th is the KWA meeting in Garden City.

April 22nd is the Pioneer Feedlot High School Field Day which we have been invited to be a part of.

May 7th is the Sheridan County Water Fun Fest that we have also been invited to take part in.

May 29th is the WISE Tour in Scott City.

June 11th – 13th is the KGS Legislative Tour

6. FIELD REPORTS

Colter has not been back in the field since 5-5-11 checks. He did get the 5-5-11 Certified Acre Maps mailed and has received several back. Weather and illnesses of staff have played a factor in getting out to the field. Colter has also worked on getting some change applications out the door, as well as ordering the new field camera which has a date stamp and geo tag.

Colter traveled to the Ogallala Summit and noted the considerable difference in the Kansas Water law and data compared to other states.

Colter will meet with Lee Wheeler (Irrigation Specialist Trainer) and Lynn Goossen tomorrow. And he hopes to be back out in the field next week!

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Shannon is waiting on the Water Use Report data, before putting together information for an Advisory Committee Meeting.

b. SD-6

Shannon has compiled the Water Use Data for SD-6. She shared an example of the form letter that will be sent out which includes: Water Right number, the 5-year LEMA amount, 2023 water use, and their remaining LEMA balance. Suggestions were made to what would be included with those letters.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. AEM Mapping

Jim Butler with KGS gave an overview of the reason that the AEM mapping is going to be used within parts of GMD 4.

Jared Abraham presented a PowerPoint presentation on how AEM mapping works and what they will be doing in GMD 4.

Jim Butler, Weston McCary and Shannon have had several conference calls on how to kick this off. Shannon had a couple of handouts of examples of what will go out to the public.

b. Executive Session – Attorney Client Privilege

At 11:37 a.m. Nate Emig moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes with the board, attorney, and manager for attorney client privilege. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 11:42 a.m. Nate Emig moved to go into executive session for an additional 5 minutes with the board, attorney, and manager for attorney client privilege. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Lynn Goossen moved to approve the attorney fee change. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Marsha Schilling noted that she voiced her concerns/issues with crop insurance at a State Board of Agriculture meeting she attended. It wastes water when producers are told to “keep watering” failed/damaged crops.

Lynn Goossen asked if anyone else signed up for the TAPS program through K-State. Concerns were discussed.

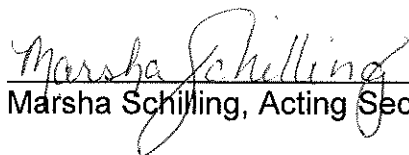
10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2024 at 9 a.m. C.D.T. at the GMD 4 office.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:


Marsha Schilling, Acting Secretary

