

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
June 12, 2024

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The June 12, 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 Flanagin, Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent: Jeff Deeds and Ted Nighswonger.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, Colter Stoll, Eryn Freeman, and Austin Keim – GMD 4 staff; and Jake Kling – GMD 4 attorney; Keadron Pearson – KWO; and Gaisheng Liu – KGS; Vijay Ramasamy – Governor's Office and Jackson Emig.

Shane Mann moved to appoint Brent Rogers as acting secretary in Jeff Deeds' absence. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Changes to the agenda were noted:

Add 8. f. Governor's Conference Sponsorship

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.)

Jerry Binning moved the minutes of the April 2, 2024 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Karen Flanagin and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

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

3. OPEN FORUM

Shannon introduced Austin Keim, who is a summer intern. He is from Goodland and has plans to attend the Precision Ag program in the fall. He will be conducting basic meter checks throughout the summer.

Lynn Goossen noted that the Kansas Water Plan Implementation Strategic Planning meeting will take place next Monday, June 17th, at the Colby Event Center starting at 5 p.m. He noted that producers need to be there and make their voices heard.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman with the Stockton Field Office were not available. Shannon had spoken with Kelly, and their office was quiet. He did note that more staff have been hired at headquarters in Manhattan, which will help alleviate the backlog of paperwork.

Keadron Pearson reported that the June KWA meeting took place yesterday in Manhattan. She noted that both Earl Lewis and Connie Owen will be on a panel at a meeting taking place in Burlington, Colorado on June 26th, called the "Hearing on the High Plains." She reiterated; producer input is needed at the Strategic Planning meeting on June 17th. Keadron said the Wise tour was well attended, with approximately 70 people in attendance, and good conversations took place.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. April / May Updates

Shannon continues to have monthly calls with Vijay Ramasamy from the Governor's Office. She does have concerns with the KWO Strategic Planning and will continue to relay those concerns to him. Shannon feels like those concerns are being heard as she is not the only one with those concerns.

In early May the curators from the Denver Museum of Natural History came out to learn about the work being done in SD 6, specifically the feedlot. There was a film created and shown at the museum about the Ogallala, but Shannon did not venture out to see it.

On April 30th, Colter and Shannon went to NWKTC and presented to the class. Shannon gave a lengthy presentation on water rights and water law. Colter discussed the field aspects of the job.

We continue to have calls with DOC on the NRCS RCPP grant. Shannon also attended the Technical Subcommittee meetings for Soil Health and Water. Great conversations came of those and then they were presented to the whole State Technical Committee which Shannon also attended. She feels very positive in the direction NRCS is moving at the state level and is encouraged to work more closely with them going forward.

We replaced most of the desktop computers per the electronics rotation. They were five years old. We kept a few of the older ones for backup and spare offices.

The AEM Mapping was going very smoothly, however the helicopter did have an issue after taking off from the Colby Media day last Thursday and ended up landing in a field on the Thomas / Logan County line.

Colter attended the meter summit in Manhattan. There have been a couple of meter issues and some inconsistencies among inspectors.

b. Future Opportunities

Shannon has started working on the assessment data. Data has been collected from most of the counties. We are waiting on information from Thomas and Wallace counties.

CBS, Eye on America as well as PBS are planning to do stories on the area sometime this summer.

Shannon shared a handout that will be sent out via text and e-mail to water use correspondents for more public meetings. These will focus on what producers think the next L.E.M.A.s should look like.

A meeting with the NRCS and DOC has been set for August 7th, at the Colby Event Center.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Colter has been coordinating a lot of field work with other agencies in relation to the SD 6 Index wells, VandWater, and Kansas Mesonet. Since the last meeting he has checked 44 wells on the 5-year list, done a rate test and has a couple more questionable meters on the books. He was a presenter at the Sheridan County Water Fun Day. It was not well attended, but Colter made sure the adults attending knew more about water and the aquifer when they left!

Colter interviewed for a summer intern and spent a couple days out in the field with Austin, who is out and running on his own, conducting compliance checks. Austin has made contact with several producers already.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Ready to go for an advisory committee meeting but waiting for members to be more available.

- b. SD-6
Ready to go for an advisory committee meeting but waiting for members to be more available.
- c. Other LEMA Developments
Nothing to report.
- d. AEM Mapping
So far, the data coming back has been great! Most phone calls have been inquisitive. Media day was held last Wednesday, June 5th at Colby Airport. NWKS Radio shared video from the event on their Facebook page.
- e. Management Program
Shannon has been working to update the management program; however she is to the point she is waiting for data requested from a few people to get it finished.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lawn
We have had a few issues with the lawn maintenance. We had discussed concrete in the past, as well as xeriscaping. It was decided to get concrete bids for the front lawn area. We have had issues with the current lawn company and it was agreed that a different company would be preferable.
- b. KWO Strategic Planning
Vijay shared a quick overview presentation of the Strategic Planning meeting that will take place at the Event Center on June 17th.
- c. CCC Rodeo Sponsorship
Shannon had been approached about sponsorship for the CCC Rodeo. The board felt it was not an event that the GMD should sponsor.
- d. KGMDA Incorporation
The Kansas Groundwater Management District Association has been meeting regularly to discuss topics relating to GMDs. A few managers are requesting to become incorporated. There are several benefits in that as a corporation we could apply for grants that we all benefit from as well as provide testimony as a group in some areas. One drawback is that there would be an annual fee.
- e. Executive Session – Staff Contracts

At 10:54 a.m. Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for 30 minutes with the board, attorney, and staff as requested for contract negotiations. The motion

was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Jerry Binning left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

At 11:24 a.m. Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for an additional 30 minutes with the board, attorney, and staff as requested for contract negotiations. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 11:54 a.m. Shane Mann moved to go into executive session for an additional 15 minutes with the board, attorney, and staff as requested for contract negotiations. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

f. Governor’s Conference Sponsorship

Shannon distributed a handout with various levels of sponsorship for the Governor’s Conference.

Brent Rogers moved that GMD 4 provide a \$500 sponsorship for the Governor’s Conference. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

g. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Dylan Loyd wanted to circle back to the “Conversations with Kenyon” outreach meetings. He asked if there could be a Q & A session on the SD-6 LEMA. Discussion ensued regarding the differences between each of the zones in the district. It was noted that the question “How did the guys in SD-6 make those changes?”

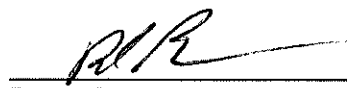
h. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 10, 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:



Brent Rogers, Acting Secretary

