

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
July 10, 2024

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The July 10, 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, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent: Jeff Deeds, Karen Flanagan, and Dylan Loyd.

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; Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR.

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

Changes to the agenda were noted:

Add 7. g. Strategic Planning

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Marsha Schilling moved that the consent agenda be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes.)

Marsha Schilling moved the minutes of the June 12, 2024, board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

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

3. OPEN FORUM

Shannon announced that Brent Rogers was featured in the High Plains Journal.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart reported that Rebecca Hageman has been working on the follow-up work for broken meters reported on the 2023 Water Use Reports. She has been gathering all of the backup records from producers. They also have received the over pump list from headquarters, and there were only 3-4 in GMD 4.

Discussion ensued on the proper steps to take for reporting meter repairs, and what is required by the Stockton Field Office. Rebecca noted that a copy of the Water Flowmeter Repair/Replacement Form, a copy of the invoice for the repair/replacement parts, as well as copies of the back-up records need to be sent to their office.

A couple of board members noted that they have been impressed with the VandWater app, however, they have had to glue the tokens to the inside of the lid, as the adhesive may not be strong enough to hold it in place.

Another board member noted that their TAPPH2O app has not been updated for approximately the last three months, and another noted that they had just received the automatic renewal charge notice. They called in to cancel the subscription.

Rebecca Hageman noted that the KDA website switched to a different platform, so the GMD 4 LEMA allocation address has changed as well. This has been updated on our website.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. June Update

The KWO Strategic Planning meeting was in Colby on June 17th. Shannon did not attend, however, several board members attended. Shannon had several conversations after the meeting with those in attendance, as well as Connie Owen and DWR folks to express concerns with these meetings within GMD 4. GMD 1 has the same sentiment we do with these meetings and will be providing a formal response to the KWO through the RAC.

Colter and Shannon attended the "Hearing on the High Plains" in Burlington, CO with Senators Bennet and Marshall. There were some good panelists, however, it was obvious the purpose of the hearing was to highlight the conservation easements that they want pushed in the next farm bill.

The GMD managers met to discuss the RCPP grant. We are getting down to the final phases with contracts. Shannon had Jake Kling look over one that has been proposed and they did not find anything concerning. Shannon met with Monty Breneman with the NW KS NRCS for a planning session on the collaboration meeting between all the NRCS and DOC folks and GMD 4. Everyone is anticipating this meeting with great energy and positivity.

Yesterday, Shannon attended a meeting in Garden City, which was put on by Aimpoint Research. They were founded and currently led by U.S. Army Intelligence Officers and have been working on sustainable beef. Shannon had been contacted several times by these folks and has educated them on our LEMAs. Katie Durham with GMD 1 also attended this meeting. The meeting focused on creating policies that address water conservation barriers.

b. Future Opportunities

Public meetings have been scheduled: July 23rd @ 1 pm in St. Francis; July 25th @ 10 am in Goodland; July 30th @ 1 pm in Colby; August 1st @ 1 pm in Hoxie. These are just meetings to focus on feelings and attitudes moving toward the next LEMA. It also appears as if I need to utilize the opportunity to clarify any rumors after the AEM mapping occurred. An email will be sent to all water use correspondents.

August 7th will be the NRCS/DOC/GMD 4 Collaboration meeting here in Colby.

August 13th will be a KGMDA meeting with location currently not discussed.

August 20th will be the next Aimpoint meeting in Manhattan.

August 21st is the Ag Summit in Manhattan, Shannon will be attending, and the registration is free this year.

6. FIELD REPORTS

With Austin on board, Colter has been over in SD 6 doing more in-depth courtesy checks in that area. He found only one meter that needs attention so far. Colter has done 2 rate tests, with another being scheduled. Austin continues to work on the 5-year checks throughout the district. He is about halfway through the list, which excluded municipalities and feed lots. They will go out together to check those meters, as most may be in secured areas.

Colter did want to get the boards opinion on meters located on the pivots, with no visible trail/track into the pivot. According to the LEMA, producers are supposed to be recording meter readings at least every two weeks. The board felt that a courtesy call to the producer would be in order to remind them.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

The advisory committee meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2024, starting at 1 p.m. here in the board room.

b. SD-6

The advisory committee meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2024, starting at 1 p.m. at the First State Bank basement

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

d. Staff Contracts Motion

Shannon noted that there was no action taken last month after the Executive Session regarding staff contracts.

Brent Rogers moved to approve salaries as discussed in executive session on June 12th. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

e. Management Program

Shannon has been working to update the management program; she is waiting on some language regarding voting/election. She plans to have a draft ready for the next meeting.

f. Building Maintenance

Colter worked on securing bids for concrete to replace the grass on the north side of the building, and Jody called several times to get Stephens Construction in to look at the leaky roof. Stephens finally showed up this morning and will email a bid to Jody. She will follow up with Mitch Gatz regarding the roof.

g. Strategic Planning

Shannon noted that GMD 1 has drafted an "Official Statement" regarding their concerns with KWO Strategic Planning. She wanted to know the board's opinion regarding issuing a statement as well. The board requested Shannon draft a statement regarding their concerns with the Strategic planning meetings.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 Regulation Change

Shannon handed out a copy of GMD1's well spacing requirements. The board has requested to draft proposed regulation language that limits the redrilling of wells to within 300' and up to a quarter mile in some circumstances.

- b. **DWR Impairment Proposed Reg Change**
Shannon dispersed a copy of the existing regulations, the proposed regulation, and Shannon's thoughts on the proposed regulation changes.
- c. **Budget**
Shannon handed out a copy of the budget worksheet, which included: actual 2024 Expenses as of June 30, 2024, 2024 Final Assessed, 2025 Proposed Budget and proposed 2025 Assessed. The proposed 2025 assessed budget will be the budget for the budget hearing in August and keeps assessments the same as last year at \$0.35 per AF
- d. **Executive Session**

At 11:00 a.m. Brent Rogers moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the board, attorney, and staff as requested for personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

The session expired.

Lynn Goossen moved to approve the negotiation as discussed in the executive session. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

a. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

More discussion was had on the strategic planning meetings and Jake Kling explained the physical location requirement with virtual meetings and having a quorum.

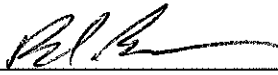
b. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2024, at 9 a.m. C.D.T. at the GMD 4 office. The budget hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. C.D.T.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



Brent Rogers, Acting Secretary