

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
August 14, 2024

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The August 14, 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:

Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent: Jerry Binning and Dylan Loyd.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, Colter Stoll, and Eryn Freeman – GMD 4 staff; and Jake Kling – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart and Rebecca Hageman – DWR; and Sean Miller.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Lynn Goossen moved the minutes of the July 10, 2024 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

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

3. OPEN FORUM

Nothing was presented.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart wanted to remind everyone who may be close to their annual allocation has the option to apply for a 4-year Multi- Year Flex Account before the end of this year. However, he noted that with the calculations used to determine the allocation, the numbers may end up being less than their annual allocation from the state.

Kelly reported that their office has been busy with minimum desirable streamflow in the other areas of their jurisdiction. Three staff members are now helping headquarters with working through the backlog of applications that have not been worked.

Rebecca Hageman reported that she has been working on the meter repair forms that are coming into their office. She noted that backup records have been easier to get from producers.

Shannon reported for Keadron Pearson who was not available for the meeting.

- August 21 KWA Meeting in Wichita, expected to have a virtual option available to listen in to. She will share if/when it comes available.
- Bottom Line Conference is taking place in Lakin, August 22 & 23. Lynn Goossen will be on a discussion panel.
- Kansas Soil Health Alliance will host a soil health field tour the first part of next week in Northwest KS. Contact Keadron if you are interested in the flyer.
- Upper Republican RAC met on July 19 in Oakley to provide their collective input as a RAC for the Governor's Strategic Planning Process.
- The Oct KWA will be in Northwest KS tentatively set for Oct 16th.

Sean Miller reported that with this being an election year, it is anyone's guess as to how the cards will fall regarding committees, etc.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. June Update

On July 11th, Shannon, Colter, and Austin went to view the Rain 360 irrigation system SE of Menlo. It was very informative, and they learned first-hand from PACLeader how it operates.

On July 15th, Shannon met virtually with the Governor's office, GMD 1, staff from NRCS, DOC and Senator Moran and Marshall's offices about NRCS collaboration. This will be a continued conversation as things evolve working to get decisions made more locally.

Shannon conducted four public meetings about the LEMA renewal. Very good conversations were had but not a large attendance. Shannon distributed a summary of each of those meetings.

Shannon had her monthly meeting with Vijay of the Governor's office. Trevor with GMD 3 had written two grants now for the Master Irrigator program and has been denied for both despite being very good proposals. Vijay has requested that proposal and we have hopes that it may now get funded by the state.

On August 5th, Shannon visited with folks involved in a Kansas Water Dashboard project at KU that involves KGS. Their efforts are to gather publicly-available data in Kansas and organize it onto a dashboard. They have started Phase I in GMD 3 and will apply for Phase II that will include GMD 4 on September 26th. This project includes Viaanix sensors on municipal and irrigation wells where data is transmitted. Producers can get paid \$10 per well to provide a weekly survey on how much water was used. They would like a letter of support.

There was a virtual option for the KWO Strategic Planning meeting on August 13th @ 9 am. Shannon did not attend in person, since she was traveling to the KGMDA meeting. She did view a part of it from Stafford.

On August 13th, Shannon traveled to Stafford for the KGMDA meeting. They discussed the RCPP Grant, Cost-Share Initiative, Articles of Incorporation, the Meter Summit, and Impairment Regulations. It was noted that this was Mark Rude's last KGMDA meeting.

b. Future Opportunities

August 19th will be the NRCS/DOC/GMD 4 Collaboration meeting in Colby at the Colby Event Center.

August 20 & 21st in Manhattan will be the Kansas Ag Growth Summit. Aimpoint will give their final suggestions on the 20th in a separate presentation.

August 23rd through September 3rd Shannon will be on vacation and not answering her phone. Colter will be the acting manager.

September 18th is RCPP Training in Salina. Shannon is hoping to take Colter to this and possibly Jody depending on what the agenda looks like.

October 9th Shannon has been invited to speak at the Kansas Municipalities Annual Summit. They want to hear about the success of the LEMAs and it will be a great opportunity to build a better bridge with them.

October 16th is the KWA meeting somewhere in NW Kansas. More information on location will be available when it is released.

November 13th & 14th is the Governor's Water Conference.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Since the last meeting, Colter has been out in the field and checked 210 wells. Most of the wells were in SD-6, and he only had 2 wells that needed courtesy calls. This year he

has developed a planned route, and has a notebook with the needed forms, maps, etc. that he feels has streamlined the process. He has started on 5-5-11 checks, which will consist of physical checks in the morning and coming back to the office to complete the paperwork in the afternoon.

With classes starting at Fort Hays Tech – Northwest, Austin's last day was August 8th. He checked a total of 632 wells off the 5-year list, which leaves 159 wells. Most of these wells are municipal, or wells that need the four-wheeler to access.

Unfortunately, Colter had to play rescuer/mechanic 2 days this last month as the 2006 Ford left Austin stuck on the side of the road. Thankfully Colter's mechanical skills got the pickup back on the road, but he set up an appointment with the Ford dealership to check it over for any other issues.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Shannon distributed a copy of the GMD 4 LEMA annual report to the board, which included minutes for the July 31st advisory committee meeting. After pushing the meeting date back, attendance was still low. Shannon noted that great conversations took place. The question was raised as to whether an advisory committee is needed. It was suggested that we keep the advisory committee as another avenue to say we included public input.

b. SD-6

Shannon distributed a copy of the SD-6 LEMA annual report to the board, which included minutes for the July 24th advisory committee meeting. All but one member was in attendance. She felt the conversations were excellent.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

d. Management Program

Shannon distributed an updated copy of the management program. She noted the changes that were made and asked for input from the board.

Brent Rogers moved to approve the updated management program as corrected. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

e. Building Maintenance

Colter distributed the 3 bids for concrete work on the north side of the building. A brief discussion regarding the details of each of the bids took place.

Shane Mann moved to accept the bid by Macias Contractor LLC for a 26 x 100 x 6 parking slab. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

a. GMD 4 Regulation Change

DWR was to have an internal discussion on the proposal Shannon had emailed. She has not heard anything back as of today.

Ted Nighswonger moved to adopt a moratorium that limits the redrilling of wells to within 300’ until language is incorporated into regulations. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Hearing @ 10:00 a.m.

At 10:10 a.m. Brett Oelke opened the Budget Hearing. Shannon Kenyon noted that there was no previous testimony submitted to the district office before the hearing. She provided testimony to the proposed budget. Brett Oelke asked if there was any additional testimony regarding the 2025 GMD4 Operating Budget. There were no members of the public present that gave additional testimony. The hearing was closed at 10:12 a.m.

b. SET ASSESSMENTS

Lynn Goossen moved to approve the following resolution for the 2025 Budget:

WHEREAS the district membership during the 49th Annual Meeting adopted the proposed 2025 operating budget of \$440,448.00 for consideration at a subsequent public hearing; and

WHEREAS the board scheduled, duly noticed and conducted a public hearing regarding the tentatively adopted, proposed 2025 operating budget on August 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS all testimony and public comment was duly considered;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the 2025 operating budget for the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 shall be approved for \$440,448 – as follows:

	2025 Proposed		2025 Final Assessed	
110 POSTAGE		\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
111 Newsletter	\$0.00			
112 General	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	
120 PRINTING		\$300.00		\$500.00
121 Newsletter	\$0.00			
122 Administrative	\$300.00		\$500.00	
130 DUES	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
140 SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
150 INSURANCE		\$19,000.00		\$19,000.00
151 Office	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	

152 Public Officials' Liability				
153 Auto				
154 Workmans' Comp.				
155 Inland Marine				
156 Unemployment	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00	
160 TELEPHONE	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
170 SALARIES AND BENEFITS		\$300,048.00		\$270,048.00
171 Gross Sal, Kpers, SS, Etc.	\$300,000.00		\$270,000.00	
172 Health Insurance	\$48.00		\$48.00	
180 TRAVEL		\$20,000.00		\$18,000.00
181 Board	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
182 Staff	\$10,000.00		\$8,000.00	
190 VEHICLES		\$24,200.00		\$14,000.00
191 Repairs/Maintenance	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00	
192 Operation	\$20,000.00		\$10,000.00	
193 Tags	\$200.00			
194 Purchase/Lease				
200 CONTRACTED SERVICES		\$41,000.00		\$46,000.00
201 Accounting	\$9,000.00		\$9,000.00	
202 Legal	\$12,000.00		\$20,000.00	
203 Misc. Support	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00	
204 Legislative Support	\$15,000.00		\$12,000.00	
205 Drilling				
206 Weather Modification				
210 PUBLICATIONS		\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00
211 Legal Notices	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00	
220 COOP PROGRAMS		\$30,000.00		\$10,000.00
221 Administrative	\$5,000.00		\$2,000.00	
222 Equipment	\$10,000.00		\$3,000.00	
223 Contracted Studies				
224 Education Program	\$15,000.00		\$5,000.00	
230 ADMINISTRATIVE		\$23,000.00		\$16,500.00
231 Office Supplies	\$8,000.00		\$6,000.00	
232 Copy Machine	\$2,000.00		\$2,500.00	
233 Computer Maint	\$7,000.00		\$5,000.00	
234 Postage Meter Lease				
235 Bank Charges				
236 Field Supplies	\$6,000.00		\$3,000.00	
240 NEW EQUIPMENT		\$22,000.00		\$13,500.00
241 Field	\$12,000.00		\$3,500.00	
242 Office	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
250 CONTINGENCY RESERVE		\$0.00		\$0.00
260 FACILITY		\$16,000.00		\$23,000.00
261 Rent				
262 Maintenance	\$16,000.00		\$15,000.00	
263 Remodel/Purchase				
264 Building Utilities			\$8,000.00	
REIMBURSED EXPENSES				
300 FOUNDATION		\$0.00		
305 Foundation Subscriptions				
325 Foundation Telephone				
345 Foundation Accounting				
350 Foundation Legal				
370 Foundation Tech Support				

\$507,748.00	\$507,748.00	\$440,448.00	\$440,448.00
wtr_rt = 847869			
land = 2877085			
wtr (.35)		296,646	
land (.05) = 143854		143,854	
		0.00	
surplus		\$160.00	

WHEREAS KSA 82a-1030 requires that a land assessment and/or water user charge be levied in order to fund the approved budget; and

WHEREAS there exists as of August 14, 2024, 2,877,820 acres of land eligible for assessment and 847,559 acre feet of water eligible for the water user charge for the 2025 operating budget; and

WHEREAS after due consideration of all testimony it is the board's decision that a 2025 budget of \$440,448 should be provided assessment support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the land assessment and water user charge for the 2025 operating budget shall be set at:

***\$.05 per acre of assessable land; and
\$.35 per assessable acre foot of water.***

Brent Rogers seconded the motion which passed unanimously via voice vote (no "abstentions" or "nay" votes.)

- c. Fort Hays Tech – Northwest (Formerly NWKTC)**
Jack Polifka gave an update on the Precision Agriculture program.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Shannon noted that Mark Rude's last day with GMD 3 was August 13, 2024.

Shane Mann reported on an app that could be used to communicate, instead of a group text, where a reply all could be problematic.

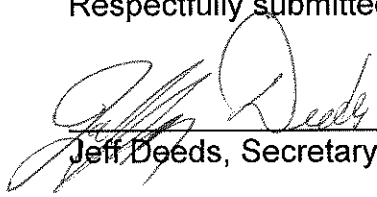
10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 4, 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:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary