

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
November 6, 2024

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The November 6, 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:

Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent: Jerry Binning, Jeff Deeds, and Brent Rogers.

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

Shane Mann moved to appoint Marsha Schilling as acting secretary in Jeff Deeds' absence. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Changes to the agenda were noted:

Add 8. e. KU Funding

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ted Nighswonger moved the minutes of the September 11, 2024 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Shannon distributed the updated October financial statements to the board.

Nate Emig moved that the financial reports and expenditures for the month of September & October be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Shane Mann noted that the City of Pratt has shut off two of their wells, due to nitrate contamination.

Also, the City of Hays and Russell have filed a lawsuit against Edwards County over zoning regulations they argue are targeting their plan to draw groundwater from the R9 Ranch. Shannon passed around a short article she found in the Rural Water Association newsletter. The article raises concern as it quotes and paraphrases Governor Kelly mentioning that irrigation water use taxes are a part of the equation in funding the \$140 million that will be requested.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart noted that their office has been quiet, with harvest keeping most producers busy. This has allowed staff to get caught up on paperwork.

Rebecca Hageman reported she has been working on a list from headquarters, of water use report discrepancies with 2022 ending reading numbers and 2023 beginning reading numbers. She wants them cleaned up before the 2024 Water Use Report comes out.

Keadron Pearson reported that the Governor's Conference has sold out again this year. The Kansas Water Authority will be meeting the day before at the hotel.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. September & October

September 18th staff traveled to Salina for a meeting on the RCPP grant. Very little was answered at this meeting, but Shannon went back on October 23rd while Jody and Colter participated via Zoom and there is some light on the horizon with this project. Shannon has some reservations regarding data sharing, which is a huge component. She asked for the board's position doing the irrigation system evaluations.

On October 3rd, we conducted another training event for the local NRCS and DOC personnel. There were about 40 people in attendance, and we received some great feedback. The KWO supplied lunch for attendees, and we plan to continue and possibly expand it.

October 9th, Shannon gave a presentation to the Kansas Municipal Utilities at their Governor's Conference. It looked to be sold out and her presentation topic was on "Proactive Groundwater Management".

Shannon attended the Kansas Water Authority meeting in Oakley, on October 15th & 16th. They went over budget items. One thing to note is that they voted to remove about \$500,000 from irrigation cost-share and apply to reservoirs. I was reminded that this was just a recommendation from the KWA and that it still had to have approval from above. At the suggestion of the Governor's Office, we plan to write a letter from KGMDA expressing our concern for this.

On October 29th Colter and Shannon went to Hoxie for NRCS Irrigation Training. As we have actively involved them in our training events, they have extended the invitation to us.

General Mills reached out to Shannon requesting a conference call on October 31st. They questioned the how and what GMD 4 was doing with the LEMAs and what more we could need. Shannon told them that nothing was needed at this time.

b. Future Opportunities

November 12th Colter and Shannon will be traveling to Manhattan, for the Governor's Conference. There is a KGMDA meeting from 11 am until 12:30 pm then a KWA meeting from 1 – 4 pm, that day. That evening starts the Governor's Conference,

and we will head home on the 14th. GMD 4 Board and Staff are being featured as a "Success Story" over lunch on Day 1.

On December 4th Shannon will be headed back to Salina for another RCPP meeting. Shannon has been invited to present a short program to the Colby Kiwanis club over the lunch hour on December 5th.

On December 9th Shannon will be presenting at Fort Hays State University at the NW KS Ag Summit.

The last KWA meeting of 2024 has been scheduled for December 11th. The location will be announced next week. Shannon will probably be going, considering the actions to be taken prior to the start of the legislative session.

The Christmas party is scheduled for December 18th, early evening.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Since the last meeting, Colter has been out in the field and checked 42 wells. He conducted two rate tests as well. Colter has accompanied Shannon to several meetings and training sessions, as well as attending the Fort Hays Tech – Northwest Expo and advisory meeting.

Trent McCain is helping with checking wells again. He is mainly checking year 2 wells from the 5-year list. While Colter is making follow up calls with producers off the year 1 list. Colter still has approximately 500 "hard to get to" wells left on the year 1 list.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Shannon had a conference call with Earl Lewis on the LEMA talking points from the previous board meeting. He was in favor of many of these talking points which leaves the reduction quantity in question. It was preferred that an inch reduction was considered as opposed to a percentage. Shannon will plan for more public meetings to discuss with them.

b. SD-6

Nothing to report.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

d. Management Program

Shannon has sent the program off for approval from DWR and still has not heard any response at this time. She will see Earl Lewis next week.

e. GMD 4 Regulation Change

Shannon distributed a draft copy of some language that she would like the board to look over, take home and mull over. She will also work with Kelly Stewart and Jake Kling to finalize more of the language.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Irrigation Water Day

With the success of the NRCS – DOC training, one of the suggestions in the feedback survey was to have a "training for producers" with irrigation topics / sessions that they may be interested in.

The board agreed that an open discussion on “LEMA next steps” would be beneficial as well. A producer panel discussion on “what we’re doing” and “what’s working” may also be of interest.

b. Annual Meeting

The 50th Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held February 19, 2025, in Hoxie. Shannon asked for suggestions of a place to hold the meeting, since Brownie Wilson will be the guest speaker. He will have a PowerPoint presentation, so a technology friendly venue would be beneficial.

c. Cost-Share Refund

We received a refund check on a portion of the cost-share program we participated in with the Department of Conservation that expired the end of June 2023. The check is made out to the district, however the original funds came out of the Foundation.

Dylan Loyd moved to deposit the check in the district account, then transfer the funds to the foundation account. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

d. Executive Session – To protect trade secrets

At 11:17 a.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the board, attorney, manager, Rebecca Hageman, Kelly Stewart, and Colter Stoll to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 11:37 a.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for an additional 20 minutes with the board, attorney, manager, Rebecca Hageman, Kelly Stewart, and Colter Stoll to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 11:57 a.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board, attorney, manager, Rebecca Hageman, Kelly Stewart, and Colter Stoll to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 12:07 p.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for an additional 5 minutes with the board, attorney, manager, Rebecca Hageman, Kelly Stewart, and Colter Stoll to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 12:12 p.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board, attorney, manager, Rebecca Hageman, Kelly Stewart, and Colter Stoll to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Karen Flanagin moved in respect to recommendation on Term Permit #20249051 that the project of the McCarty dairy expansion to operate under district rules, regulations, and LEMA prior to January 1, 2023 and that the project will be considered complete no later than December 31, 2027. After which all current rules, regulations, and LEMAs will apply.

The motion was seconded by Shane Man and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

e. KU Funding

KGS sent two requests for letters of support on funding opportunities. The first one was from Scott Ishman on a project titled “National Science Foundation Regional Resilience Innovation Incubator Program”. After discussion with the board on what Scott relayed to Shannon on what the request means, the board decided it would be fine to send a letter of intent to partner.

Sam Zipper inquired to GMD 4 about a letter of support for an OpenET proposal. The board has reservations about the information that can be misused with this platform and does not support the potential for unethical use of the information. They do not support this proposed study.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Nothing was presented.

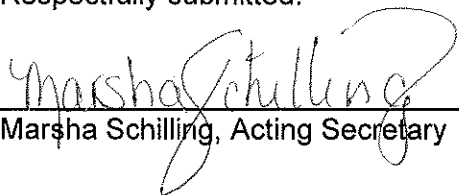
10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024, with the Christmas party to follow. The time will be announced after location arrangements are made.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:


Marsha Schilling, Acting Secretary

