

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
December 18, 2024

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The December 18, 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, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers (virtually), and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent:

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 (virtually); Keadron Pearson – KWO (virtually); Tim Boese – GMD 2 (virtually); Dave Jones – DOC (virtually), Orrin Feril – GMD 5 (virtually); Sean Miller (virtually); and Bill Miller.

Changes to the agenda were noted:

Move 7. h. Staff Contracts to 8. b. Executive Session – Staff Contracts

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ted Nighswonger moved the minutes of the November 6, 2024 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

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

3. OPEN FORUM

Shannon passed around an invitation to the 2024 KSU TAPS awards banquet, as well as a postcard for the 2025 TAPS program.

Bill Miller addressed the board regarding property taxes on irrigated ground versus dryland acres, and how the counties figure taxes. He wanted the board to be aware of the information he learned from the Thomas County Appraiser.

Bill Miller left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart noted that the 2024 Water Use Reports will be mailed out December 31, 2024. On January 1, 2025, the online reporting website will open for reporting. Once again staff from Stockton Field Office will be assisting KGS with their annual well measurements. Kelly reiterated that the Chief Engineer, Earl Lewis, has signed a moratorium on moving wells over 300 feet in GMD 4. Staff reviewed the updated Management Plan draft and said that we should see the signed approval of the document from Earl soon.

Rebecca Hageman reported she has been working on cleaning up the 5-5-11 plans that do not match the time period of the LEMAs (2023-2027).

Keadron Pearson reported that the next Water Authority meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025 in Topeka.

Sean Miller reported the leadership changes that will take place in the Kansas House and Senate, in relation to water and the GMD's.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. November and December

Shannon, Colter, and Shane traveled to Manhattan November 12th through the 14th for the Governor's Water Conference. There was a KGMDA meeting and KWA meeting prior to the start of the conference. The KGMDA meeting was a formality, to change the by-laws. The KWA meeting was further discussion on Strategic Planning. GMD 4 received a Success Story Award. The award was circulated around for the board to view.

On December 4th, Shannon attended an RCPP meeting in Salina. The GMDs are still working on the details with the DOC.

Shannon presented to the Colby Kiwanis Club on December 5th and on December 6th to the KARL group traveling through Goodland. Then on December 9th Representatives from GMD 1, 3, and 4 presented at FHSU for the Northwest Agriculture Summit. Each representative was given about 20 minutes to present.

Shannon logged in for the Kansas Water Authority meeting that took place on December 11th in Parsons.

With the knowledge that we should be getting the management program back from the Chief Engineer soon, a hearing will need to be scheduled. Shannon asked how the board felt about adding it to the Annual Meeting agenda. The board felt that it would be a pertinent, and to publish the legal notice in the local papers for the hearing.

b. Future Opportunities

January will be a busy month! We have the four regional public meetings beginning on January 6th through the 14th. Shannon sent out an email to inform producers of the LEMA talks and the AEM Mapping data.

Keadron, Shannon, and Karen Flanagan have put together a schedule for the Irrigation Water Day scheduled for January 9th at the Colby Event Center. Shannon had included the date and time for this event in the email she sent out to water use correspondents about the public meetings.

February 3rd through the 5th is the GMD Legislative Retreat in Topeka and the KGMDA Annual Meeting.

February 19th is our Annual Meeting in Hoxie.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Since the last meeting, Colter has been out in the field and checked 46 wells. He accompanied Shannon to the Governor's Conference. Colter has worked on a couple of change applications and MYFA applications.

Trent and Austin both put in a couple of days, mainly checking year 2 wells from the 5-year list. While Colter has compiled a list of the wells that need a full compliance check to be completed in the spring.

Colter is still working with VandWater employees on special scenario wells, however their access to information from WRIS has helped knock down the time spent on the phone.

Colter will attend an Agronomy lunch being hosted in Oakley on December 19th.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA
Nothing to report.

b. SD-6
Nothing to report.

- c. Other LEMA Developments
Nothing to report.
- d. Management Program
This was covered in the Manager's Report.
- e. GMD 4 Regulation Change
Shannon has been working on this language and shared her thoughts with Kelly Stewart. The board felt that once she feels the language is solid to bring it back to the board.
- f. Annual Meeting
Jody distributed the nominating petitions for board members up for re-election. She also had voter eligibility paperwork available for the board members that needed them.
- g. RCPP Grant
Shannon, with the help of David Jones of DOC and managers from GMDs 2 & 5 described the first phase of the RCPP program that involves only DOC funds. Concern with data privacy and implementation are still part of the discussion.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Executive Session – To protect trade secrets

At 4:43 p.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the board, attorney, and staff to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

The board came out of executive session at 4: 55 p.m.

Lynn Goossen moved to provide recommendation as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes – Brett Oelke abstained from voting).

- b. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

At 4:57 p.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes with the board, attorney, and Colter Stoll for the purpose of personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Ted Nighswonger moved to modify Colter Stoll's contract as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Brent Rogers moved to approve said contract. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Questions regarding the assessment charges were asked, as well as complicated water right scenarios were discussed.

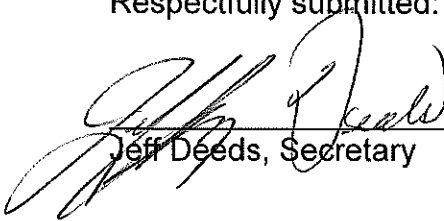
10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2025, at 9 a.m., with the Revised Budget Hearing scheduled at 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary

