

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
February 26, 2025

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The February 26, 2025, board meeting was opened at the Sheridan County 4-H Building, Hoxie, Kansas by President, Brett Oelke.

Board members present for some, or all the meeting were:

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

Board members absent: Jerry Binning, Carl Davis, and Nate Emig.

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; Rebecca Hageman – DWR; Keadron Pearson – KWO; and Baker Bugbee.

Changes to the agenda were noted:

Add: **8. b. Audit**
8. c. Executive Session - Personnel
8. d. Election of Officers

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Shane Mann 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 that the minutes of January 8, 2025, board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Karen Flanagan and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

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

3. OPEN FORUM

Brett Oelke had GMD 4 Board and Staff members, as well as agency personnel introduce themselves and their positions to Baker Bugbee. Baker filed his nomination petition to run for the At-Large position on the Board of Directors.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Rebecca Hageman reported that Saturday is the deadline to have the 2024 Water Use Reports reported online or postmarked by. She noted that the Stockton Field Office personnel have been busy helping producers with water use reporting. Rebecca has been working on gathering follow-up documentation for several repair forms.

Keadron Pearson reported that the Upper Republican RAC had met in Colby on February 25th. A Mid-Session Update on Implementing the Kansas Water Plan webinar is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2025, at Noon. The webinar will be available via YouTube after the event has ended. The next KWA meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2025 in Southwest Kansas. Keadron also noted that Fiscal Year 2025 Recipients of HB 2302 Grants were announced and posted on the KWO website.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. January and most of February

On January 9th, the Irrigation Water Day was held at the Colby Event Center with 75 people in attendance. Copies of the exit survey responses were included in the board packet.

Shannon finished up the Goodland, St. Francis, and virtual public meetings. All comments from producers collected during all of the public meetings have been included in the board packet. She was pleasantly surprised at the ambition to reduce water usage and extend the life of the aquifer.

From February 3rd through the 6th, Shannon was in Topeka. She assisted with handing out GMD information and Legislative Reception invites with GMD 1 and 3 Directors. Shannon went to the House Water Committee (HWC) Tuesday morning to support GMD 1, 2 & 5 on their annual reports; then the afternoon was spent with the GMDs Roundtable discussion. She felt it was very productive. The Legislative Reception was also very good. Wednesday was the KGMDA meeting. It was not well attended because of the icy roads, but still very productive. Thursday morning, Shannon gave the GMD 4 report to the HWC. Shannon emphasized the feeling of unity and collaboration between the 5 GMDs, and noted that great things are happening!

There are several items in the legislature that Shannon has been watching but nothing of huge concern. There is a reorganization bill that proposes to pull water out of the Department of Agriculture and put into it's own little corner, but not at the cabinet level. Everyone agrees that it isn't going anywhere this year, but she will be watching for next year. Another is HB 2172 that proposes to create a taskforce that looks into water. There is only one GMD representative on the list now, but we could get nominated by a legislator. HB 2113 is for increased funding. These bills do not directly affect GMD 4.

b. Future Opportunities

Lee Wheeler 101 and 102 will be March 18th, at the Colby Event Center.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Since the last meeting, Colter has worked on a couple of change applications and assisted with water use reporting. Most of the acre certification maps have been turned back in when producers came in to report water use.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Discussion was had on the public meetings and suggestions from the public. The board requested Shannon create a proposed LEMA map with a 15% reduction to see what it looks like at the next meeting.

b. SD-6

Nothing to report.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

d. GMD 4 Regulation Change

Shannon is waiting on a response from DWR.

e. RCPP

A draft copy of the DOC contract was distributed. Several items were discussed concerning the contract. Jake agreed to take a closer look at it and provide feedback.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual Meeting & Management Program Hearing at 1:30 p.m.

This item was tabled until the assigned time.

b. Audit

Jody presented the 2024 Audit to the board. Copies are available at the GMD 4 office.

Shane Mann moved to approve the 2024 Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

c. Executive Session - Personnel

At 11:22 a.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the board, attorney, and manager to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 11:32 a.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board, attorney, and manager, to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 11:40 a.m. Shane Mann moved to recess the meeting, until after the Annual Meeting and Management Program Hearing. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

The meeting was recessed at 11:40 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 2:54 p.m.

d. Election of Officers

Brent Rogers moved to cast a unanimous ballot to keep the officers the same: Brett Oelke – President, Nate Emig – Vice President, Lynn Goossen – Treasurer, and Jeff Deeds – Secretary. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

It was noted that the election procedures – eligible voter information needs to be publicized before each annual meeting.

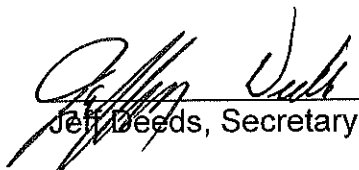
10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary