

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4

August 6, 2025

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The August 6, 2025, 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, Brett Oelke, and Brent Rogers.

Board members absent were: Carl Davis, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, and Marsha Shilling.

Others present for some, or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, Jack Polifka, and Trent McCain – GMD 4 staff; and Jake Kling – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart (in person) and Rebecca Hageman (virtually) -- DWR; Keadron Pearson (virtually) – KWO; Mark Billinger (virtually) – KGS; and Sean Miller (virtually) and Jake Wareham (virtually) – Capitol Strategies; and Tony Horinek.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Lynn Goossen moved that the minutes of June 4, 2025, board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shannon distributed copies of the July financial statements.

Brent Rogers moved that the financial reports and expenditure for the months of June and July be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart noted there have been some changes in personnel at the Stockton Field Office. Assistant Water Commissioner, Mark Billinger accepted a position with KGS, so David Means has accepted the Assistant Water Commissioner position. Both Kelly and Rebecca Hageman are back at the office after some leave time, so playing catch up and summer work are their focus.

Once again information for HB 2302 Grant Programs can be found on the Kansas Water Office website. There is still a position vacant on the Upper Republican RAC. Keadron Pearson reported that the next Water Authority meeting is scheduled for August 20th in Manhattan.

Mark Billinger gave a brief overview of his new position as a western Kansas KGS employee, and the water quality testing program they are starting.

Jake Wareham introduced himself, he is a colleague of Sean Miller's at Capitol Strategies. Sean then gave a brief background of Former Senator Carolyn McGinn, who has filled the position of the Governor's Special Advisor on Water. The Legislature will be working on a budget of its own ahead of the budget preparation by the Governor's office. They will then compare numbers to the Governor's office numbers. So, budget conversations will start much earlier than in the past.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. June and July Update

It has been quite busy despite the phone being quiet. Jack, Trent, and Shannon attended the 360 Rain field demonstration near Hoxie on July 15th.

Shannon sent an e-newsletter out informing stakeholders of the upcoming public meetings on the LEMA and ITI Cost-Share.

The ceremonial signing of HB 2172 - Water Task Force Bill was in Hays on July 9th. As a member, it was requested that Shannon attend. The first online Task Force meeting was July 21st. A second online meeting took place on July 28th. An in-person meeting is scheduled for two days, August 11th & 12th in Dodge City.

Shannon and Trent attended the annual meter summit in St. John, Kansas on July 29th. She thought it was a good opportunity for Trent to put some names with faces of other GMD staff members and suppliers.

There was a webinar about the 2025 well measurements conducted by KGS on August 5th.

A gentleman with PBS had come to the office seeking funding. Jody had informed him that we are a non-profit, governmental organization, which did not normally sponsor events outside of agriculture or water related focus.

b. Future Opportunities

KGMDA meeting on August 19th in Stafford, Kansas.

Bottom Line Conference on August 21st & 22nd in Lakin, Kansas.

The Governor's Conference is November 12th & 13th in Manhattan. The Franklins will be honored as a Success Story.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Trent thanked the board for the opportunity to be the field technician. He has been out in the field and checked 53 wells, which consisted of mostly 5-5-11 checks and the 5-year list. There are a few acre certifications left to check. As stated earlier, he attended the 360 Rain Field Demonstration and the Meter Summit.

Jack's ITI-TSP: System Evaluator Certification has been achieved for all energy types that have been seen in the field currently. He passed out a flyer, as well as an example copy of the report given to a producer. Evaluations are going well, but onboarding has been a bit of a struggle. He has had to push and do almost all of the onboarding for those evaluations that have been done to this point. The first round of invoicing has been sent to the DOC for the evaluations that have been completed. A need for further evaluation equipment has been identified. Jack had a quote from Colby Ag Center for a new Yamaha Kodiak 4-wheeler.

Lynn Goossen moved to accept the bid from Colby Ag Center. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Shannon gave the board a handout with the comments from the public meetings. The Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for August 7th at 10 a.m. in the board room. Shannon felt the meetings went well, and a majority of the attendees agreed with the 15% reduction. The board wanted to wait until after the advisory committee meeting before taking a look at all the comments and recommendations.

b. SD-6

Shannon passed around some copies of the SD-6 Annual Report, which has been sent to DWR. The SD-6 LEMA Advisory Committee meeting was held on July 22nd. The committee decided to propose the SD 6 LEMA go from 55" to 50". All flexibility remains the same and request a true five-year quantity. Shannon was contacted after that meeting requesting that we have a public

meeting and another advisory meeting prior to making the official request to the GMD 4 Board. Shannon will look into scheduling a SD 6 specific special meeting for early December for public comment on reducing by an inch.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

d. GMD 4 Regulation Change

Shannon is still working on this; however, she is still waiting on information from the Attorney General's office.

e. Office Sprinkler

Jody handed out a more in-depth breakdown of the quote for work on the sprinkler system.

Brent Rogers moved to approve the quote as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or "nay" votes).

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Hearing – 10 A.M.

At 10:15 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 2026 GMD4 Operating Budget. There were no members of the public present that gave additional testimony. The hearing was closed at 10:16 a.m.

Karen Flanagan moved to approve the following resolution for the 2026 Budget:

WHEREAS the district membership during the 50th Annual Meeting adopted the proposed 2026 operating budget of \$492,900.00 for consideration at a subsequent public hearing; and

WHEREAS the board scheduled, duly noticed and conducted a public hearing regarding the tentatively adopted, proposed 2026 operating budget on August 6, 2025; and

WHEREAS all testimony and public comment was duly considered;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the 2026 operating budget for the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 shall be approved for \$848,475.00 – as follows:

	2026 Proposed			2026 Final Assessed		
110 POSTAGE		\$3,000.00	110 POSTAGE		\$2,000.00	
111 Newsletter			112 General	\$2,000.00		
112 General	\$3,000.00		120 PRINTING		\$1,500.00	
120 PRINTING		\$2,000.00	121 Newsletter			
121 Newsletter			122 Administrative	\$1,500.00		
122 Administrative	\$2,000.00		130 DUES	\$300.00	\$300.00	
130 DUES	\$300.00	\$300.00	140 SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$600.00	\$600.00	
140 SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$600.00	\$600.00	150 INSURANCE		\$15,050.00	
150 INSURANCE		\$16,550.00	151 Office	\$15,050.00		
151 Office	\$15,000.00					
152 Public Officials' Liability						
153 Auto						
154 Workmans' Comp.	\$50.00					
155 Inland Marine						
156 Unemployment	\$1,500.00					
160 TELEPHONE	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	160 TECHNOLOGY		\$17,000.00	
			161 Telephone/Internet	\$8,000.00		
			162 Computer Maintenance	\$2,000.00		
			163 Programs	\$2,000.00		
			164 New Equipment	\$5,000.00		
170 SALARIES AND BENEFITS		\$300,050.00	170 SALARIES AND BENEFITS			
171 Gross Sal, Kpers, SS, Etc.	\$300,000.00		171 Gross Sal, Kpers, SS, Etc.	\$260,000.00	\$280,000.00	
172 Health Insurance	\$50.00		172 Health Insurance	\$25.00		
			173 Unemployment	\$1,500.00		
180 TRAVEL		\$20,000.00	180 TRAVEL			
181 Board	\$12,000.00		181 Board	\$10,000.00	\$18,000.00	
182 Staff	\$8,000.00		182 Staff	\$8,000.00		
190 VEHICLES		\$19,200.00	190 VEHICLES			
191 Repairs/Maintenance	\$7,000.00		191 Repairs/Maintenance	\$6,000.00	\$14,200.00	
192 Operation	\$12,000.00		192 Operation	\$8,000.00		
193 Tags	\$200.00		193 Tags	\$200.00		
194 Purchase/Lease			194 Purchase/Lease			
200 CONTRACTED SERVICES		\$48,000.00	200 CONTRACTED SERVICES		\$46,500.00	
201 Accounting	\$9,000.00		201 Accounting	\$8,500.00		
202 Legal	\$18,000.00		202 Legal	\$20,000.00		
203 Misc. Support	\$6,000.00		203 Misc. Support	\$3,000.00		
204 Legislative Support	\$15,000.00		204 Legislative Support	\$15,000.00		
205 Drilling			205 Water Sampling			
206 Weather Modification			206 Drilling			
210 PUBLICATIONS		\$1,200.00	210 PUBLICATIONS			
211 Legal Notices	\$1,200.00		211 Legal Notices	\$800.00	\$800.00	
220 COOP PROGRAMS		\$5,000.00	220 EDUCATION PROGRAMS		\$5,000.00	
221 Administrative			221 Administrative	\$1,000.00		
222 Equipment			222 Equipment/Supplies	\$4,000.00		

**REIMBURSED
EXPENSES**

300 FOUNDATION

305 Foundation
Subscriptions

325 Foundation
Telephone

345 Foundation
Accounting

350 Foundation Legal

370 Foundation Tech
Support

REIMBURSED EXPENSES

300 FOUNDATION

305 Foundation Subscriptions

325 Foundation Telephone

345 Foundation Accounting

350 Foundation Legal

370 Foundation Tech Support

DOC	
Income :	425,000
Assess	
For :	441,950
wtr_rt =	
847883	
land =	
2899377	
wtr (.35)	296,759.00
land (.05) =	\$144,968.00
	\$866,727.00
surplus	-248

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 6, 2025, 2,899,377 acres of land eligible for assessment and 847,883 acre feet of water eligible for the water user charge for the 2026 operating budget; and

WHEREAS after due consideration of all testimony it is the board's decision that a 2026 budget of \$441,950.00 should be provided assessment support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the land assessment and water user charge for the 2026 operating budget shall be set at:

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

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

b. Governor's Conference Sponsorship

Shannon noted that at the KGMDA meeting the group discussed a sponsorship at either the Platinum or Gold level for the conference, to highlight their teamwork.

Jeff Deeds moved to sponsor the Governor's Conference, not to exceed \$600 using the manager's discretion as to the level of sponsorship. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

c. Warning about trees from the City of Colby

On June 11th, SCR Tree Service came and trimmed all of our trees. On June 23rd, an employee for the City of Colby, came into our office to deliver a violation of branches or limbs hanging lower than 13'6" from the street. He was informed that we just had the trees trimmed. Shannon also called the owner of SCR Tree Service, he came back out to measure them and said they were 12' but he couldn't cut back anymore without damaging the trees. It was suggested to move this discussion to Executive Session for Attorney Client Privilege.

d. KGS Water Quality Testing

Mark Billinger elaborated on the voluntary program that he will be doing. Any results will be listed on a township basis. He noted that this is an opportunity to explore the differences between all the aquifers in Kansas and take an in-depth look at how each is affected.

e. Authorized Signatures for Bank

With the increased meetings and out of office time that Shannon has been experiencing, she felt it would be a good idea to have Jack Polifka added as an authorized signature on checks.

Brent Rogers moved to add Jack Polifka to the signature cards at the banks. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no abstentions or “nay” votes).

f. KACD Request for Letter of Recommendation

Shannon received a proposal from the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts for a grant to put soil conservationists in their regional offices. There has been limited staff in the federal offices for several months. Shannon had drafted a letter for the board to review in their packets.

Jeff Deeds moved to send the letter Shannon had drafted. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

g. Executive Session – Nonelected Personnel

At 11:22 a.m. Jeff Deeds moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes with the manager, board, and attorney to discuss nonelected personnel. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

h. Executive Session – To Protect Trade Secrets

At 10:30 a.m. Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the manager, board, attorney, and Tony Horinek to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Brent Rogers moved to approve a waiver of the 300’ change in Point of Diversion for Tony Horinek. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

i. Executive Session – Attorney/Client Privilege

At 11:30 Karen Flanagan moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the manager, board, and attorney to discuss Attorney/Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

After attending the Colby LEMA public meeting, Lynn Goossen had time to reflect on the statement made: how will young people get funding if water keeps getting reduced? His thoughts were if there is no water left, how can they even start farming.

Shannon will be on vacation the last week of August and will not be answering her phone or emails.

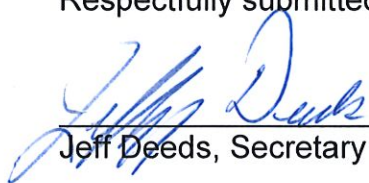
10.SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting is scheduled for September3, 2025 at 9 am CDT.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary

