

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
September 3, 2025

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The September 3, 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, Carl Davis, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers, and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent were: Jeff Deeds, and Lynn Goossen.

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; Rebecca Hageman (virtually) -- DWR; and Keadron Pearson (virtually) – KWO.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Shane Mann moved to appoint Brent Rogers acting Secretary in Jeff Deeds absence, and the consent agenda be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Carl Davis and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

Brent moved that the minutes of September 3, 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 updated August financial statements.

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

3. OPEN FORUM

Lynn Goossen had a procedure done in Denver yesterday and is doing well.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Rebecca Hageman reported that the Stockton Field office has been quiet. She is catching up on meter repair issues from the 2024 Water Use Reporting. Most correspondence is requests for backup records.

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 October 15, 2025, in Overland Park.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. August Update

After the conclusion of the LEMA public meetings, we had a GMD 4 LEMA Advisory Committee meeting on August 7th. Shannon will go into more detail in unfinished business.

August 11 & 12 was a Water Task Force meeting in Dodge City. A lot of presentations and politics. There is a lot of attention on water quality. The focus of the meeting was to identify risks and the list is long. However, they have categorized everything into three categories: groundwater, surface water, and infrastructure/storage. Next in-person meeting is planned for some time in October in Topeka.

KU is making a film about KGS and asked if Brett and Shannon would be included. A crew came out to Brett's and filmed them talking about how KGS benefits what GMD 4 is doing.

Kansas Groundwater Management District Association (KGMDA) met on August 19th in Stafford. Meetings are held quarterly. It's a great avenue for communication and collaboration among all the GMDs and agencies. There were great conversations about the Meter Summit, HB 2279 expectations from DWR, and DWR proposed rules and regulations that have been held up in the AGs office. Still not much information about it, but the discussion is beneficial.

b. Future Opportunities

With the hope of harvest starting soon, staff have begun to play catch-up in the office and reorganize the way some things are done, to help streamline data collection.

GMD 4 has been invited to set up a table on September 29th for the Kansas Democratic gathering here in Colby.

The Governor's Conference is November 12th & 13th. The Franklins will be honored as a Success Story. If you want to go, please let us know quickly. The conference usually sells out and hotel rooms go quickly.

Shannon has been contacted by a graduate student from K-State, regarding thoughts from producers regarding the economic side of conservation. Brett and Brent have spoken with him.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Trent again thanked the board for the opportunity to be a part of the team. He has been out in the field and checked 101 wells, which consisted of acre certification checks and the 5-year list. He noted that there has been excessive oil and trash at some sites. He called the producers to remind them to get them cleaned up, before the state calls in KDHE. It was also noted there were several sites with no access to the meters either due to tall weeds or crops, which means producers are not checking their meters at least every two weeks during the growing season as required by the LEMA.

Jack has completed 17 system evaluations. He has 5 more onboarding applications processed, with paperwork for 20 more assessments in producer's hands. He will be checking with those to see where they are at in the process of their onboarding paperwork. There is one producer that has applied for cost sharing through the D.O.C. program.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

The Advisory Committee meeting took place on August 7th at 10 a.m. in the board room. The recommendation from the committee was to request a 15% reduction in current LEMA quantities as outlined in the proposed map with the additional blue townships and require conservation plans for stockwater and municipalities. Also to request a carryover for those that conserved 25% or more during the 2023-2027 GMD 4 LEMA be allowed 5% carryover into the 2028-2032 LEMA. After discussion on several components of the next GMD 4 LEMA, Shannon will draft some language and provide more data as requested.

b. SD-6

Nothing to report.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

d. GMD 4 Regulation Change

There has been some activity with DWR proposed regulations. There may be a hearing scheduled for a few but not much has been released that is known. Shannon does not want to proceed with our regulations until the DWR regulations have gone through the process.

e. Signature Card at The Bank

Jana with the Bank was present to obtain the proper signatures for the new signature card with Jack as a signer. Signature still needed from Lynn Goossen.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Executive Session – Attorney Client Privilege

At 10:17 a.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the manager, board, and attorney to discuss attorney client privilege. The motion was seconded by Carl Davis and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Nothing to report.

10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting will be scheduled after harvest has started, most likely in November.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



Brent Rogers, Acting Secretary