

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
December 3, 2025

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The December 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, Jeff Deeds, Lynn Goossen, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, and Brent Rogers.

Board members absent were: Karen Flanagan 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 and David Means – DWR; and Keadron Pearson (virtually) – KWO; Jake Wareham (virtually) – Capitol Strategies; Jace C. (virtually); Baker Bugbee and Robert Bell.

Changes to the agenda were noted:

REMOVE: **8. d. KSU Research Request** – deadline passed

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Jerry Binning moved the consent agenda be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

Carl Davis moved that the minutes of September 3, 2025, board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shannon distributed copies of the updated November financial statements.

Brent Rogers moved that the financial reports and expenditure reports for the month of September, October, and November be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Jeff Deeds reported having a seal issue with a meter in GMD 1, regarding getting information on an “approved seal” list.

Shannon noted that there were old county soil survey books if anyone is interested, please take them.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart introduced David Means, the new Assistant Water Commissioner. David has been working in the Stockton Field Office for almost 20 years. He started out as a field technician. Stockton Field Office has been quiet, with most producers still in the field.

Keadron Pearson reported the next scheduled KWA meeting is January 27th in Topeka and that a KWA meeting was currently in session during the GMD 4 meeting.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Manager Updates

On October 8th, a couple of representatives from a company called Charm came to talk with Jack and Shannon. Josh Svaty suggested they talk to us. They are interested in injecting biomass into the same formation as oil field brine waste to offset carbon credits from large corporations. Shannon didn't have a problem with this until they told her that they wanted biomass from our producer fields to process and inject. We let them know that we don't have "extra" biomass for them to process as we utilize our biomass for cover, grazing, etc. Shannon had a short conversation with Josh Svaty on the potential harmful impacts to the aquifer this has the potential to bring and he agreed.

The Water Task Force has met twice since our last board meeting. The main themes coming from this are water quality and local control. The Task Force will not meet again this year before the upcoming legislative session but there are several bills that are in the works. Shannon believes more will be coming as well.

Last June, Earl Lewis, DWR Chief Engineer, sent out a letter to the GMDs describing the expectations of 82a-1044, also known as HB 2279 requiring GMDs to define high priority areas by June 2025 and action plans by June 2026. We had discussion with DWR on that and a few things the GMDs disagreed with. We were told we would have a letter with revisions to the expectations sent soon and finally received that letter on November 7th. Much of what was discussed was not changed.

Back in October, a City of Colby bucket truck accidentally hit the awning. Their insurance is supposed to be sending out a stucco guy to get us an estimate for repair.

b. Future Opportunities

NW Kansas Water Day is scheduled for January 14, 2026, at the Colby Event Center.

Jack and Shannon will be gone February 2 – 4, 2026 for the Legislative Retreat.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Trent and Jack shared maps of work that they started with compared to what is done. Trent reported that SD 6 annual checks are complete. He has a few 2024/2025 wells left to check and some follow-up rate tests. Recently he has been working on municipal wells and starting to check 2026 wells when in the area. When not in the field he works on compliance paperwork, maintaining vehicles and equipment, and projects around the building as needed.

Jack is making continued progress on ITI-TSP irrigation system assessments, onboarding additional producers and completing evaluations as weather and harvest conditions allowed, while also starting the payout of ITI-CS cost-share funding and conducting follow-up meetings as the irrigation season starts to wrap up. He has maintained and optimized the district's ArcGIS mapping and workflow for meter compliance checks, assisted with field checks, and completed ultrasonic flow testing and meter repair follow-up as needed. He also participated in the advisory board meeting for FHNW's Precision Ag. program, attended the Governor's Water Conference, and engaged in discussions related to state water regulations and proposed rule changes.

Kelly Stewart noted that Jack is 100% certified to do rate tests, and Trent has passed the written test. Trent will complete the field test portion as weather allows.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Shannon had a great conversation with Earl Lewis following the rules and regulations hearing in October. Several ideas the board has had based on public input were discussed. After discussion on potential components of the 2028 LEMA, Shannon will incorporate those into a document for review at the next meeting.

b. SD-6

A public meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8th at 2 p.m. at the Hoxie Impact Community Center. Postcards were mailed out to owners and water use correspondents.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

d. GMD 4 Regulation Change

There is another hearing on January 8th, 2026, on changes in points of diversion more than 300'. This is very similar to what we are proposing in GMD 4. If these regulations go through, the only "enhancements" Shannon would like to make to the GMD 4 regulations is to prohibit any changes in points of diversion that would access a deeper saturated thickness of the Ogallala.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. DWR Rules and Regulations

There was a hearing on October 27th on some impairment and LEMA proposed regulations. Shannon testified in person on behalf of KGMDA on both regulations but also testified on behalf of GMD 4 on the LEMA regulations as she interpreted the language to say that the only LEMAs allowed to utilize the multi-year allocation were LEMAs with initial terms after the effective date of the regulation. In her discussion with DWR, this was not the intent, so she is hoping it gets changed. This was the only concern Shannon had about the regulations. Other GMDs had issue on the proposed impairment regulations as it removed required GMD involvement. She is confident that if/when there is an impairment issue within GMD 4 that DWR will seek our advice and input. GMD 4 just won't be required to do anything. The other GMDs also had issue with part of the proposed LEMA regulation that says any future LEMA cannot utilize historical water use as a basis for reduction. Shannon agrees with the other GMDs that we are regulating our way away from conservation but our LEMAs are not founded on historical use, so she did not provide testimony other than as the KGMDA President.

There are some proposed regulation language DWR has provided for our comment on MYFAs and consumptive use. The only concern Shannon had is that impairment was removed from much of that language but without taking a further dive into it, Shannon feels that it is covered in other regulations and that to include it here is just redundant.

b. WTAP

Steve Frost was not available to present.

c. NW Kansas Water Day

Last year we had Irrigation Water Day that was very well received and attended. After attending the KRWA event, we decided we could try to do one large event together with the KWO. Each agency will have a classroom for presentations throughout the day. The event will be held on January 14th at the Colby Event Center.

d. KSU Research Request - deadline passed. Item removed from agenda.

e. Annual Meeting

We have had an issue with reserving the Price Convention Center in Goodland. Jody attempted to contact the person in charge and received no response. Jeff Deeds will contact the college to get a location reserved.

f. Executive Session – To Protect Trade Secrets

At 11:18 a.m. Carl Davis moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the manager, board, staff, agency representatives and attorney to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 11:38 a.m. Carl Davis moved to go into executive session for an additional 5 minutes with the manager, board, staff, agency representatives and attorney to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

The board came out of executive session at 11:44 a.m.

g. Executive Session – Non-elected Personnel

At 11:45 a.m. Brent Rogers moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the manager, board, and attorney to discuss non-elected personnel. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 12:05 p.m. Brent Roger moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the manager, board, staff, agency representatives and attorney to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 12:15 p.m. Brent Roger moved to go into executive session for an additional 5 minutes with the manager, board, staff, agency representatives and attorney to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

The session expired.

Shane Mann moved to approve the changes in executive session as discussed. 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 Governor’s Conference, Shane Mann noted that water quality is the next focus of legislators.

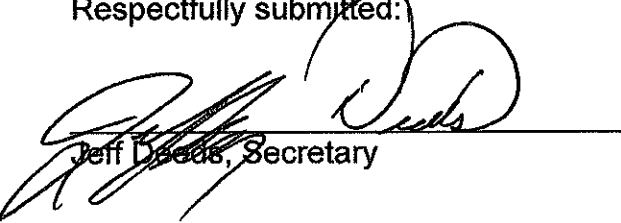
10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting will be January 7, 2026, starting at 9 a.m. The 2026 Revised Operating Budget hearing will begin at 10 a.m., with an alternate date of January 21, 2026 if a quorum is not available on the 7th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary