NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
August 5, 2026

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The August 5, 2026, 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, Baker Bugbee, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, and Brent Rogers

Board members absent were:

Carl Davis, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Dylan Loyd, and Marsha Schilling.

Others present for some, or all the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, Trent McCain, and Jack Polifka – GMD 4 staff; and Jake Kling – GMD 4 attorney; Keadron Pearson – KWO; and Dean Krehbiel - NRCS (virtually).

Shane Mann moved to appoint Brent Rogers Acting Secretary in Jeff Deeds absence. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes.)

Changes to the agenda were noted:

ADD: 7.d. NRCS, 8.g. Master Irrigator, 8.h. Change in PD Regulations,
8.i. Executive Session – To Protect Trade Secrets.

Shane Mann moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes.)

2. CONSENT AGENDA

a. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Brent Rogers moved that the minutes of June 3 2026, board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Baker Bugbee and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

b. EXPENDITURE & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JUNE AND JULY

Financial statements for the month of July were distributed.

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

3. OPEN FORUM

Shannon introduced Pramod Pokhrel with K-State Northwest Research-Extension Center. He gave a brief description of his job and looks forward to working with GMD 4 board members and producers.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly was unavailable for the meeting. He had sent Shannon an email with his update. She presented that the changes in point of diversion regulations would be effective August 12th and that the board would discuss that later.

Keadron Pearson reported Connie Owens retired from the Kansas Water Office. Carolyn McGinn is the Acting Director. The next KWA meeting will be on August 12, 2026, in Parsons, Kansas. Chairman David Mann of the Upper Republican RAC had attended both Local Consult meetings held so far. Another W.I.S.E. Tour is in the works for the Rattlesnake Creek area, happening in late October.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Manager Updates
In June, Shannon went on the KGS Legislative Tour as it was in central and southwest Kansas. It was good to see how our region supports theirs. The biggest takeaway is networking with others. The day after the tour there was a KWA meeting in Scott City. They had a very interesting discussion about the Task Force. She has noticed recent efforts by the KWO and KWA to give the RACs more of a voice. This is a positive step in the right direction.

While the KWA was meeting, there was a bus tour going around the same region with big wigs from NRCS, legislators, and NGOs. Shannon did not go on the bus tour but did go to dinner and presentations that evening in Garden City. The push to work with NGOs and NRCS is here. There is a bunch of money on the table. So, on August 26th Shannon will be in Denver, where there is a large meeting between NRCS, the NGOs, and the 5 Kansas GMDs.

On a different NRCS front, the Framework Dean Krehbiel came and discussed with the board was edited. They have honed down the focus for the GMD 4 area into concentrating on conversion of irrigation acres back to dryland or grass.

Another potential NRCS issue is that the KWO and DOC are being pressured to apply for an RCPP again. To recap, this is what they initially tried to get federal dollars through to fund the Irrigation Technology Initiative, and it fell apart so the state now funds it. They are trying to leverage the state funds used for ITI to apply for another RCPP.

The Kansas Water Task Force met for two days in June. It's on YouTube. The working group submitted proposals to the Task Force. One is to pretty much take away all local control and put it in the hands of the state. The second is to reconstruct the KWA. Senator Titus then presented another plan to create a Water Finance Council and reconstruct the RACs. Shannon took all of this to her public meetings. Rough summaries of these were available.

Shannon had a meeting with Pramod Pokhrel. He is a new researcher at the K-State Colby Experiment Station. He is here to listen. He would like to tailor his research into what is needed in this region.

Shannon also attended the Kansas Geological Survey Advisory Committee meeting as a committee member. There were great conversations about the science, and the trust KGS garners and where to develop that farther. Data privacy is becoming increasingly questionable, and KGS really wants to maintain integrity in that realm.

b. Future Opportunities
There is a Kansas Groundwater Management Districts Association meeting on August 11th in Stafford. We will be discussing many of the issues discussed here to see where our collective voice is.

August 25th is the NRCS State Technical Committee. Shannon usually attends this meeting as Kansas NRCS policy is shaped at these meetings.

6. FIELD REPORTS

a. Field Tech
Trent has been busy in the field working on 2026 SD-6 and 5-5-11 compliance checks. Limited quantity checks are done, and paperwork has been mailed to owners/producers. When not in the field, he is in the office printing compliance reports, contacting producers with issues and assisting Jack with onboarding paperwork as needed. He also keeps the vehicles/equipment and building maintained, and performs other duties as assigned.

b. Irrigation Specialist
Jack was out for a couple of weeks with a new baby! He is back to work on system evaluations, reports, and onboarding. He distributed a handout,

showing exactly what has been done, how much money has been spoken for on the ITI and Cost Share contracts for 2025 and 2026.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA
The first public hearing was May 27th at City Limits Convention Center in Colby. We do not have a date for the second hearing yet. Shannon discussed the LEMA tracking spreadsheet and her intent to maintain it for comparison with DWR.

b. SD-6
The first public hearing was May 26th, at the Scout House in Hoxie. We do not have a date for the second hearing yet.

c. Water Quality
Coordination is getting better, but we haven't been able to supply any more water samples since our last meeting. Shannon communicated the roadblocks to KGS and discussed them at the KGSAC meeting she attended. It may be easier and more cost effective to do cheaper "hot samples" and if any of those samples has a concern, we can do a "cold sample". Shannon will be looking at GMD 5's hot sample lab next week.

d. NRCS
Dean Krehbiel attended the meeting virtually, to discuss the opportunity for a unique pilot program in Kansas. He asked for ideas from the board regarding the greatest need for producers in the district, that NGOs may be able to fill funding gaps through the NRCS.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. PUBLIC MEETINGS
Shannon held four regional public meetings and one virtual meeting to discuss an update on the LEMA hearing process, ITI program, Master Irrigator, and the Water Task Force. Great discussion came from most of those meetings. She included rough summaries in the packet.

b. BUILDING ISSUES (LIGHT FIXTURES AND CARPORT)
There was a nasty storm in June that tore up some of the car port area and since then our fluorescent lights have been acting up. We contacted the insurance company and if we filed a claim, we'd only get about $1400. Shannon decided we'd cancel the claim as it will just make our insurance climb higher than $1400 and we'll see about getting it fixed. Stephens Construction has been contacted, Mitch said it would be this fall before they could get to it. Jim's Electric did come and look at the lights. We need to change out to LEDs,

and we have 54 of them. The quote was $6,945. However, it could be cheaper if he comes in and does it all at once.

Brent Rogers moved to accept the quote from Jim's Electric for $6,945. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

c. WTAP
Shannon distributed a map of the Prairie Dog Creek Subbasin applications locations. Several applications were received by the KDOC to retire water rights under this program. There was only one that DWR said would have a positive impact to the Prairie Dog and it is not in our district. The other couple are. Shannon felt it would be best if the KDOC ranks them as none of them have a measurable positive impact on the proposed outcomes of the project.

d. BUDGET HEARING 10 AM
At 10:00 a.m. the Budget Hearing was opened. Shannon Kenyon noted that there was no additional testimony submitted to the district office before the hearing. She provided testimony to the proposed budget. There were no members of the public present that gave additional testimony. The hearing was closed at 10:05 a.m.

Lynn Goossen moved to approve the following resolution for the 2027 Budget:

WHEREAS the district membership during the 51st Annual Meeting adopted the proposed 2027 operating budget of $1,067,100.00 for consideration at a subsequent public hearing; and

WHEREAS the board scheduled, duly noticed and conducted a public hearing regarding the tentatively adopted, proposed 2027 operating budget on August 5, 2026; and

WHEREAS all testimony and public comment was duly considered;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the 2027 operating budget for the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 shall be approved for $984,600.00 – as follows:

	2027 Proposed		2027 Final Assessed	
110 POSTAGE		$2,000.00		$2,000.00
112 General	$2,000.00		$2,000.00	
120 PRINTING		$1,500.00		$1,500.00
122 Administrative	$1,500.00		$1,500.00	
130 DUES	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00
140 SUBSCRIPTIONS	$600.00	$600.00	$600.00	$600.00
150 INSURANCE		$17,000.00		$17,500.00
151 Office	$17,000.00		$17,500.00	

160 TECHNOLOGY	$17,000.00	$17,000.00	$17,000.00	$17,000.00
170 SALARIES AND BENEFITS				$363,500.00
171 Gross Sal, Kpers, SS, Etc.	$451,000.00	$477,500.00	$338,000.00	
172 Health Insurance	$25,000.00		$25,000.00	
173 Unemployment	$1,500.00		$500.00	
180 TRAVEL				
181 Board	$10,000.00	$18,000.00	$13,000.00	$19,000.00
182 Staff	$8,000.00		$6,000.00	
190 VEHICLES				
191 Repairs/Maintenance	$5,000.00	$13,200.00	$5,000.00	$10,200.00
192 Operation	$8,000.00		$5,000.00	
193 Tags	$200.00		$200.00	
194 Purchase/Lease				
200 CONTRACTED SERVICES		$47,500.00		$39,500.00
201 Accounting	$8,500.00		$8,500.00	
202 Legal	$18,000.00		$15,000.00	
203 Misc. Support	$6,000.00		$1,000.00	
204 Legislative Support	$15,000.00		$15,000.00	
205 Water Sampling				
206 Drilling				
210 PUBLICATIONS				$1,500.00
211 Legal Notices	$1,500.00	$1,500.00	$1,500.00	
220 EDUCATION PROGRAMS		$5,000.00		$3,000.00
221 Administrative	$1,000.00		$1,000.00	
222 Equipment/Supplies	$4,000.00		$2,000.00	
223 Education Programs Other				
230 ADMINISTRATIVE		$10,000.00		$14,000.00
231 Office Supplies	$5,000.00		$5,000.00	
232 Copy Machine	$2,000.00		$3,000.00	
235Bank Charges				
236 Field Supplies	$3,000.00		$6,000.00	
240 NEW EQUIPMENT		$8,000.00		$6,000.00
241 Field	$3,000.00		$2,000.00	
242 Office	$5,000.00		$4,000.00	
250 CONTINGENCY RESERVE		$0.00		$0.00
260 FACILITY		$23,000.00		$23,000.00
261 Rent				
262 Maintenance	$15,000.00		$15,000.00	
264 Building Utilities	$8,000.00		$8,000.00	
270 DOC EXPENSES		$425,000.00		$466,000.00
271 Equipment	$40,000.00		$10,000.00	
272 Operation	$30,000.00		$16,000.00	
275 Administrative	$116,000.00		$200,000.00	
276 Cost-Share Payments	$200,000.00		$200,000.00	
277 Crop Uniformity Packet Stipend	$39,000.00		$40,000.00	
REIMBURSED EXPENSES				$0.00
300 FOUNDATION				$0.00
305 Foundation Subscriptions				
325 Foundation Telephone				

345 Foundation Accounting
350 Foundation Legal
370 Foundation Tech Support

$1,067,100.00	$1,067,100.00		$984,600.00

DOC Income: 500,000
Assess For: 518,600
wtr_rt =847216
land = 2918690

wtr (.40) 338,886.00
land (.05) = $145,935.00
$984,821.00
surplus

e. SET ASSESSMENTS

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 5, 2026, 2,918,690 acres of land eligible for assessment and 847,216 acre feet of water eligible for the water user charge for the 2027 operating budget; and

WHEREAS after due consideration of all testimony it is the board's decision that a 2027 budget of $518,600.00 should be provided assessment support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the land assessment and water user charge for the 2027 operating budget shall be set at:

$.05 per acre of assessable land; and
$.40 per assessable acre foot of water.

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

f. GMDs PR
With the recent Task Force discussions and the new faces that will be in Topeka this legislative session, the GMDs have been discussing how to increase our public relations. We are all on tight budgets, but we have considered a short video highlighting the GMDs in Kansas. There would be one video about all 5 GMDs then a short segment on each individual GMD. The total cost of the project would be about $12,000 split between the five GMDs.

Shane Mann moved to approve the making of the GMDs promotional video. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

g. MASTER IRRIGATOR
K-State has requested a grant from the KWO to begin a Master Irrigator program. It would be tailored to our region and be comprised of in-person as well as online learning material. The board thought they could substitute our Irrigation Water Day in January for the Master Irrigator but didn't know if folks would attend multiple days. It was discussed to hold off on submitting a letter of support until more information about how the program would look before providing a letter of support.

h. CHANGE IN PD REGULATIONS
Shannon handed out a copy of proposed language regarding changes in point of diversion regulations. These go into effect August 14th, 2026. The new regulations appear to prohibit 300' changes throughout Kansas. Shannon suggested that we will let our moratorium expire on December 31st and see how the new regulations worked out before thinking about GMD 4 specific regulations.

i. EXECUTIVE SESSION – TO PROTECT TRADE SECRETS

At 11:25 a.m. Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the manager, board, and attorney, to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Baker Bugbee and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

The executive session expired.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Nothing to report.

10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

September 2, 2026 at 9 a.m., dependent upon harvest.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:

Brent Rogers, Acting Secretary