

Minutes: _____ Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
April 13, 2006 Board Meeting

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The April board meeting was opened at 10:05 a.m. CDT, April 13, 2006 in the district office, Colby, KS by President Scott Maurath. Item 5-c (Approval of 2007 Budget for Hearing) was removed from the agenda since no action was necessary.

Board members present for some or all of the meeting were: Dave Mann, Doug David, Mitch Baalman, Lon Frahm, Dave Rietcheck, Jon Friesen, Scott Maurath, Roger Zwegardt, Bill Nondorf and Jeff Deeds.

Board Members absent were: Monty Biggs

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Ray Luhman and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; and Scott Ross and Mark Billinger – DWR.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Lon Frahm moved: 1) for approval of the consent agenda including the March 9, 2006 minutes; and 2) the March financial reports including the February, 2006 expenditures totalling \$71,424.42. Doug David seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

In addition to the written manager's report in the board packet (HB 2710) Dave Rietcheck asked some questions regarding meters.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Proposed Regulation 5-24-10:** Staff covered the changes that were contained in the latest version of the regulation, primarily the consumptive use offsets. Jon Friesen expressed concern that the new procedure would set a precedent that the full value of a water right was being reduced. Staff and DWR personnel explained that the procedure is identical to that which is used on changes in use type and that consumptive use reductions only occur when a right is being modified in some fashion. After further discussion Jon asked if some examples of the proposed calculations could be provided to the board at the May meeting.

Jon Friesen made a motion to inform DWR that the proposed language appears to be satisfactory at this time and that it is permissible to proceed with the needed steps in the regulation process. Further, the regulation will be re-visited in May with consumptive use calculations provided by staff. Bill Nondorf seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Enhanced Management Discussion:** Staff went over the information contained in the background portion of the board packet in order to refresh the Board's memory of where we are in this process. During discussion, Scott Ross informed the Board that work was under way to segregate a portion of the Republican Basin Model for use in all of northwest Kansas. Other discussion was had on whether or not different parameters might be used for area delineation. One parameter that the board felt might enhance area

delineation was water use density. Staff commented that a slight delay for further parameter discussion would probably not conflict with the timeline in the protocol. By consensus the board decided to table the issue until May at which time the inclusion of water use density data could be reviewed. No further action was taken.

- b. Metering MOU Discussion:** Staff outlined the concerns regarding missing security seals on pre-2000 meters. The Board questioned Scott Ross on the DWR procedure to handle these missing seals and he stated that it was their policy to require either re-installation of the missing seal by an authorized meter repairman or to conduct an accuracy test and then attach a seal from the testing entity on the meter provided it meets the accuracy requirements. The board and staff also had questions on whether or not the seal was required for accuracy purposes or only to prevent tampering. Scott Ross said that the only circumstance under which his personnel would install a seal was if accuracy was tested since subsequent issues could arise under which the seal might be considered as an accuracy indicator. He also stated that GMD personnel could install a seal with less emphasis on accuracy provided the actions taken before seal re-installation were documented. After more discussion, the Board decided to take no formal action, and directed staff to use the DWR procedures to deal with missing seals.

6. DWR REPORT – Scott Ross briefed the Board on current Republican Basin issues.

7. OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - none

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND CONSIDER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

May 18, 2006 and June 8, 2006 (to include budget hearing).

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mitch Baalman moved for adjournment at 2:10 p.m., April 13, 2006. Doug David seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:



Dave Mann, Secretary