

Minutes: _____ Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4
June 8, 2006 Board Meeting

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The June board meeting was opened at 10:30 a.m. CDT, June 8, 2006 in the district office, Colby, KS by President Scott Maurath.

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

Board Members absent were: Monty Biggs, Mitch Baalman, Doug David and Lon Frahm.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Wayne Bossert, Ray Luhman and Dan Simmering – GMD 4 staff; and Kelly Stewart and David Means - DWR.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Roger Zwegardt moved for approval of the consent agenda including: 1) the May 18, 2006 minutes; and 2) the May financial reports including the May, 2006 expenditures totaling \$24,779.09. Jon Friesen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

In addition to the written manager's report in the board packet several other items were reported on:

1) GMD Staff will be presenting twice in August: first to the Kansas Dialog on August 12 and secondly to Leadership Kansas on August 25.

2) The Kansas Water Congress (including GMD 4) will start working with SCC on development of WTAP regulations.

3) William Ashworth has completed his book titled "Ogallala Blue" and has provided manager Wayne Bossert with an autographed copy.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Enhanced Management Discussions: Staff presented the board with four maps showing: a) 1997-2002 2-mile reported water use density; b) 1997-2002 5-mile reported water use density; c) sections exceeding 9% decline in the 1997-2002 time period AND greater than 1000 acrefeet reported water use density (1997-2002 time period); and d) sections exceeding 9% decline in the 1997-2002 time period OR greater than 1000 acrefeet reported water use density (1997-2002 time period). After more discussion, *Dave Rietcheck moved to adopt the process of using 1997-2002 percent decline greater or equal to 9% OR sections equal to or greater than a 1997-2002 2-mile reported water use density equal to or greater than 1000 acrefeet. Dave Mann seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

b. NRCS Quick Response Areas: Staff covered the suggested process contained in the board packet. There was much discussion over the pros and cons of keeping the same areas, expanding the program to completely different areas, and several combinations of the two. In the end *Jon Friesen moved to: re-designate the South Thomas County 4-township area for one more year - subject to participation levels; establish a 2-year*

program; and add an appropriate Southwest Sherman County area (to be board approved) for 2 years - subject to participation levels. Dave Mann seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2007 Operating Budget Hearing: President Scott Maurath opened the public hearing at 11:30 a.m. as advertised and noticed. There were no members of the public present at the hearing and no testimony was provided. The hearing was closed at 11:33 a.m.

In discussion, it was noted that the vehicle operation/maintenance line item of \$2,200.00 may not be necessary in light of 2 new vehicles under warranty. Following all discussion, **Dave Mann moved for adoption of the following resolution to be numbered AR-06-2:**

WHEREAS the district membership during the 31st Annual Meeting adopted the proposed 2007 operating budget of \$652,481.20 for consideration at a subsequent public hearing; and

WHEREAS the board scheduled, duly noticed and conducted a lawful public hearing regarding the tentatively adopted, proposed 2007 operating budget pursuant to KSA 82a-1030 on June 8, 2006; and

WHEREAS all testimony and public comment was duly considered - consisting of the suggestion of reducing budget line item 191 (Repairs/Maintenance) by \$1,200.00 and increasing budget line item 192 (Operation) by \$1,200.00;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the 2007 operating budget for the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 shall be approved at \$652,481.20 with the vehicle line item suggested changes made.

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the final assessment rates to achieve that portion of the approved 2007 budget which are not already in GMD 4 accounts will be set in the July, 2006 board meeting.

Dave Rietcheck seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6. DWR REPORT – Kelly Stewart reported that DWR is starting to employ the Bureau of Reclamation grant funds they recently received by installing meter data loggers on wells in the Republican River System. These data loggers will send meter information via satellite to the DWR offices on demand.

7. OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Jon Friesen commented that many wells in his area have already pumped enough water due to the exceptionally dry conditions that water right limits will become a significant issue if it fails to rain the rest of the irrigation season. He asked Kelly Stewart why producers had to give up 10% of their water rights to gain the annual flexibility of the 5-year water right (multi-year flex account) which would help so many producers this year?

In discussion it was noted that the MFA had an application deadline of October the previous year, so there could be no help this year from the MFA program in any case. It was also noted that the state's position is that all irrigation planning be done fully aware that it may or may not rain during the growing season.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND CONSIDER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

July 13, 2006 was the next board meeting set.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Dave Rietcheck moved for adjournment at 2:30 p.m., June 8, 2006. Jeff Deeds seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Mann". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dave Mann, Secretary