

Minutes: _____ Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 May 31, 2007 Board Meeting

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The May board meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. CDT, May 31, 2007 in the district offices, Colby, KS by President Scott Maurath.

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

Board Members absent were: Monty Biggs, Jon Friesen and Doug David

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Wayne Bossert, Ray Luhman – GMD 4 staff; and Scott Ross – DWR.

There was 1 addition to the agenda – Item 4. c. – Bill Golden Draft Economic Model Report.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Jeff Deeds moved for approval of the consent agenda including: 1) the April 5, 2007 minutes; and 2) the April financial report including the April, 2007 expenditures totaling \$25,845.89. Lon Frahm seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager covered the items within the board packet plus 1 additional item concerning the Smoky Hill Public TV Town Hall Meeting held last evening in Colby.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Protocol Data Review: The KGS cross-validation effort has been completed and was presented. KGS conclusions were that the existing data set did not appear adequate to service specific management decisions in the smaller, high priority areas. The residuals tended to be too high or too low – especially in the priority areas. Possible causes for these results could be data density and/or hydrologic boundary conditions caused by rapid changes over short areas in key aquifer parameters. The KGS suggestion was to first review all well logs to either confirm or refute the hydrologic boundary condition scenario, then consider additional data points.

In discussion, it was noted that the KGS answers were still not expressed in terms of a percent confidence in the existing data base. Staff was asked to request further clarification from KGS on their results.

b. Upper Republican Basin Alliance Proposal: Staff updated the board on the proposal and presented draft 1 for review. Following discussion, the board was satisfied with the outline and proposed listing of stakeholders and directed staff to take the next step in finishing up the initial proposal and seeking stakeholder participation from the developed list.

c. Bill Golden Draft Economic Model Report: The draft report was handed out for board review. On such short notice a full consideration was not possible. Staff identified several obvious data examples that needed adjustment, but could not address the producer inputs as well. It was decided that over the next 2 weeks staff would review all the hydrologic parameters and make suggestions for a second run, and that the board would review the producer inputs and offer

similar suggestions if necessary. Staff would compile all suggestions and return them to Bill Golden as our comments.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration of a RWEF Proposal under EQIP: After discussing the pros and cons, the board decided that staff should take the next step in preparing such a proposal – while focusing on NW Kansas as a target region.

b. Garetson Proposal: The proposal was discussed, but no action was taken. In the discussion it was suggested by Lon Frahm that most of our programs, ideas and proposals need to be focused on the landowners rather than the farmers/operators. This is because most landowners are absentee and their decisions are influenced almost exclusively by the value of the land (their investments).

c. Management Program Discussion: The interest of the board in entering into sessions with DWR regarding management program discussions was requested. Following the consideration of several approaches, it was decided that staff should first develop a list of management program concepts that might be offered for discussion. Following board review of such a listing, the decision will be made to ask for DWR involvement or not, and if so, which concepts the district is most interested in developing.

6. DWR REPORT

Scott Ross commented on the status of the BRO meter inspections and indicated that they were getting ready very soon to begin our cooperative program meter inspections in earnest. Scott also covered the status of the Republican River Compact – that the 2006 water use data has been exchanged and DWR was busy applying the data to the allocations.

7. OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

No discussion.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND CONSIDER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

July 12, 2007 and August 9, 2007 were set for the next board meetings.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Scott Maurath declared the meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M., May 31, 2007 5, 2007.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Nondorf, Secretary