

Minutes: _____ Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 February 20, 2008 Board Meeting

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The February board meeting was opened at 10:00 A.M. MST, February 20, 2008 in the Howard Johnson Hotel, Goodland, KS by President Scott Maurath.

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

Board Members absent were: Doug David.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Wayne Bossert, Ray Luhman, Dan Simmering and Rita Wade – GMD 4 staff; Jeff Mason, GMD 4 Attorney; Kelly Stewart – DWR, Tom Cech, Greeley, Colorado; and Ross Cochran, Goodland, Kansas.

There were no additions, corrections or deletions to the agenda.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Shane Mann moved for approval of the consent agenda including: 1) the January 10, 2008 minutes; and 2) receipt of the January financial report including the January, 2008 expenditures totaling \$28,634.67. Monty Biggs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager covered the items contained in the board meeting packet with an update on the current status of SB 89. Manager also reported on the upcoming Kansas Water Authority Meeting to be held April 3-4, 2008 in Colby.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. **2009 Proposed Operating Budget:** Following presentation and explanation, *Jeff Deeds moved to adopt the proposed 2009 operating budget for presentation at the annual meeting and consideration by the district membership in attendance. Roger Zwegardt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

b. **Adoption of Auditor's Report:** *Dave Rietcheck moved to accept the auditors report on the 2007 calendar year audit. Mitch Baalman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

c. **Selection of EQIP QRA's:** Staff presented the background for this agenda item and when completed recommended that all 6 GMD 4 high priority areas be designated for next year's EQIP program if it is continued. During discussion it was suggested that we retain the current practice of designating only 2 of the high priority areas – thus continuing to focus on more specific areas. Following discussion, *Dave Rietcheck moved to designate all 6 high priority areas as QRA's for the next EQIP program. Lon Frahm seconded the motion which passed nine votes to one. Jon Friesen voted against the motion.*

d. **DWR Response to GMD 4 Request for WTAP Designation:** Manager updated the board on the status of this effort. In discussion, consideration was given to: refusing to close our high priority

areas and forego the WTAP program; closing the high priority areas via regulation recommended to the chief engineer; and requesting the chief engineer to close our high priority areas by administrative order. *Dave Rietcheck moved to table the item until the board meeting is reconvened following the annual meeting. Shane Mann seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

Agenda Item 5. e. was moved to the second half of the board meeting – after the annual meeting.

6. DWR REPORT

Kelly Stewart indicated he didn't have too much to report this month that we were not already aware of. Ray Luhman asked for a status report on the Solomon Sub-basin process. Kelly responded that the effort is waiting largely on the modeling effort to be completed before it may start up again.

[The February 20, 2008 board meeting was temporarily adjourned at 12:00 P.M. to be reconvened immediately after adjournment of the 33rd annual meeting.]

[The February 20, 2008 board meeting was reconvened at 2:30 P.M.]

Agenda Item 5. e. (Election of Officers) was handled next. *Lon Frahm moved that all the 2007 officers be retained for another year. Monty Biggs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

Tabled item 5. d. was taken back up from its being tabled earlier in the meeting. *Dave Rietcheck moved to contact chief engineer Barfield with a request to return the GMD 4 July 17, 2007 request to designate our high priority areas as eligible acres for WTAP. Jeff Deeds seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

7. OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

a. Alliance Discussion: Manager updated the board on the March 5, 2008 scheduled alliance meeting in which the issue of an engineering study will be discussed. Staff asked the board their thoughts on financing any necessary engineering study with the hopes of getting 100% reimbursed should any compact award funds come to Kansas and be earmarked for the Upper Republican Basin. Following discussion, board consensus was that they would consider funding an engineering study only after award funds are on account in Kansas. Staff was directed to suggest to the Alliance that no application be filed for conservation projects until funds are available. If at that time an engineering study is warranted, the board would re-consider funding the study. No motion made.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND CONSIDER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The March meeting was scheduled for March 6, 2008.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Without no other business, and no objections, Dave Rietcheck moved for adjournment at 3:45 P.M. MST, February 20, 2008. Bill Nondorf seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Nondorf, Secretary