

Minutes: _____ Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 April 13, 2008 Board Meeting

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The April board meeting was opened at 10:10 A.M. MST, April 13, 2008 in the district offices, Colby, KS by President Scott Maurath. This meeting was held in lieu of the originally scheduled April 10, 2008 meeting which was snowed out. As such, the April 10, 2008 board packet was still valid but for the change in the meeting date.

Board members present for some or all of the meeting were: Dave Rietcheck, Scott Maurath, Jon Friesen, Roger Zwegardt, Mitch Baalman and Shane Mann.

Board Members absent were: Jeff Deeds, Monty Biggs, Bill Nondorf, Lon Frahm, Doug David.

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

The only addition to the agenda was a staff request that a Secretary Pro Tem be appointed to sign the December 13, 2007, January 10, 2008 and February 20, 2008 minutes on behalf of Secretary Nondorf who was not able to attend this meeting. President Maurath appointed Shane Mann as Secretary Pro Tem for the April 13, 2008 board meeting.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Mitch Baalman moved for approval of the consent agenda including: 1) the February 20, 2008 minutes; and 2) receipt of the February and March financial reports including the February, 2008 expenditures totaling \$30,613.78, and the March, 2008 expenditures totaling \$36,386.40. Jon Friesen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager covered the items contained in the board meeting packet – updating most of the items which had changed since the packet was finalized and sent out. In discussing the legislative bills, the board was surprised to learn that Representative John Faber (Brewster) did not support the GMD's in their requests regarding Substitute for HB 2625 – the IGUCA bill. They were also disappointed to hear the negative GMD comments made by Representative Faber in the conference committee. After discussing the issue more, the board asked staff to invite Representative Faber to the July Board meeting to further discuss groundwater management issues. Moreover, staff was to set the July board meeting to accommodate Representative Faber's schedule.

In discussing the conservation projects alliance, the need for a possible engineering study was discussed if the alliance decided to do project-type conservation efforts. Since the alliance has no means of raising funds for such a study, it was discussed if the GMD should provide the funding so long as the alliance would support 100% reimbursement to the district for the costs once money's became available in the Republican River Conservation Projects Fund-Colorado, or the Republican River Conservation Projects Fund-Nebraska. Following more discussion, *Dave Rietcheck moved that the Northwest Kansas GMD 4 cover reasonable engineering costs necessary for the alliance to submit a competitive conservation projects application when necessary. Shane Mann seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Cooperative Modeling Discussion: Staff began discussions with a background on the status of the modeling effort and asked for discussion regarding any future scenarios the board would like modeled. Discussion soon turned to a possible allocation approach. With the many questions the board had, it was decided to invite Bill Golden to the board meeting to present the final model report and discuss future scenarios which might be run. It was suggested that the June Meeting would be a good time for such a meeting – pending Mr. Golden’s availability.

b. Enhanced Management Discussions: Staff briefed the board on the status of the enhanced management protocol process and indicated that we were still on Task 3 – considering the data suitability for supporting enhanced management activities undertaken. Staff reported that KGS has been asked for a data evaluation project that will contour map the standard deviation levels over the district by use of the existing observation well network. Once this product is provided for board review, it will be up to the board to express their comfort or discomfort with the accuracy of the existing data base – including the section-level derivative we have used thus far in our enhanced management efforts. If the board has discomfort with the accuracy of the existing data base to quantify the hydrologic response to any management applied, then we have to work on creating a more suitable data base. Discussion on Task 4 ensued next in order to place these two tasks in perspective. It was mentioned that the regulated public needs to be made aware of and become involved in Task 3 so they can better understand the rest of the tasks that will affect them. It was also mentioned that Task 4 is the most appropriate place for the public to get involved as the earlier tasks are more procedural in nature. Much more discussion took place, but the board made no decisions until the KGS product is completed and reviewed.

6. DWR REPORT

Scott Voss reported that the metering program was still going smoothly and that Scott Ross had stated that the Republican River Compact Meeting in Kansas City last week had not provided the answers that Kansas had hoped for from Nebraska.

7. OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - None

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND CONSIDER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The June meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2008.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Without no other business, and no objections, President Maurath declared the April, 2008 board meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M. CST, April 13, 2008.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Nondorf, Secretary