

**Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management
District No. 4**

31st Annual Meeting Packet

**City Limits Convention Center, Colby, KS
1:00 p.m. CST, February 15, 2006**

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District Personnel

February, 2005 - February, 2006 Board:

POSITION	MEMBER	DUTY	FIRST ARRIVED:	SERVES TO:
Cheyenne #1	Roger Zwegardt	Member	2/05	2/08
Rawlins/Decatur #2	Monty Biggs	Member	2/97	2/06
Sherman/Wallace #3	Robin Deeds	President	2/00	2/06
Sherman/Wallace #4	David Rietcheck	Member	2/02	2/08
Thomas # 5	Lon Frahm	Member	2/94	2/06
Thomas # 6	Jon Friesen	Vice President	6/99	2/08
Sheridan # 7	Bill Nondorf	Member	5/94	2/06
Sheridan # 8	Mitch Baalman	Secretary	2/98	2/07
Graham # 9	Doug David	Member	2/98	2/07
Logan # 10	Scott Maurath	Member	2/01	2/07
Gove # 11	Dave Mann	Treasurer	2/98	2/07

STAFF:

Wayne Bossert, Manager
Ray Luhman, Asst Manager
Dan Simmering, Field Technician
Rita Wade, Secretary/Receptionist

OTHERS:

Vignery & Mason, Attorney
Brian Staats, Certified Public Accountant



The district's website is always available - for more information go to:

[HTTP://www.gmd4.org](http://www.gmd4.org)

Information at this site includes: general district overview, personnel listing, annual meeting info, water law summary, public records policy, newsletter articles, water quotes, water formulas, water level data, water-related links, the groundwater management district act and more.

31st Annual Meeting Agenda

Open Meeting _____ Robin Deeds, Board President

Welcome
Introductions
Announcements
2005 Year in Review (Page 9)

30th Annual Meeting Minutes (Page 5) _____ Doug David
(Motion required to adopt or amend)

2005 Calendar Year Audit (Page 8) _____ Scott Maurath
(Motion required to adopt or amend)

Election of Board Positions _____ Mitch Baalman

Position 2 ----- Rawlins/Decatur County
Position 3 ----- Sherman/Wallace County
Position 5 ----- Thomas County
Position 7 ----- Sheridan County

Unfinished or New Business _____ District Staff

Update/Discussion/Questions RE:
Proposed Management Program (Page 15)
Open Session

2007 Operating Budget - Proposed (Page 7) _____ Roger Zwegardt
(Motion required to adopt for public hearing)

Announcement of Board Election Results _____ Mitch Baalman

Adjournment _____ Robin Deeds, President
(Motion required)



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30th Annual Meeting Minutes – Goodland, KS – February 16, 2005

The 30th annual meeting was opened at 1:10 p.m. MST, February 16, 2005 in the Buffalo Inn Convention Center, Goodland, Kansas. Board members present were: Scott Maurath, Dave Rietcheck, Doug David, Robin Deeds, Gale Walz, Monty Biggs, Mitch Baalman and Jon Friesen. Board members Lon Frahm, Bill Nondorf, and Dave Mann were absent. There were 48 persons in attendance. The attendance roster is available from the district office.

President Robin Deeds opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of the board, staff and former board members in attendance. Former board members in attendance were: Ken Palmgren, Larry Cressler, Gerald Franklin, Jr., and Dean Topliff. Robin next commented on the 2004 Year in Review summary which was contained in the annual meeting packet. He asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

The 29th annual meeting minutes were presented by Doug David. Doug gave everyone a chance to review the minutes, also printed in the meeting packet, and offered to answer any questions. There being no questions, it was moved by Jon Friesen and seconded Steve Zieglemeier that the 29th annual meeting minutes be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Scott Maurath next presented the 2004 calendar year audit. Scott indicated that \$71,516.99 was carried forward from 2003, \$405,459.12 was brought in by county assessments, \$2,042.16 was interest income, and \$163.00 was miscellaneous income - totaling \$479,181.57. 2004 expenditures were \$360,439.78, leaving a bank account balance on December 31, 2004 of \$118,741.79. He finally reported that carryover funds plus \$73.90 in the post office return postage account and \$19.50 remaining on the district's postage meter gave the district a total cash worth on December 31, 2004 of \$118,835.19. With no questions or comments, Bill Selby moved that the 2004 audit report be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Dean Topliff and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Wayne Bossert next conducted the board elections for position 1 (Cheyenne County), Position 4 (Sherman/Wallace County), and Position 6 (Thomas County). Wayne covered the ground rules first, and then announced that Roger Zweygardt, David Rietcheck, and Jon Friesen were the only pre-filed candidates. The floor for nominations was opened for position 1, Cheyenne County. With no additional nominations offered, a motion was made and seconded that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Roger Zweygardt. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

The floor for nominations was opened for position 4, Sherman/Wallace County. With no additional nominations offered, a motion was made and seconded that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Dave Rietcheck. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

The floor for nominations was opened for position 6, Thomas County. With no additional nominations offered, a motion was made and seconded that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Jon Friesen. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Next Robin Deeds turned the floor over to manager Wayne Bossert to conduct the open discussion on the topics of aquifer sub-unit protocol and irrigation transition. Wayne

directed everyone's attention to the annual meeting packet where there was background information on each topic. Following a presentation on the background information for the on-going aquifer sub-unit process, discussion began. Steve Friesen asked if the state had responded yet to the proposal submitted by the group of Southern Thomas County landowners and water users? The answer was that they have not responded yet, but that the response was expected imminently. Steve continued by asking if the district knew what was in the response? While the district did not know specifically what was in the response, they continued to surmise that 2 issues as follows would be addressed: 1) the elimination of the public's right to file any impairment complaints; and 2) the fact that the proposal was operating outside the developing Ogallala Aquifer sub-unit process supported by the state water plan. Dean Topliff supported the effort in lieu of state solutions pending no local action. Lou Hines asked about the funding for the voluntary approaches being considered. Since this was the topic of the next discussion item, it was deferred.

Wayne Bossert next gave a background on the irrigation transition programs and a status report of where the board currently was. Covered were: 1) the state's developing irrigation transition assistance program (ITAP); 2) the district's newly developed groundwater conservation foundation; 3) the environmental quality incentives program (EQIP) and 4) Senator Brownback's federal Bill effort.

Dave Rietcheck presented the 2006 proposed budget for consideration. He reported that the proposed 2006 budget was substantively the same as the 2005 Revised budget. There was a question on the Coop Programs line item as to why it decreased so much. Manager responded that the revised 2005 figure of \$155,743.00 was the total carryover that has been (and still is) earmarked for the Conservation Foundation. The \$77,500.00 proposed for 2006 is the third collection for this Foundation and only represents new money requested for the Foundation in 2006. Another question regarded why there was no telephone budget for the Revised 2005 budget. Manager responded that it was simply an omission and while not exactly sure what the actual 2005 figure is, it was likely similar or the same as the proposed 2006 figure of \$4,700.00. There were no other questions or discussion. A motion and a second were made to approve the proposed 2006 budget as presented. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

President Deeds, not needing to announce any board election results, made a final call for any additional issues for the open session. There being none, Dean Topliff moved for adjournment. Steve Zieglemeier seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. The 30th annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. MST, February 16, 2005.

Respectfully submitted

Mitch Baalman, Secretary

2007 Proposed Budget

Budget Category	2007 Proposed Budget	2006 Revised Budget
POSTAGE	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00
Newsletter	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
General	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
PRINTING	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Newsletter	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Administrative	\$0.00	\$0.00
DUES	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$1,600.00	\$1,800.00
INSURANCE	\$14,500.00	\$14,500.00
Office	\$700.00	\$700.00
Public Officials	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Auto	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Workman's Comp	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00
Computer	\$800.00	\$800.00
Unemployment	\$200.00	\$200.00
TELEPHONE	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$225,295.00	\$225,295.00
Gross Sal, SS, Kpers, Etc	\$215,695.00	\$215,695.00
Health Insurance	\$9,600.00	\$9,600.00
TRAVEL	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Board	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Staff	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
VEHICLES	\$5,740.00	\$45,740.00
Repair & Maint.	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Operation	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00
Tags	\$140.00	\$140.00
Purchase/Lease	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$33,100.00	\$33,100.00
Accounting	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
Legal	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Misc. Support	\$29,000.00	\$29,000.00
Water Sampling	\$0.00	\$0.00
Drilling	\$0.00	\$0.00
Weather Modification	\$0.00	\$0.00
PUBLICATIONS	\$400.00	\$400.00
Legal Notices	\$400.00	\$400.00
COOP PROGRAMS	\$313,961.20	\$236,461.20
Administrative	\$313,961.20	\$236,461.20
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contracted Studies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Educational Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$9,650.00	\$9,650.00
Office Supplies	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00
Copy Machine	\$5,300.00	\$5,500.00
Computer Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Postage Meter Lease	\$300.00	\$300.00
Bank Charges	\$150.00	\$150.00
Field Supplies	\$600.00	\$600.00
NEW EQUIPMENT	\$5,000.00	\$11,900.00
Field	\$2,000.00	\$8,900.00
Office	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
CONTINGENCY RESERVE	\$0.00	\$48,977.77
FACILITY	\$11,235.00	\$11,235.00
Rent	\$10,335.00	\$10,335.00
Upkeep	\$900.00	\$900.00
Remodel	\$0.00	\$0.00
Foundation	\$700.00	\$700.00
Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Legal	\$500.00	\$500.00
Technical Support	\$200.00	\$200.00
TOTALS	\$652,481.20	\$670,858.97

2005 Calendar Year Audit Report

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURESMENTS
All Accounts - For the period ending December 31, 2005

2005 INCOME:	
Cash forward from 2004 -----	\$118,741.79
County Assessments -----	\$411,071.66
Interest Earned -----	\$7,067.32
State Grant Income -----	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income -----	\$196.25
2005 TOTAL INCOME	\$537,077.02

2005 EXPENDITURES:	
Postage -----	\$5,259.46
Printing -----	\$5,662.80
Dues -----	\$1,630.00
Subscriptions -----	\$1,747.42
Insurance -----	\$14,128.59
Telephone -----	\$4,153.17
Salaries & Benefits -----	\$215,406.42
Travel -----	\$10,434.55
Vehicles -----	\$5,192.14
Contracted Services -----	\$21,592.20
Publications -----	\$429.45
Coop Programs -----	\$175.00
Administrative -----	\$8,762.72
Equipment -----	\$7,160.85
Facility -----	\$10,522.00
Reserve for contingency -----	\$25.00
Foundation -----	\$405.03
TOTAL 2005 EXPENDITURES -----	\$312,686.80

Cash on hand – 12/31/05 (All Banking Accounts) -----	\$224,390.22 ¹
Post Office Return Postage Account - 12/31/05 -----	\$12.89
Postage remaining on Postal Meter - 12/31/05 -----	\$261.63
TOTAL CASH WORTH – 12/31/05 -----	\$224,664.74

¹ \$155,743.00 is dedicated Foundation carryover from 2004 - 2005 being carried over again into 2006.

2005 – Year in Review by Month

JANUARY

- ◆ Adopted a revised 2005 operating budget after assimilating the 2004 cash carryover funds.
- ◆ Began scanning all pre-computer, board minutes for electronic archiving. The plan was to eventually scan in all mission-critical paper files as editable text files.
- ◆ Joined the Kansas Water Congress for another year.
- ◆ Board took action on the DWR/GMD4 Memorandum of Understanding on the joint metering program.
- ◆ State Chief Engineer David Pope met with the board. Discussion topics included: GMD4 small use exemptions; the state irrigation transition program (ITAP); DWR's take on regulated vs voluntary approaches to declines; the possibility of a local multi-year flex regulation; and an administrative handling of a DWR regulation and its interpretation.
- ◆ Continued action on the Revised Management Program took place. The developing metering program was included and the protocol language was amended to accommodate a broader definition of "high priority" sub-units.

FEBRUARY

- ◆ Approved the 2004 audit report. The district books passed grade once again.
- ◆ Elected 2005 Officers, retaining all 2004 officers as follows: President - Robin Deeds; Vice President - Jon Friesen; Secretary - Mitch Baalman; Treasurer - Dave Mann.
- ◆ Voted to hold all further enhanced management (aquifer sub-unit) decisions until the basic protocol process has been incorporated into the management program and duly adopted by the board.
- ◆ Board asked that a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) request be developed by staff for March 28, 2005 filing deadline.
- ◆ Board approved an agreement between Ray Luhman and Dan Simmering and the district regarding the continuation of irrigation plan design work formerly done by Dwayne Kersenbrock, NRCS.

MARCH

- ◆ Board asked staff to explore several document management systems for a formal electronic filing system. The informal scanning process started in January was unacceptable in that it did not preserve signatures, handwritten notes, etc.

- ◆ Staff reported on several roadblocks to a successful CIG grant proposal as directed earlier. The board decided not to submit the grant proposal.
- ◆ Board addressed the issue of well rate testing and asked staff to develop a draft policy.

APRIL

- ◆ Discussions began on how to address small legitimate requests for new water rights. The board asked staff to draft a proposal based on allowing new, 15 AF water rights only if a like quantity of water is forfeited or reduced from a neighboring water right.
- ◆ Staff continued working on a draft well testing fee schedule.
- ◆ Another draft of the metering MOU was considered and returned to DWR for comment. Suggestions concerned the database, joint compliance activities, amended meter inspection language, and more streamlined rescinding language.
- ◆ Board reviewed draft regulations of the State Conservation Commission (SCC) on the ITAP program and provided comments.

MAY

- ◆ Board adopted language for proposed small use regulation (KAR 5-24-10) and submitted it to DWR for adoption within GMD 4.
- ◆ A well-test policy was adopted which supports, at no cost, well tests required by the district or the state and for tests to determine meter accuracy resulting from the metering program. All other well tests will be done only if staff time and resources permit.
- ◆ Board approved a document management system at staff's discretion not to exceed a designated spending cap. Staff purchased e-Drawer and began scanning.
- ◆ A state-drafted MOU for enhanced monitoring and enforcement was reviewed and discussed, but any action was tabled until a clearer direction was provided by DWR.
- ◆ The local landowner and water rights group from 4 townships in southern Thomas County was continuing to meet and staff asked the board to provide a more clear position on this matter either in support of this group or otherwise. No position was taken.
- ◆ Initial discussions began on possible GMD 4 "quick response areas" for the developing ground and surface water program within EQIP. These areas would be eligible for increased incentives to set aside irrigation water pumpage for 4 years. The board asked staff to offer suggested areas based on some of the ideas discussed.

JUNE

- ◆ More time was spent on the proposed enhanced monitoring and enforcement MOU, but no firm commitment was given by the board who wanted to see other alternatives evaluated as well before deciding.
- ◆ The EQIP quick response areas were designated by the board as 3 special areas within the district. These areas will be revisited each program year and may change if necessary or desirable.
- ◆ The board re-visited the small use regulation (KAR 5-24-10) and eliminated the 1-mile restriction on these kinds of new applications. Since all this water was being offset the 1-mile limitation was no longer necessary.
- ◆ A public hearing was held on the 2006 proposed operating budget and the board adopted said budget in preparation for certifying assessment rates to the counties next month.
- ◆ Scanning paper files continues.

JULY

- ◆ A proposed impairment protocol was presented by DWR with a request for GMD 4 comments. Having just seen the proposal, it was tabled until next meeting.
- ◆ The 2006 assessments were set by the board at \$.05 per acre for the land assessment and \$.3466 per acrefoot for the water assessment.
- ◆ Board considered a proposal for decision-modeling support from a KU professor regarding the enhanced management protocol process. Since this process was on hold at the time, no action was taken.
- ◆ Two overpumping issues were decided. 1) that DWR be asked to include non-irrigation water rights in their blatant and recurring overpump process; and 2) that GMD 4 contacted persons be advised that continuing to overpump their water rights will be subject to administrative fines by DWR.
- ◆ Board donated \$100.00 to the Western Prairie RC&D to help with the annual membership fee that keeps the "Foundation Core Collection" housed at Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby.
- ◆ Time was spent reviewing another draft of the Kansas Water Congress' water right set-aside proposal - now called Water Rights Transition Assistance Program (WTAP). This was an early draft but focused on permanently retiring water rights via this state program.
- ◆ A new draft of the state water plan's Conservation Policy Section was reviewed for comment. The board's initial reaction was a much broader scoped document than the original which may even be including some authorities the Kansas Water Office did not clearly have. Staff was asked to keep tabs on the proposal.

AUGUST

- ◆ Board spent time reviewing the state's Impairment Protocol Draft and made comments. They agreed to support the proposed draft only if the prescribed process

was to be applied AFTER a formal request to secure water is made by the water right holder.

- ◆ Board received updates on the developing Conservation Section of the SWP and on the efforts of the south Thomas County group of land and water right owners.
- ◆ Scanning documents continues.

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ Board asked staff to develop written testimony on the Kansas Water Office's proposed Conservation Section. The testimony was to point out that the proposed section was not consistent with current state law and that either the state law needed to be amended or the proposed section needed to be changed, and, that specific details of what a conservation plan (for irrigation) will include are not covered.
- ◆ The board received an update on the metering MOU in the wake of the resignation of Tom Huntzinger who was the lead person for DWR. No board action was needed.
- ◆ Scanning documents continues.

OCTOBER

- ◆ No Board Meeting held

NOVEMBER

- ◆ Due to GMD 4 insistence, the issue of consumptive water use as irrigation efficiency is improved was earlier approved for a study by USGS and KSU. The board was given an interim report on the study to date (due to be completed in June, 2006). Preliminary data analysis is indicating no decrease in water use as irrigation efficiency technology is adopted in western Kansas.
- ◆ The board approved a presentation in March, 2006 by staff regarding local groundwater management. The talk will be at the KU Law seminar which expects to publish the collective papers by several Kansas GMD's.
- ◆ The metering MOU hits another drafting snag and the board discusses asking DWR to postpone the entire process for 1 year since the process is so far behind schedule. On a split vote, the board decides not to make the postponement request.
- ◆ The Foundation grant requests made earlier in the year have been unsuccessful. The board decides to try again and asks staff to re-draft the proposals for a second round of applications. They approve of grant-writing support if needed.

DECEMBER

- ◆ Annual meeting preparations begin and the board decides to focus on the management program and trying to get more eligible voters aware of what it contains and how it applies to them. The goal is to craft a more active and viable district.

- ◆ The board receives staff report that the latest draft of the state water plan conservation section is now consistent with state law and that the section is soon likely to be adopted by the Kansas Water Authority for public hearing and comment.
- ◆ A decision is made to restructure the Foundation slightly such that a specific grant proposal for the south Thomas County area can be drawn up and applied for.
- ◆ Doug David reports to the board on a 4-H program (FSA) where students can obtain independent, low interest loans for 4-H projects. This program allows students to create a credit history on their own and does not require a parental co-signature.
- ◆ The board hears a report from DWR that the meter orders are still not out, but will be soon. The board and DWR decide to conduct public meetings in Goodland, Colby and Hoxie to present the program and field any questions.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) Staff regularly participates in special conferences and meetings throughout the year. During 2005, the following conferences/meetings were attended (GMD4 sponsored meetings are bold):

Regular GMD4 Board meetings and Annual meeting

Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA) conferences

Homeowner meeting requested by Rod Eisenbise, Thomas County

NRCS Kansas Technical Committee meetings

Thomas County Kids for Safety Planning Meetings

KWO Ogallala WISP Meetings

KWO Conservation Section Technical Meetings

Legislative Committee Meetings

South Thomas County Meetings

Solomon Sub-basin Management Meetings

Kansas Water Congress meetings

Metering Public Meeting, St. Francis

KSU Research Field Days - Colby Experiment Station

Kansas Water Authority meetings

Basin Advisory Committee meetings under KWO

DOE Energy Nexus Meetings

Kansas Groundwater Management Districts Association (KGMDA) meetings

KSU Water and the Future of Kansas Conference

Kansas Water Congress Meetings (about half were teleconferences)

- 2) A number of data bases are maintained throughout the year for various uses. For assessment applications, a landowner data base which includes water rights information is annually updated. For GIS applications, well locations; contamination sites; capped wells; NPDES permit locations; metered wells; county lines; district lines; roads; state lines; drainage; rain gauge locations; and tailwater complaint data bases are maintained. For the newsletter, a mailing list is kept current. For all other applications, various data bases are maintained including: abandoned well locations, water quality sampling results, water level data, rainfall data; and water use report data.

- 3) Field work is conducted all year so is not broken out by month. During 2005 the following field work/inspections were conducted:

Metered well checks -----	0
Capped well checks -----	92
Acre certification checks -----	20
Abandoned well checks -----	1
Tailwater Inspections -----	2
Well Rate Checks -----	53
5-year Allocation checks -----	33
Irrigation Plan inspections -----	7

- 4) Six editions of the "Water Table" were written, printed and mailed to the district membership and others. The newsletters go out in early January, March, May, July, September and November. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be, contact the office or visit the webpage to subscribe. The current mailing list is just over 5,300 recipients.

- 5) 2005 District presentations:

- 1) Kansas State report at 31st GMDA Annual Conference
- 2) State Conservation Commission Quarterly Meeting, Hill City
- 3) Groundwater flow model demonstrations at 3-i show, Garden City
- 4) Hoxie Rotary, Hoxie
- 5) KU Wheat State Whirlwind Tour, Colby
- 6) Leadership Kansas, Colby
- 7) Update Kansas Water Authority on GMD 4 Protocol, Garden City
- 8) 2007 Farm Bill requests, Hutchinson
- 9) Thomas County Kids for Safety - Groundwater Flow Model, Colby
- 10) GMD 4 Groundwater Management Activities, Imperial, NE

- 6) Continued to process and work on all phases of water rights within the district. There continues to be a steady level of activity in water rights work - specifically in Change Applications. As before continued emphasis will be placed on acres irrigated and authorized acres allowed to be irrigated. This focus will likely fuel a fairly constant stream of change applications for several years.

- 7) The district also maintains a web page on the world wide web which contains the most information about the district that can be found in one location other than in the office. It is generally updated weekly and is available 24 hours a day. New features added in 2005 are: Archived copies of newsletter editions; a form on the newsletter page for subscribing, unsubscribing or changing your address; a site-specific search box; a new page covering the metering program; and a few new links for Kansas water rights information.

[HTTP://www.gmd4.org](http://www.gmd4.org)

- 8) The rest of staff time was spent attending to basic administrative duties which include: Records maintenance (financial, vacation, travel, minutes, personnel (including annual

personnel evaluations) etc.); scheduling and preparation for board meetings and the annual meeting; serving the public with groundwater information and water rights application support; filing; and software development - all these functions supporting the overall district mission.

Update/Discussion/Questions

The Dreaded Management Program.....

NOT the most exciting topic, but nevertheless a very important one.

By statute, this plan is to be reviewed annually and either re-adopted or amended.

The current program went into effect May 1, 1994 and is in need of updating. This process began in 2003, and was finally completed on November 23, 2005 with adoption by the chief engineer. The final step is a local public hearing.

The public hearing will be March 9, 2006, 1:00 p.m., in the district Office, Colby.

This presentation is to **paraphrase** the proposed program. The full program is available for inspection at:

- ◆ Northwest Kansas GMD 4 district office
- ◆ NW Kansas County and City Libraries
- ◆ GMD 4 Board Members
- ◆ GMD 4 web site

Chapter I - Introduction

Contains introductory information about the district's formation and its initial board organization. It remains unchanged.

Chapter II - Purposes

1. Locally organize and do groundwater management and conservation for the benefit of the entire district.
2. Establish a local framework for groundwater policies and programs within the district.
3. Support and participate in research and education relevant to our groundwater use and management.
4. Derive optimum social and economic benefits from our groundwater development, use and management.
5. Cooperate with all levels of government and district members in accomplishing all district and Groundwater Management District Act objectives.

Chapter III - District Description

Covers the location, soils, climate, drainage, water resources and economy of the district - very briefly. It also has a Table on wells, land exclusions and authorized acrefeet of appropriations by county. This section remains relatively unchanged (except for the Table data being updated).

Chapter IV - Management Problems (6 problems are included)

1. Depletion - Describes the problem as being variable in both space and time. It is better than average in some areas and worse than average in others. It is also accelerating in some areas and getting better in others. Water level change maps for two time periods are included.

To address the depletion problem requires attention to 3 sub-problems:

- A Controlling new development
- B Directing existing development
- X Augmenting resources

A Controlling new development

- ◆ Need to find a fair way of processing new water right applications;
- ◆ Define our maximum development limits; and
- ◆ Prevent new water rights from exceeding the defined limits

Goal(s) controlling new development:

- 1) Prohibit new development exceeding the specific area's long-term recharge.
- 2) Prohibit new water rights from unreasonably impairing existing water rights.
- 3) Provide limited access to new water rights in all areas under special conditions.

B Directing existing development - Recognizes the possible need to:

- ◆ Encourage or mandate higher water use efficiencies;
- ◆ Reduce consumptive water diversions;
- ◆ Reduce existing appropriations in over-appropriated areas;
- ◆ Implement metering;
- ◆ Use resource development plans; and
- ◆ Seek federal/state program support for any or all the above.

Goal(s) for Directing existing development:

- 1) Reduce aquifer diversions from existing water rights thru the GMD 4 Enhanced Management Program;
- 2) Eliminate irrigation on unauthorized places of use;
- 3) Eliminate overpumping authorized quantities of water;
- 4) Promote water right enrollment into WRCP, MFA, EQIP & other such programs;
- 5) Support the creation of appropriate water banks;
- 6) Help develop and support state and federal programs to reduce groundwater use as long as financial or other incentives are used;
- 7) Cooperate with state and local entities in evaluating other ideas of reducing overall diversions - including local sub-aquifer management areas identifying the highest local priority areas;
- 8) Work with DWR to ensure no water use increases as a result of changes made to existing water rights; and
- 9) Ensure all water use within the district is per the Kansas Water Appropriation Act.

X Augmenting resources - Develops a list of possible sources - including artificial recharge, water reuse, weather modification, and water importation.

Goal(s) for augmenting resources:

- 1) Promote new water importation projects as practical;
- 2) Design and operate artificial recharge structures when non-district funding is available;
- 3) Promote current water use efficiency to the maximum extent practical.

2. Public Education and Involvement - States that informing district members and the public (to keep them engaged on the issues) is difficult but very important.

Identifies the following 4 areas where more public education is needed:

Water rights administration

General Kansas Water law

Understanding local GMD roles

Understanding state agency roles

Goal(s) for Public education and Involvement:

1) Develop an education program supporting district activities (information about district actions, non-district activities, water rights and other issues). To this end the district will strive to:

- (a) support schools, service clubs, local groups, and others with presentations or other information when asked;
- (b) periodically notify schools of district presentation capabilities;
- (c) produce a newsletter of general circulation at least quarterly;
- (d) use public service announcements or television interviews whenever possible;
- (e) periodically conduct district-wide listening tours for information transfer between board and members;
- (f) actively work with agencies and the Legislature on water issues - both ours and theirs.

3. Water Quality - This problem recognizes 2 sub-problems:

- A Unplugged, poorly constructed and improperly maintained wells
- B Surface activities that cause contamination.

A Unplugged, poorly constructed and improperly maintained wells - Includes:

water wells	oil & gas wells	seismic holes
test holes	core holes	injection/disposal wells

Wells not meeting minimum state or GMD specs are considered potential threats for groundwater contamination.

Goal(s) for Unplugged, poorly constructed or improperly maintained wells:

- 1) Within 6 months or less cause the plugging, capping or re-construction of deficient wells turned into or found by the district.

B Surface activities with potential for contamination - This section includes anything that causes or may cause potentially harmful materials to collect and possibly enter the groundwater system. It includes:

feedlots	landfills	waste dumps
oilfield batteries	ag-related storage	elevators
chemical plants	chemigation systems	etc.

Goal(s) for Surface activities with potential for contamination:

- 1) Monitor federal and state policy and regulation of all listed surface activities and consider developing local regulation(s) if believed to be inadequate.

4. Availability of Energy - This problem recognizes the economic value of our area's water use, and that high energy prices, while being a factor tending to reduce water use, will also impact the economy negatively.

Goal(s) for Availability of energy:

- 1) Support and/or assist private efforts to assure an adequate energy supply at a reasonable cost for area pumping.
- 2) Work on behalf of area energy users in maintaining a cost-effective and reliable source of energy for crop production and other water uses.

5. Enforcement - While local enforcement is considered best and is the primary emphasis, this problem recognizes the need for state enforcement in special cases.

Goal(s) for Enforcement:

- 1) Work primarily on local enforcement with the ability to coordinate a cooperative enforcement program with the appropriate state agency(s) when the board deems it necessary.
- 2) To monitor federal and state enforcement activities and develop our own enforcement capability whenever these efforts are deemed inadequate.
- 3) To promote responsive state enforcement of local policies and regulations when requested.

6. Public Interest - This problem statement attempts to clarify that the district's management program will be the local expression of the public interest relative to groundwater resources. This is an important idea in that the state's public interest and our region's public interest may not always be the same.

Goal(s) for Public interest:

- 1) Convey through the management program a clear expression of what the local "public interest" is within the GMD.
- 2) Insure the district's ability to continue determining the local public interest.

Chapter V - Programs and Resolutions - There are 8 programs described:

1. Water Use Efficiency - Tries to achieve improved irrigation water use efficiency emphasizing both system design and management. It provides for:

- ◆ Requiring more detailed water use reports;
- ◆ Assessing system application efficiencies;
- ◆ Requiring better water use measurement; and
- ◆ Encouraging all non-irrigation water use efficiency.

2. Water Rights Administration - Establishes that the GMD shall:

- ◆ Review all ground-water applications & make recommendations to DWR;
- ◆ Assist members with all water rights work if requested;

- ◆ Work with DWR in setting reasonable limitations on district water rights;
- ◆ Monitor water use reports & recommend improvements to the reporting process; and
- ◆ Work with DWR on any water rights issues - federal, state or local.

3. Public Education - Sets forth that the district shall provide information to its members through all available means, especially regarding:

Water rights
Water legislation

Regulations & projects affecting water
Water-related meetings, hearings, workshops etc.

4. Investigations & Research - 5 specific investigations and research issues are listed:

Artificial recharge
Water importation
Farm program refinements ²

Evapotranspiration research
Water exportation ¹

¹ This section does not seek to prevent exportation, but to insure that all local regulations are satisfied - including any receiving entities.

² Designed to influence the federal farm programs toward subsidy payments that promote low-water use crop production or reduced consumptive water use without decreasing existing economic incentives.

5. Data Collection - Recognizes that data will be important to groundwater management and calls for:

- ◆ Basic data sets to be created and maintained;
- ◆ Improving the observation well network in NW Kansas;
- ◆ A state-wide Geographic Information System (GIS) with full access for NW Kansas;
- ◆ Data cooperation between the GMD and all government and private agencies.

6. Water Quality Protection

Existing contamination: district may evaluate for sufficiency. If insufficient the district can press for more aggressive agency action or undertake action on its own.

Potential contamination: district's stance is prevention rather than clean-up. Monitoring the oil & Gas industry is listed, suggesting the creation of files on all such activity for post monitoring - well completion, cementing and production records, plugging affidavits, etc. For other activities (landfills, feedlots, chemigation systems, ag chemical facilities, fuel storage units, abandoned wells, etc.) random visual inspections as necessary are discussed as a preventive measure.

Provides for the establishment of a GMD water quality monitoring network if needed.

Provides for a GMD water quality testing unit or coordination with existing water testing facilities as needed - with data sharing for all sampling not restricted by confidentiality.

7. Enhanced Management - To identify aquifer sub-units of similar hydrology, prioritize them and develop an enhanced management program for the high-priority units. The goal is to slow the groundwater declines in the high-priority units.

Proposes 7 tasks:

1. Cluster or otherwise define aquifer sub-units
2. Prioritize the units into High, Medium and Low categories
3. Verify the data and procedures in tasks 1 and 2 before proceeding
4. Set preliminary goals and management actions for the high priority units
5. Assess the GMD management program based on decisions resulting from task 4
6. Develop assistance plans for transitioning to dryland production as necessary
7. Review, evaluate and reiterate the process as necessary.

8. Metering - This program simply commits GMD 4 to work with DWR in designing a mutually acceptable metering program via a co-signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that specifies the obligations and responsibilities of each agency.

Resolutions:

1. Geographic distribution of the board of directors - This charter resolution set the 11 board positions:

2 positions for the full counties (SH, TH, SD) and

1 position for the partial counties except that Decatur County is included in the Rawlins position and Wallace County is included in the 2 Sherman positions.

2. Schedule of Annual Meeting Rotation - Another charter resolution setting up the annual meetings in a 3-year rotation between Goodland, Colby and Hoxie such that these locations best coincide with the board positions up for election that year.

3. Exclusions and Inclusions - This resolution covers how exclusion and inclusion forms will be handled. It is an extension of the statutory language in the GMD act which is at times less than clear, and is supported by an attorney general's opinion.

4. District Election Procedure - Covers how eligible voters will be recognized in district elections. It is an extension of statutory language also based on an attorney general's opinion.

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GMD 4 Permitted Well and Water Rights Data by County by Well Type

(Figures include wells and water rights within the county within the district)

As of February 1, 2006

	CN	DC	GH	GO	LG	RA	SD	SH	TH	WA
Domestic Wells							1	1	3	
AF							5.1	8.4	6.2	
Hyd Dredge Wells							1			
AF							25			
Industrial Wells		2		3			3	8	10	
AF		225		149.4			29.4	1,254.0	932.2	
Irrigation Wells	456	28	115	165	80	152	695	878	798	9
AF	104,531.4	3,816	21,865	29,814	16,226	30,676	162,773.6	263,857.8	208,743.1	2,907
Municipal Wells	10		4	7	7	3	10	14	14	
AF	1,073.9		263.6	626.8	959.8	107.4	737.6	2,281.9	2,591.9	
Recreation Wells	1		1		1		2		2	
AF	15		9.0		15		392.5		16.1	
Stockwater Wells	5		3	10	2	2	14	7	17	
AF	473.6		96.3	776.5	50	104	743.7	282.9	827.2	
Evap Wells	1								1	
AF	12.7								85.0	
County-Tot-Wells	473	30	123	185	90	157	726	908	845	9
County-Tot-AF	106,106.6	4,041	22,233.9	31,366.7	17,250.8	30,887.4	164,706.9	267,685.0	213,201.7	2,907
GMD-Tot-Wells	3,546									
GMD-Tot-AF	860,387.0									

(February 1, 2006 totals are an increase of 5 wells and a decrease of 860.2 Acrefeet over February 4, 2005 totals)

Total Wells by Type and percent of total:

Domestic -----	5	.14%
Hydraulic Dredging -----	1	.03%
Industrial -----	26	.73%
Irrigation -----	3,376	95.21%
Municipal -----	69	1.95%
Recreation -----	7	.20%
Stockwater -----	60	1.69%
Evaporation -----	2	.06%
TOTAL -----	3,546	100.00%

Total Amount (AF) by Type and percent of total:

Domestic -----	19.7	.00%
Hydraulic Dredging -----	25.0	.00%
Industrial -----	2,590.0	.30%
Irrigation -----	845,209.9	98.24%
Municipal -----	8,642.9	1.00%
Recreation -----	447.6	.05%
Stockwater -----	3,354.2	.39%
Evaporation -----	97.7	.01%
TOTAL -----	860,387.0	100.00%

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District Map

Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 Boundary

