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District Personnel

February, 2007 - February, 2008 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	2/09
Sherman/Wallace #3	Jeff Deeds	Member	2/06	2/09
Sherman/Wallace #4	David Rietcheck	Treasurer	2/02	2/08
Thomas # 5	Lon Frahm	Member	2/94	2/09
Thomas # 6	Jon Friesen	Member	6/99	2/08
Sheridan # 7	Bill Nondorf	Secretary	5/94	2/09
Sheridan # 8	Mitch Baalman	Vice President	2/98	2/10
Graham # 9	Doug David	Member	2/98	2/10
Logan # 10	Scott Maurath	President	2/01	2/10
Gove # 11	Shane Mann	Member	2/98	2/10

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.

33rd Annual Meeting Agenda

Open Meeting _____ Scott Maurath, President

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Announcements

32nd Annual Meeting Minutes (Page 5) _____ Jon Friesen
(Motion required to adopt or amend)

2009 Operating Budget - Proposed (Page 7) _____ Dave Rietcheck
(Motion required to adopt for public hearing)

2007 Calendar Year Audit (Page 8) _____ Mitch Baalman
(Motion required to adopt or amend)

Election of Board Positions (Ballots) _____ Jeff Deeds

- Position 1 ----- Cheyenne County
- Position 4 ----- Sherman/Wallace County
- Position 6 ----- Thomas County

Unfinished or New Business or Open Session (Page 15) _____ Scott Maurath

- Presentation of Colorado Groundwater Well Shutdowns _____ Tom Cech
- Blatant & Recurring Overpump Program _____ Scott Ross

Announcement of Board Election Results (if necessary) _____ Jeff Deeds

Adjournment _____ Scott Maurath
(Motion required)



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32nd Annual Meeting Minutes – Hoxie, KS – February 21, 2007

The 32nd annual meeting was opened at 1:00 p.m. CST, February 21, 2007 in the Hoxie Elks Lodge, Hoxie, Kansas. Board members present were: Scott Maurath, Dave Rietcheck, Doug David, Jeff Deeds, Roger Zweygardt, Monty Biggs, Mitch Baalman, Bill Nondorf, Dave Mann and Jon Friesen. Board member Lon Frahm was absent. There were 25 persons in attendance. The attendance roster is available from the district office.

President Scott Maurath opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of the board, staff, former board members in attendance and state agency staff present. Former board members in attendance were: Carl Gaede, Howard Baalman, Larry Cressler and Robin Deeds. Scott then presented the 31st annual meeting minutes by giving everyone a chance to review them. There being no questions, it was moved by Dave Mann and seconded by Mitch Baalman that the 31st annual meeting minutes be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Jeff Deeds next presented the 2008 proposed operating budget. He reported that the 2008 budget was similar to the 2007 revised budget except for the “new field equipment” line item that was \$10,000.00 less and there was not budget for “contingency reserve”. With no questions or comments, the proposed 2008 budget was approved on a motion by Robin Deeds and a second from Howard Baalman for public hearing later in the year.

Mitch Baalman next presented the 2006 calendar year audit. Mitch reported that: \$224,390.22 was carried forward from 2005 (mostly Foundation funds which are being accrued); \$440,966.24 was brought in by county assessments; \$16,205.24 was interest income; and \$62.50 was miscellaneous income - totaling \$681,624.20 for calendar year 2006. 2006 expenditures were \$365,210.37, leaving a bank account balance on December 31, 2006 of \$316,413.83. Mitch reported that \$246,485.70 of this total carryover figure were earmarked for the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation. He finally reported that carryover funds plus \$31.81 in the post office return postage account and \$280.56 remaining on the district's postage meter gave the district a total cash worth on December 31, 2006 of \$316,726.20. With no questions or comments, Jon Friesen moved that the 2006 audit report be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Carl Gaede and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Scott Maurath next presented the 2006 Year in Review report. He invited everyone to read the report at their leisure which was contained in the annual meeting packet on pages 9-13.

Monty Biggs next conducted the board elections for Positions 8 (Sheridan County), 9 (Graham County), 10 (Logan County), and 11 (Gove County). Monty covered the ground rules first and then opened the floor for nominations for position 8, Sheridan County, announcing that Mitch Baalman was the only pre-filed candidate. With no additional nominations offered, Robin Deeds moved that nominations close and a unanimous ballot be cast for Mitch Baalman. Roger Zweygardt seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. Mitch Baalman was elected for another 3-year term.

The floor was opened for nominations for position 9, Graham County following the announcement that Doug David had submitted his nominating petition after the printing of the ballots and should be written in as a pre-filed candidate. With no additional nominations offered, Jeff Deeds moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Doug David. The motion was seconded by Bill Nondorf and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The floor was opened for nominations for position 10, Logan County following the announcement that Scott Maurath was the only pre-filed candidate. With no additional nominations offered, Robin Deeds moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Scott Maurath. The motion was seconded by Doug David and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The floor was opened for nominations for position 11, Gove County following the announcement that Shane Mann was the only pre-filed candidate. With no additional nominations offered, Carl Gaede moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Shane Mann. The motion was seconded by Bill Nondorf and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Next Scott Maurath turned the floor over to Division of Water Resources Stockton Field Office Water Commissioner Scott Ross to cover the newly developing blatant and recurring overpumping program. Scott directed everyone's attention to page 14 of the annual meeting packet where a written summary was provided.

GMD 4 Manager Wayne Bossert next gave an update of the cooperative modeling project. A written summary was also provided in the packet on pages 15-17. A request was made for crop production data for the major crops to better fuel the economic model being developed.

In the open session, Robin Deeds asked about the Republican River Compact accounting process. Scott Ross, DWR, responded that Nebraska will not likely be able to continue their current allocation schedules and meet the compliance limits of the settlement. He indicated that more reductions need to be made. Jon Friesen asked about an article written about the lower Republican River valley concerning the possibility of 2" allocations in the stream alluvium and 7" allocations in a sizeable corridor outside the alluvial areas. Scott Ross responded that such a plan (along with several others) was being discussed, but no decisions have been made by Nebraska on how they intend to stay in compliance. Ray Luhman asked if the expected Spring snow melt off will improve things? Scott Ross indicated that it would certainly improve things, but not for the 2006 accounting year as these numbers have already been set. Moreover, the improvement does not appear to be sufficient enough to solve Nebraska's apparent shortage. Carl Gaede asked about a recent report of wells being shut off in the Republican River in Kansas. Scott Ross indicated that these wells were regulated by Kansas regarding minimum desirable stream flow issues and were not related to the Republican River compact settlement.

Jeff Mason next presented an award for outgoing board member and board Secretary Dave Mann for his dedicated service since 1998. A jacket with embroidered GMD 4 logo was presented.

President Scott Maurath, not needing to announce any board election results, made a final call for any additional issues for the open session. There being none, Monty Biggs moved for adjournment. Mitch Baalman seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. The 32nd annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. CST, February 21, 2007.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mann, Secretary

2009 Proposed Operating Budget

Budget Category	2009 Proposed Budget	2007 Expended Budget
POSTAGE	\$7,300.00	\$6,138.00
Newsletter	\$5,700.00	\$4,754.24
General	\$1,600.00	\$1,346.14
PRINTING	\$7,900.00	\$7,027.20
Newsletter	\$7,500.00	\$7,027.20
Administrative	\$400.00	\$0.00
DUES	\$1,700.00	\$1,580.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$1,800.00	\$1,508.67
INSURANCE	\$11,050.00	\$10,614.76
Office	\$900.00	\$823.00
Public Officials	\$4,500.00	\$4,344.94
Auto	\$3,100.00	\$3,079.52
Workman's Comp	\$1,700.00	\$1,575.00
Computer	\$600.00	\$588.00
Unemployment	\$250.00	\$204.30
TELEPHONE	\$4,500.00	\$4,458.06
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$259,730.00	\$246,344.13
Gross Sal, SS, Kpers, Etc	\$240,430.00	\$229,644.13
Health Insurance	\$19,300.00	\$16,700.00
TRAVEL	\$10,000.00	\$9,742.65
Board	\$6,500.00	\$6,410.90
Staff	\$3,500.00	\$3,331.75
VEHICLES	\$6,350.00	\$5,683.63
Repair & Maint.	\$1,000.00	\$619.87
Operation	\$5,200.00	\$4,916.76
Tags	\$150.00	\$147.00
Purchase/Lease	\$0.00	\$0.00
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$28,800.00	\$26,595.37
Accounting	\$2,600.00	\$2,334.00
Legal	\$1,200.00	\$1,071.89
Misc. Support	\$25,000.00	\$23,189.48
Water Sampling	\$0.00	\$0.00
Drilling	\$0.00	\$0.00
Weather Modification	\$0.00	\$0.00
PUBLICATIONS	\$400.00	\$325.89
Legal Notices	\$400.00	\$325.89
COOP PROGRAMS	\$492,665.60	\$0.00
Administrative	\$492,665.60	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contracted Studies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Educational Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$4,740.00	\$4,930.91
Office Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,158.02
Copy Machine	\$900.00	\$722.31
Computer Maintenance	\$250.00	\$195.27
Postage Meter Lease	\$540.00	\$540.00
Bank Charges	\$50.00	\$23.82
Field Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$1,291.49
NEW EQUIPMENT	\$6,500.00	\$16,886.88
Field	\$2,000.00	\$4,500.00
Office	\$4,500.00	\$12,386.88
CONTINGENCY RESERVE	\$0.00	\$50.00
FACILITY	\$10,975.00	\$10,500.00
Rent	\$10,000.00	\$9,960.00
Upkeep	\$975.00	\$840.00
Remodel	\$0.00	\$0.00
Foundation	\$550.00	\$258.40
Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Legal	\$300.00	\$40.00
Technical Support	\$250.00	\$218.40
TOTALS	\$854,960.60	\$352,606.93

2007 Calendar Year Audit Report

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

All Accounts – For the period January 1 - December 31, 2007

2007 INCOME:

Cash forward from 2006 (Cash and Foundation CD)-----	\$316,413.83
County Assessments -----	\$412,918.15
Interest Earned (GMD4 and Foundation Accounts) -----	\$22,602.65
State Grant Income -----	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income -----	\$298.13

2007 TOTAL INCOME: \$752,232.76

2007 EXPENDITURES:

Postage -----	\$6,100.38
Printing -----	\$7,027.20
Dues -----	\$1,580.00
Subscriptions -----	\$1,508.67
Insurance -----	\$10,614.76
Telephone -----	\$4,458.06
Salaries & Benefits -----	\$246,344.13
Travel -----	\$9,742.65
Vehicles -----	\$5,683.63
Contracted Services -----	\$26,595.37
Publications -----	\$325.89
Coop Programs -----	\$0.00
Administrative -----	\$4,930.91
Equipment -----	\$16,886.88
Facility -----	\$10,500.00
Reserve for contingency -----	\$50.00
Foundation -----	\$258.40

TOTAL 2007 EXPENDITURES ----- \$352,606.93

Cash on hand – 12/31/07 (All Accounts) -----	\$399,625.83¹
Post Office Return Postage Account - 12/31/07 -----	\$79.82
Postage remaining on Postal Meter - 12/31/07 -----	\$173.50
TOTAL CASH WORTH – 12/31/07 -----	<u>\$399,879.15</u>

¹ \$338,263.84 is dedicated Foundation carryover from 2005-2007, being carried over again into 2008.

2007 – Year in Review by Month

JANUARY

- ◆ Adopted a revised 2007 operating budget after assimilating the 2006 cash carryover funds.
- ◆ Joined the Kansas Water Congress for another year.
- ◆ Manager attended and presented at the GMDA Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM.
- ◆ The data being used in the enhanced management protocol process was reviewed and determined adequate to establish high, medium and low priority areas. It may or may not be adequate in these smaller areas to support specific management decisions.

FEBRUARY

- ◆ Approved the 2006 audit report. The district books passed grade once again.
- ◆ Adopted a proposed 2008 operating budget for consideration by district members.
- ◆ The EQIP Program quick response areas (QRA's) were set by the board. The Thomas County 4-township area was eliminated, the Sherman County 4-township area was retained another year and a the Sheridan County High Priority area was added.
- ◆ Board considered a number of legislative bills and directed staff to support/oppose.
- ◆ Three management scenarios were approved for modeling in the economic/hydrologic model being developed – status quo; shutting off all irrigation wells in the high priority areas; and reducing pumpage 30% in the high priority areas. These scenarios were just to explore the limits of the model more than anything else.
- ◆ The Groundwater Conservation Foundation mission was discussed anew.
- ◆ Elected 2007 Officers as follows: President - Scott Maurath; Vice President - Mitch Baalman; Secretary – Bill Nondorf; Treasurer - Dave Rietcheck.

MARCH

- ◆ The enhanced management protocol high priority areas were tweaked and finally set.
- ◆ The Conservation Foundation's mission was discussed with suggestions made for possible new directions. No action was taken.
- ◆ KSU Economic modeling continued.
- ◆ Compliance inspections began on the metering program notice and proofs for wells in the NE quarter of any district section.

APRIL

- ◆ KGS/GMD 4 agree to and design a cross-validation procedure on the district's January, 2007 annual water level measurement data which is designed to quantify the confidence of the data set.
- ◆ Board continued to get updates on the cooperative modeling effort.
- ◆ The developing Water Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) continued to be problematic for GMD 4 in that our designated high priority areas will not be considered "closed" to new appropriations for the purposes of this program. The board reviewed the draft regulations for this program and offered testimony.
- ◆ The board approved GMD 4 sponsorship of an informal alliance to develop conservation practices should SB 89 be passed and funds placed into the conservation account.

MAY

- ◆ KGS presented the cross-validation study results to the board. There appeared to be a need to add data points in the specific high priority areas in order to achieve acceptable confidence levels for the data.
- ◆ The board explored the potential of a proposed 2007 Farm Bill program called Regional Water Enhancement Program (RWEF). It was to implement water conservation in larger areas and seemed perfectly matched to the Foundation effort underway. The RWEF as reviewed did not survive the process.
- ◆ A Kansas Water Authority member proposal was reviewed. The proposal was a water rights reduction incentive program to extend the life of the aquifer. No action was taken, and ultimately the proposal was set aside – at least for now.
- ◆ The board decided to begin exploring ways to enhance upcoming management programs with new or innovative ideas/programs. Staff was asked to develop an initial list of ideas for consideration.

JUNE

- ◆ Staff continued to work on the modeling, the RWEF proposal, management program ideas, the EQIP Ground and Surface Water Program, etc.
- ◆ The board decides to establish the Republican River Conservation Projects Alliance for the purpose of accessing any conservation funds that might become available to Kansas from either Nebraska or Colorado as a result of the Republican River Compact Settlement. SB 89 – designating how any compact payments to Kansas would be utilized – did not pass the legislature, but was expected to pass in 2008.
- ◆ Manager attended the GMDA Summer Conference in Estes Park, CO.

JULY

- ◆ The board received an update on the economic model being developed by KSU. Modeler Bill Golden asked the board to offer data or input into the various crop production curves that were critical to the economic model.
- ◆ GMD 4 sends a request to DWR to co-designate our 6 high priority areas for WTAP funds approved earlier by the legislature. DWR response is negative because they don't consider our high priority areas "closed to new appropriations". Much time throughout the summer was spent on this effort arguing our position, but eventually we did not prevail.
- ◆ Manager and Board member Lon Frahm did an interview with National Public Radio (NPR) on the Ogallala.
- ◆ The 2008 assessments were set by the board at \$.05 per acre for the land assessment and \$.353 per acrefoot for the water assessment.

AUGUST

- ◆ Staff testifies on the WTAP regulations. The final regulations incorporated every GMD 4 recommendation but for the one that would make us eligible.
- ◆ Manager assumes the chairmanship of the Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA) sub-committee of the Kansas Water Congress (KWC). The KWC eventually adopted a White Paper on the IGUCA issues that was presented to the Interim Legislative Committee on IGUCAs.
- ◆ The board decides to delay the next year meter notices until December so they will be more timely.

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ The board considered 13 issues developed by staff for possible inclusion in some future management program. These issues would be discussed in subsequent board meetings.
- ◆ A position was taken on the WTAP stand-off. GMD 4 proposed an alternative approach for considering areas "closed to new appropriation" and indicated it would forego the program rather than adopt the state's interpretation.
- ◆ The IGUCA issue is now in full debate across the state with the Interim Legislative Committee ready to start its deliberations in October. Major issues are: Who can trigger an IGUCA within a GMD; what a required periodic review procedure should be; and should there be an independent IGUCA hearing officer. GMD 4 staff is preparing to testify before the Interim Legislative Committee formed to study the IGUCA issues.
- ◆ The board hears a report from DWR on the Republican River Compact Settlement that Nebraska and Colorado are out of compliance with the settlement agreement and that Kansas Attorney General is poised to initiate decisive action.

OCTOBER

- ◆ Staff testifies before the Interim Legislative Committee on IGUCAs suggesting statutory clarification that only a GMD board or a subset of eligible voters can trigger an IGUCA within a GMD. Staff also suggested a periodic review process for every IGUCA that would re-consider all original data and new data to decide if the IGUCA should be amended in any way – including eliminated for due cause.
- ◆ Staff worked with NRCS and the Kansas Water Office on the EQIP Ground and Surface Water Program for the GMD Quick Response Areas. The program was placed on hold pending 2007 Farm Bill actions.
- ◆ Staff met with SCC to discuss once again the WTAP program and its decision to not consider GMD 4 high priority areas “closed to new appropriations”. Staff would not prevail on this issue. A draft memorandum of agreement was also considered.

NOVEMBER

- ◆ Staff posts a meter calculator on its webpage which shows total water pumped from beginning and ending meter readings for all the meter types commonly used within the district.
- ◆ The March 9, 2006 Revised Management Program was re-adopted for another year with the understanding that the board would be considering changes for next year’s program.
- ◆ Republican River Conservation Projects Alliance held its first meeting to get organized. GMD 4 Manager is elected as chairman of the Alliance. SB 89 was considered but no changes were suggested from the alliance members. The original stakeholder groups were re-considered and retained. The next meeting would be for considering specific conservation projects the group wanted to support.

DECEMBER

- ◆ Seven future management program issues were chosen from the list of 13 considerations. They were: 1) Definition of GMD 4 “public interest”; 2) variable assessment rate authority; 3) an economic component to new and changed water rights; 4) GMD ownership of water rights for hydrologic/economic considerations; 5) multi-year water allocations; 6) restricting impairment complaints in enhanced management situations; and 7) more restrictions on adding acres to existing water rights.
- ◆ The board reviewed the IGUCA issues again and confirmed how GMD 4 should approach the anticipated IGUCA bill and other efforts on-going.
- ◆ The conservation foundation’s current tax exempt status was requested for extension.
- ◆ GMD 4 was decided not to sign the current WTAP MOU unless it included provisions for qualifying our high priority areas as eligible WTAP areas.
- ◆ Staff and attorney contracts were approved for 2008.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) Staff regularly participates in special conferences and meetings throughout the year. During 2006, the following conferences/meetings were attended (GMD4 sponsored meetings are bold):

Regular GMD4 Board meetings and Annual meeting

Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA) conferences

NRCS Kansas Technical Committee meetings

Legislative Committee Meetings

Kansas Water Congress meetings

Ogallala WISP Meeting

GMD 3 Meter Workshop Day

KSU Research Field Days - Colby Experiment Station

Kansas Water Authority meetings

Dispute Resolution Training

Basin Advisory Committee meetings under KWO

Kansas Groundwater Management Districts Association (KGMDA) meetings

KSU Water and the Future of Kansas Conference

- 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 2007 the following types of field work/inspections were conducted:

Metered wells; Capped wells; Acre certifications; Abandoned wells; Tailwater Inspections; Well Rate Checks; 5-year Allocations; and Irrigation Plan inspections.

- 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) 2007 District presentations:

- 1) GMDA, Albuquerque, NM – January 8
- 2) Irrigation Training, Colby, KS – February 1
- 3) Pioneer Development, Hill City, KS – April 17
- 4) KU Wheat State Whirlwind Tour, Colby – May 23
- 5) Smoky Hill Public TV Town Hall Mtg, Colby, KS – May 30

- 6) GMDA, Estes Park, CO – June 4
 - 7) National Public Radio Interview, Colby, KS – July 5
 - 8) Solomon RC&D on Alliance Proposal, Norton, KS – July 13
 - 9) Rawlins County Commissioners, Atwood, KS – August 20
 - 10) Monsanto Seed Co, York, NE – August 22
 - 11) Leadership Kansas, Colby, KS – August 25
 - 12) BAC Presentation on Alliance, Colby, KS – September 13
 - 13) Interim Legislative Committee on IGUCAs – Testimony, Topeka, KS – October 22
 - 14) KS Water Authority on GMD 4 protocol process, Dodge City, KS – November 9
 - 15) Groundwater Flow Model Demonstration, Colby
 - 16) GMDA
 - 17) Kansas Water Congress
- 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. The newest addition in 2007 was an editorial page and a meter calculator page.

[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.
- 9) The newest project was begun in late 2005, had a significant amount of time dedicated to it in 2006, and a moderate amount of time in 2007, was the electronic scanning of all district records and files. To date staff has added just over 10,000 files to the database. Scanning records and documents provides an electronic copy that is easily backed up and accessible in case of major loss or disaster. This process is also reducing record storage space, allowing easier location of records and easier sharing/transmittal of files/records/documents.

2008 Discussion Issues & Open Session

1. Colorado Well Shutdowns – Tom Cech

Tom Cech is the Executive Director of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District in Greeley, Colorado, and has been in that position since 1982. He grew up on a farm in eastern Nebraska.

The year 2006 was a crisis year in northeastern Colorado when 440 wells were shutdown, after crops had been planted, due to projected impacts on surface streamflows. Overall, over 2,000 wells have now been shutdown in northeastern Colorado, or have been ordered by the State to reduce pumping down to as little as 15% of historic levels. Some farmland has been permanently dried up, water prices are skyrocketing, and family farms are being lost.

2. Blatant & Recurring Overpumps & Other Enforcement Issues – Scott Ross

Until 2001 the enforcement of water right violations was done on a case by case basis. After 2001 a more comprehensive approach began with the examination of annual water use reports. Great effort was made to contact those individuals and work with them to address their reasons for over pumping.

Today we continue a rigorous program for those top 10-20 water users in each field office with the highest quantities. However, beginning in 2007, all those who over pumped received a Notice of Non-Compliance. While the top 12 water users in the Stockton Field Office area are still apart of the 2008 BRO program.

The Notice of Non-Compliance program began as a trial in 2007. A Notice of Non-Compliance is a warning that the file has violated the authorized quantity. This Notice serves as the first step in the DWR administrative fine program. The second violation results in a \$500.00 fine. The third violation results in a fine of \$500/day. The final violation results in the suspension of the water right. Moreover, any violation resulting in a fine or sanction eliminates the file from several state and federal buy out programs.

The DWR compliance program continues to evolve. DWR in cooperation with GMD No. 4 will continue to review and investigate over pumping while looking forward to the day when no violations occur. The program has been very successful. In the last several years violations have dropped from 750 files/yr to below 200.

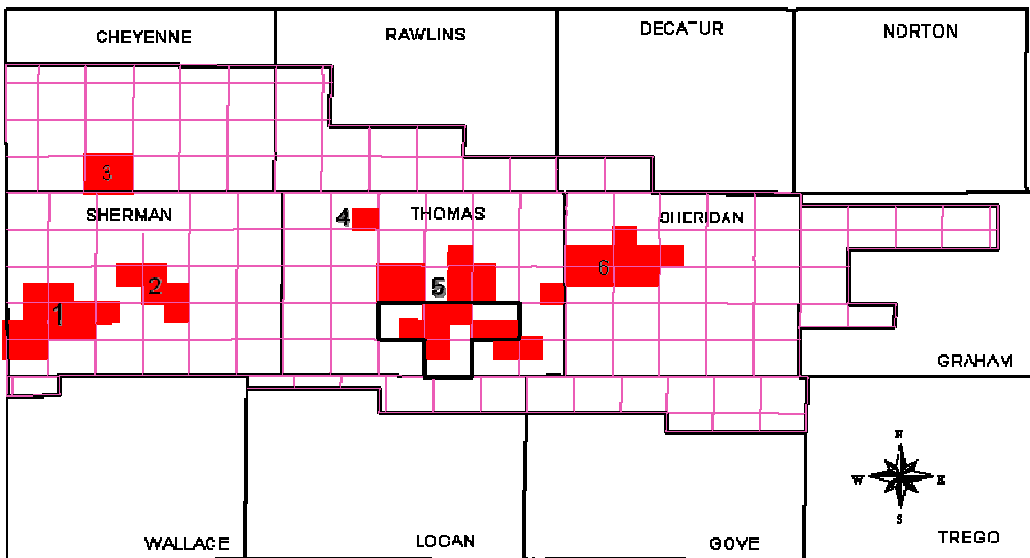
Enhanced Management & High Priority Areas

Set as a guideline in the State Water Plan, the enhanced management process is to slow the decline rate in the High Plains Aquifer and thus extend its usable life. The process requires coordination and cooperation between the GMD's and the state and federal players in groundwater, but places the local GMD's (and the division of water resources in areas where no GMD exists) in the lead role.

In essence, the process is to identify high, medium and low priority areas and then address the declines appropriately. Starting with the high priority areas, an enhanced management plan is to be developed to slow the groundwater declines. The process allows non-regulatory approaches (education, voluntary incentive efforts, etc.) initially, but also calls for regulatory approaches if these don't work.

The GMD 4 board has opted to implement this effort through 7 "Tasks". Tasks 1 and 2 were to characterize the aquifer and set the high priority areas. These tasks were completed in March, 2007. The high priority areas within GMD 4 are those ¼-Township areas that have 2 or more sections which have either declined more than 9% between 1996 and 2002, or, have a 2-mile reported water use density of 275 Acrefeet or more – with sections having less than 15 feet of saturated thickness or 25 acrefeet of reported water use density eliminated. These are the red areas on the map below. The board also can designate an area if locals approach the board with a request and a plan. The black, 4-Township area in Thomas County represents such an area. The 6 areas meeting these criteria, and thus designated as High Priority Areas, are:

GMD4 High Priority Areas Adopted March 8, 2007



Eventually the board must meet with locals in these areas and discuss area goals and ways to reach the goals. These meetings should begin in the Fall of 2008. For more information, contact the district or visit the web page at: www.gmd4.org.

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 January 11, 2008

	CN	DC	GH	GO	LG	RA	SD	SH	TH	WA
Domestic Wells							3	1	3	
AF							24.9	8.4	6.2	
Hyd Dredge Wells							1			
AF							7			
Industrial Wells		2		4			3	9	9	
AF		225		483.4			29.4	1,419.2	995.3	
Irrigation Wells	454	28	114	159	81	150	692	877	790	9
AF	104,325.4	3,816	21,686	29,225	16,241	30,537	162,050.6	263,317.8	207,210.1	2,907
Municipal Wells	10		4	7	7	3	10	14	14	
AF	1,073.9		263.1	709.8	959.8	107.4	737.6	2,281.9	2,591.9	
Recreation Wells	1		1		1		3		2	
AF	15		9.0		15		404.5		16.1	
Stockwater Wells	5		3	10	2	2	17	7	17	
AF	623.6		96.3	776.5	50	104	793.7	269.5	827.2	
Evap Wells										
AF										
County-Tot-Wells	471	30	122	180	91	155	729	908	835	9
County-Tot-AF	106,050.6	4,041	22,054.4	31,194.7	17,265.8	30,748.4	164,047.7	267,296.8	211,646.8	2,907
GMD-Tot-Wells	3,530									
GMD-Tot-AF	857,253.2									

January 11, 2008 totals = decrease of 10 wells and a decrease of 2,328.8 Appropriated AF over the October 2, 2006 totals

GMD 4 Comparison of Pumped Water To Appropriated Water

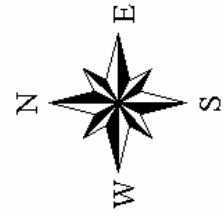
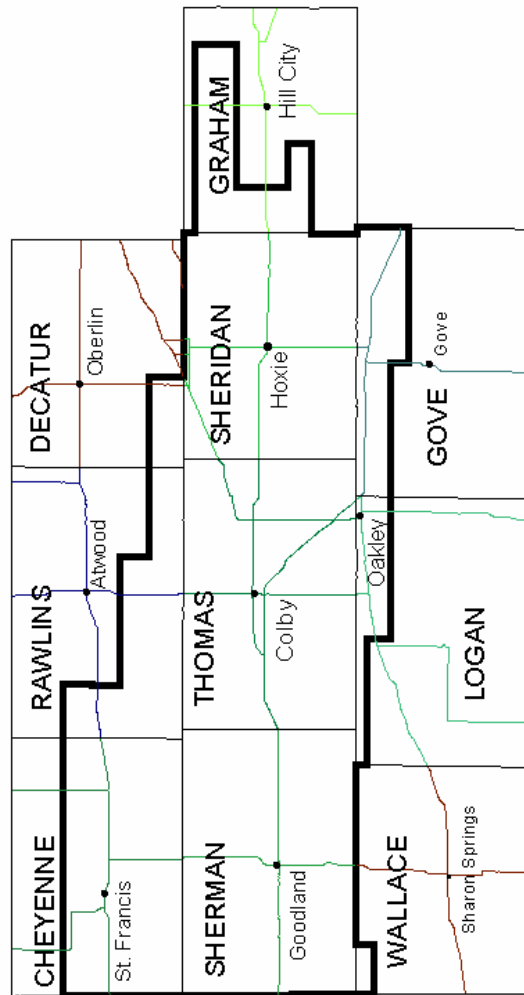
2006 Data

Area	Appropriated Water	Pumped Water	Percent
Total GMD 4	859,582	436,269	50.8%
Sherman County	267,685	128,566	48.0%
Thomas County	213,201	122,699	57.6%
Sheridan County	164,707	82,691	50.2%

The above Data is from the WIMAS data set. WIMAS does not filter by GMD, so only full county data is available. 2007 data is not yet available for this packet.

District Map

Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 Boundary



NOTES PAGE