

34th Annual Meeting Agenda

Open Meeting _____ Scott Maurath, President

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Announcements

33rd Annual Meeting Minutes (Page 3) _____ Bill Nondorf
(Motion required to adopt or amend)

2010 Operating Budget - Proposed (Page 5) _____ Jeff Deeds
(Motion required to adopt for public hearing)

2008 Calendar Year Audit (Page 7) _____ Monty Biggs
(Motion required to adopt or amend)

Election of Board Positions (Ballots) _____ Jon Friesen

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

Unfinished or New Business or Open Session _____ Scott Maurath

Announcement of Board Election Results (if necessary) _____ Jon Friesen

Adjournment _____ Scott Maurath
(Motion required)



District Personnel

February, 2008 - February, 2009 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, metering info and a flow meter calculator, water level data, water-related links, the groundwater management district act and more.

33rd Annual Meeting Minutes – Goodland, KS – February 20, 2008

The 33rd annual meeting was opened at 1:00 p.m. MST, February 20, 2008 in the Howard Johnson Hotel, Goodland, Kansas. Board members present were: Scott Maurath, Dave Rietcheck, Lon Frahm, Jeff Deeds, Roger Zwegardt, Monty Biggs, Mitch Baalman, Bill Nondorf, Shane Mann and Jon Friesen. Board member Doug David was absent. There were 55 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: Robin Deeds, Gayle Walz, Ken Palmgren and Doug Irvin.

Scott then turned over the meeting to Jon Friesen for presentation of the 32nd annual meeting minutes, Hoxie, KS, February 21, 2007. Jon directed attention to the annual meeting minutes and gave everyone a chance to review them. There being no questions, it was moved by Joe McInay and seconded by Ken Palmgren that the 32nd annual meeting minutes be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Dave Rietcheck next presented the 2009 proposed operating budget. Dave reported that the 2009 budget was similar to the 2008 revised budget except for the “new field equipment” and the Foundation line items – which were explained. With no questions or comments, the proposed 2009 budget of \$854,960.60 was approved on a motion by Robin Deeds and a second from Joe McInay for public hearing later in the year.

Mitch Baalman next presented the 2007 calendar year audit. Mitch reported that: \$316,413.83 was carried forward from 2006 (mostly Foundation funds which are being accrued); \$412,918.15 was brought in by county assessments; \$22,602.65 was interest income; and \$298.13 was miscellaneous income - totaling \$752,232.76 for calendar year 2007. 2007 expenditures were \$352,606.93, leaving a bank account balance on December 31, 2007 of \$399,625.93. Mitch reported that \$338,263.84 of this total carryover figure were earmarked for the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation. He finally reported that carryover funds plus \$79.82 in the post office return postage account and \$173.50 remaining on the district's postage meter gave the district a total cash worth on December 31, 2007 of \$399,879.15. With no questions or comments, Ken Palmgren moved that the 2007 audit report be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Alan Query and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Jeff Deeds next conducted the board elections for Positions 1 (Cheyenne County), 4 (Sherman/Wallace County), and 6 (Thomas County). Jeff covered the ground rules first and then opened the floor for nominations for position 1, Cheyenne County, announcing that Roger Zwegardt was the only pre-filed candidate. With no additional nominations offered, Robin Deeds moved that nominations close and a unanimous ballot be cast for Roger Zwegardt. Monty Biggs seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote.

The floor was opened for nominations for position 4, Sherman/Wallace County following the announcement that Dave Rietcheck was the only pre-filed candidate. With no additional nominations offered, Doug Irvin moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Dave Rietcheck. The motion was seconded by Robin Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The floor was opened for nominations for position 6, Thomas County following the announcement that Jon Friesen was the only pre-filed candidate. With no additional nominations offered, Joe McClnay moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Jon Friesen. The motion was seconded from the floor and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Next Scott Maurath turned the floor over to Manager Wayne Bossert who introduced the Keynote speakers – Tom Cech, Manager of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District and Kelly Stewart, assistant Water Commissioner of the Stockton Field Office of the Division of Water Resources. Tom Cech covered the Colorado well shut downs in the Platte River basin of NE Colorado, and Kelly Stewart covered the state's blatant and recurring overpumping program.

In the open session, Scott Maurath urged everyone to consider a board position and getting involved with the district. With no other discussion topics or questions from the floor in Open Session, Gayle Walz moved for adjournment. Ken Palmgren seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. The 33rd annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 was adjourned at 2:45 P.M. MST, February 20, 2008.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Nondorf, Secretary

2010 Proposed Operating Budget

The 2010 Proposed operating budget (highlighted values) is a blend of the 2008 Expended and the 2009 Revised budgets. It is the board's best guess at what the district's operational costs are likely to be in 2010. The GMD membership is obligated to consider this budget at the annual meeting and make any recommendations to the board. The GMD 4 board will consider all comments and will schedule this final budget for public hearing later in the year.

2008 - Expended	2009 - Revised	2010 Proposed	Categories
\$5,509.07	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00	POSTAGE
\$3,841.92	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	Newsletter
\$1,667.15	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	General
\$6,740.64	\$6,950.00	\$6,950.00	PRINTING
\$6,180.14	\$6,200.00	\$6,200.00	Newsletter
\$560.50	\$750.00	\$750.00	Administrative
\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	DUES
\$2,306.64	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS
\$11,213.28	\$11,400.00	\$11,400.00	INSURANCE
\$1,399.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	Office
\$2,964.78	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Public Officials' Liability
\$2,033.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Auto
\$4,407.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	Workmans' Comp.
\$196.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	Computer
\$213.50	\$250.00	\$250.00	Unemployment
\$5,669.61	\$5,700.00	\$5,700.00	TELEPHONE
\$262,610.15	\$269,000.00	\$269,000.00	SALARIES AND BENEFITS
\$240,329.92	\$249,700.00	\$249,700.00	Gross Sal, Kpers, SS, Etc.
\$22,280.23	\$19,300.00	\$19,300.00	Health Insurance
\$11,996.84	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00	TRAVEL
\$7,746.53	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	Board
\$4,250.31	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	Staff
\$5,853.14	\$6,325.00	\$6,325.00	VEHICLES
\$846.53	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Repairs/Maintenance
\$4,881.61	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	Operation
\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	Tags
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Purchase/Lease
\$23,534.26	\$29,000.00	\$26,000.00	CONTRACTED SERVICES
\$2,791.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	Accounting
\$967.50	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	Legal
\$19,775.76	\$25,000.00	\$22,000.00	Misc. Support
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Water Sampling
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Drilling
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Weather Modification
\$327.02	\$400.00	\$400.00	PUBLICATIONS
\$327.02	\$400.00	\$400.00	Legal Notices
\$2,000.00	\$502,112.87	\$77,000.00	COOP PROGRAMS
\$0.00	\$500,112.87	\$75,000.00	Administrative
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Equipment
\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Contracted Studies
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Education Program
\$4,461.15	\$6,100.00	\$6,100.00	ADMINISTRATIVE
\$2,424.70	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Office Supplies
\$672.47	\$900.00	\$900.00	Copy Machine
\$719.99	\$900.00	\$900.00	Computer Maint
\$713.28	\$750.00	\$750.00	Postage Meter Lease
\$16.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	Bank Charges
(\$85.29)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Field Supplies

\$5,205.76	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	NEW EQUIPMENT
\$51.22	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Field
\$5,154.54	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	Office
\$53.50	\$48,657.75	\$0.00	CONTINGENCY RESERVE
\$10,498.00	\$12,975.00	\$13,275.00	FACILITY
\$9,690.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,300.00	Rent
\$808.00	\$975.00	\$975.00	Upkeep
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Remodel
\$150.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	REIMBURSED EXPENSES
\$105.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	FOUNDATION
\$10.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	Foundation Subscriptions
\$35.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	Foundation Legal
			Foundation Tech Support
\$359,629.06	\$925,920.62	\$449,450.00	

It is important to note that the 2008 Expended budget does not include any of the Foundation funds, so it appears smaller when compared to the other budgets included in this comparison report.

The 2010 Proposed budget includes \$75,000.00 for the Foundation – the same amount that has been dedicated each year to the Foundation for the past 4 years.

The 2009 Revised budget includes all GMD 4 funds and the Foundations Funds, so it appears large in comparison.

2008 Calendar Year Audit Report

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

All Accounts – For the period January 1 - December 31, 2008

2008 INCOME:

Cash forward from 2007 (Cash and Foundation CD)-----	\$399,625.83
County Assessments -----	\$437,406.48
Interest Earned (GMD4 and Foundation Accounts) -----	\$12,610.09
State Grant Income -----	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income -----	\$0.00

2008 TOTAL INCOME: \$849,642.40

2008 EXPENDITURES:

Postage -----	\$5,509.07
Printing -----	\$6,740.64
Dues -----	\$1,500.00
Subscriptions -----	\$2,306.64
Insurance -----	\$11,213.28
Telephone -----	\$5,669.61
Salaries & Benefits -----	\$262,610.15
Travel -----	\$11,996.84
Vehicles -----	\$5,853.14
Contracted Services -----	\$23,534.26
Publications -----	\$327.02
Coop Programs -----	\$2,000.00
Administrative -----	\$4,461.15
Equipment -----	\$5,205.76
Facility -----	\$10,498.00
Reserve for contingency -----	\$53.50
Foundation -----	\$45.00

TOTAL 2008 EXPENDITURES ----- \$359,629.06

Cash on hand – 12/31/08 (All Accounts) ----- \$490,013.34¹

Post Office Return Postage Account - 12/31/08 ----- \$64.59

Postage remaining on Postal Meter - 12/31/08 ----- \$318.08

TOTAL CASH WORTH – 12/31/08 ----- \$490,396.01

¹ \$425,112.87 of these funds is the Foundation funding as of December 31, 2008 - being carried over into 2009

2008 – Year in Review by Month

JANUARY

- ◆ Adopted a revised 2008 operating budget after assimilating the 2007 cash carryover funds.
- ◆ Joined the Kansas Water Congress for another year.
- ◆ Manager attended and presented at the GMDA Annual Conference in Tallahassee, FL. and attended an Ogallala Initiative modeling meeting in Amarillo, TX with GMD 3 and KWO staff as representatives on behalf of Kansas for reviewing the model proposal.

FEBRUARY

- ◆ Approved the 2007 audit report.
- ◆ Adopted a proposed 2009 operating budget for consideration by district members.
- ◆ The EQIP Program quick response areas (QRA's) were again set by the board. Finally, all 6 HPAs were designated and became eligible for EQIP – a 4-year water right set aside for 3 years of program payments at \$100.00 per eligible acre per year.
- ◆ Board decided to forego the Water Transition and Assistance Program (WTAP) request for eligibility that had been submitted last July. The reason is that the program incentive was felt to be too complicated and too little.
- ◆ Elected 2008 Officers as follows: President - Scott Maurath; Vice President - Mitch Baalman; Secretary – Bill Nondorf; Treasurer - Dave Rietcheck
- ◆ The board was provided a Conservation Projects Alliance update.

MARCH

- ◆ No March Board meeting was held.
- ◆ A Republican River Basin Conservation Projects Alliance meeting was held in the GMD 4 offices. The Alliance continued to look at possible conservation projects.
- ◆ Manager attended KSU's Water and the Future of Kansas Conference in Topeka.

APRIL

- ◆ Staff reported to the board that Representative Faber had not supported the GMDs in their attempt to have the IGUCA statutes amended to clarify the 2002-24 Attorney General's opinion that the chief engineer can initiate an IGUCA inside a GMD without the GMD's request. As a result, the AG's opinion stands and obligates the chief engineer to develop regulations accordingly. Staff was asked to invite Representative Faber to a future board meeting.

- ◆ The board decided that if an engineering study was required for the Republican River Basin Conservation Projects Alliance application, GMD 4 would pay the cost of the study provided these costs would be reimbursable.
- ◆ The cooperative modeling study was discussed along with the possibility of modeling a multi-year allocation approach. It was decided that the principal author of the model (Bill Golden) was to be invited to a board meeting for an update and questions.
- ◆ Discussion took place on the enhanced management protocol – specifically, should the process begin undertaking Task 4 – public meetings and input. No decision on Task 4 was made pending a KGS report requested.
- ◆ The quarterly Kansas Water Authority (KWA) Meeting was held in Colby this month. The GMD 4 board sponsored part of the 2-day meeting.

MAY

- ◆ The board did not meet in May.
- ◆ The Republican River Basin Conservation projects Alliance met in Colby to continue discussion of possible conservation projects.
- ◆ Manager attended the 3-I show in Great Bend to man the Kansas GMD's booth; attended an Ogallala WISP meeting in Salina; presented the groundwater flow model in Phillipsburg; and presented a Rotary meeting on the groundwater model in Burlington, CO.
- ◆ Staff also participated in a conference call with DWR on newly developing draft regulations regarding impairment complaints in Kansas.

JUNE

- ◆ Staff continued to work on the modeling and the AWEP proposal. Staff of all GMDs and the KWO and DWR met with new Kansas Conservationist Eric Banks to discuss the EQIP and AWEP programs in regard to continuing NRCS support of programs helping Kansas producers to reduce water use.
- ◆ Manager attended the GMDA Summer Conference in El Paso, TX.
- ◆ The board approved expenditure of a laptop computer and a digital projector for public presentations – especially the Task 4 Protocol presentations.
- ◆ Regarding the enhanced management protocol, the board decided that Task 3 was complete and authorized the move onto Task 4 – the public meetings – so long as they began in the Fall after farming operations.

JULY

- ◆ Board gets a staff report that all 3 NW Kansas Basin Advisory Committees (BACs) have the groundwater issue of Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer declines contained in their basin plans (within the state water plan). Moreover, all 3 are supporting an aquifer subunit coordinator be hired to facilitate the program. The board opposed the

facilitator arguing that this money should go toward water use reduction incentives instead.

- ◆ The board is told that Representative Faber cannot attend the board meeting to discuss his opposition to the IGUCA clarification efforts of all Kansas GMDs. The original July 10 date he could not attend, but did not commit either way when the meeting date was changed to July 17.
- ◆ A resolution requesting a conditional closure order by the chief engineer for the GMD 4 six high priority areas was adopted. This order would make these six HPAs eligible for WTAP beginning October 1, 2008. The closure was conditioned such that any HPA not receiving any WTAP funding could be re-opened upon the lapse of the WTAP program for any reason.
- ◆ The 2009 assessments were set by the board at \$.05 per acre for the land assessment and \$.3457 per acrefoot for the water assessment.
- ◆ Manager presents at the Kansas Water Congress meeting in Wichita, KS. The topic presented is the enhanced management protocol process in GMD 4.

AUGUST

- ◆ Chief engineer David Barfield attended the August board meeting and discussed 3 topics: 1) the status of the IGUCA regulations being promulgated; 2) an update on the Republican River Compact Settlement; and 3) promoting a more cooperative relationship between DWR and the GMDs. It was a productive discussion except for the continuing (and contentious) issue of the IGUCA trigger authority conferred by Attorney General's opinion 2002-24.
- ◆ The board also discussed in detail the first new management program issue of the seven they wanted to develop further (of the 13 originally developed by staff) – a local expression of GMD 4 public interest within its management program. No decision was made but to continue looking at it and the other six.
- ◆ The board also got a complete update of where the district was with the Protocol, WTAP, IGUCAs, Model, Management Program, Alliance, and Foundation efforts.
- ◆ Efforts began in earnest to present the public meetings for the six high priority areas. Staff began developing outlines for the hydrologic information to be presented at each meeting, and the process overview also to be presented.

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ No board meeting held.
- ◆ Effort continued in preparation for the HPA public meetings. Staff attended and assisted the SCC with their required WTAP announcement meetings – one in Colby, one in Goodland and one in Hoxie.
- ◆ Board (via e-mail ballot) decided to support the WTAP program with an additional \$50.00 per historic consumptive AF of water use (HCWU) for each successful WTAP application – when requested by the applicant. This decision was done to make our

applications more competitive with all other non-GMD 4 applications, and to further incent participation.

- ◆ Staff re-worked the GMD 4 web page. Same info – better look and organization.

OCTOBER

- ◆ No board meeting held.
- ◆ October 1 is when the WTAP applications began. Staff was very busy working with producers and landowners within the six HPAs that were interested in either learning more about WTAP or filing WTAP applications.

NOVEMBER

- ◆ No board meeting held.
- ◆ GMD 4 staff continued supporting the WTAP application process. Of the approximately 80 work-ups completed by staff, 38 translated into final applications also completed by staff. The interest and response had all of staff very busy during the application period – October 1 through November 15.
- ◆ This is the month that staff also conducted the initial six HPA public meetings. Attendance was light due to extended harvest, so they were re-scheduled for January and February, 2009. The web page contains all the meeting notes and discussion points.

DECEMBER

- ◆ The board decided to promote the second management program amendment (2nd of the seven chosen for further consideration) to the other 4 GMD's for consideration. This issue dealt with changing the GMD Act to allow districts to adopt an alternative assessment procedure – one that would allow variable rates for different land uses and different water use types (all within the current assessment caps set by statute), and an enhanced assessment rate structure for special management areas upon district approval.
- ◆ The current Revised Management Program was re-adopted by the board for another year without change.
- ◆ The board moved to continue opposing the IGUCA initiation regulation of DWR as GMD 4 has consistently done in this process.
- ◆ Regarding the WTAP program, the board decided to recommend that SCC prioritize the 38 GMD 4 WTAP applications based on the list being sorted by HCWU bid price and then by total contract price.
- ◆ The Kansas Water Congress dues were approved for another year.
- ◆ The board reviewed and supported staff's recommendations for conservation projects to be suggested to the Alliance process on behalf of GMD 4.
- ◆ Staff and attorney contracts were approved for 2009.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) Staff regularly participates in special conferences and meetings throughout the year. During 2008, 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

KSU Research Field Days - Colby Experiment Station

Kansas Water Authority meetings

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 2008 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) 2008 District presentations:

- 1) GMDA, Tallahassee, FL – January 8
- 2) Kansas Water Congress, Topeka, KS – January 14
- 3) Colby HS Ag Class, Colby, KS – January 17
- 4) Cover Your Acres, KSU, Oberlin, KS – January 22-23
- 5) Aquilla Natural Gas, Goodland, KS – February 28
- 6) KWA Meeting, Colby, KS April 4
- 7) Groundwater Flow Model, Phillipsburg, KS – May 14
- 8) Groundwater Flow Model, Burlington, CO – May 28

- 9) GMDA, El Paso, TX – June 12
 - 10) Kansas Water Congress, Wichita, KS - July 31
 - 11) HPA Meetings (6) - November 3-12
 - 12) GMD4 Policy Update for KSU, Colby, KS – November 13
 - 13) KWO Energy Symposium, Hays, KS – December 11
- 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 2008 was a complete re-design of the site.

[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, and has had a significant amount of time dedicated to it in 2006, and a moderate amount of time in 2007, and less time in 2008 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.

Program Updates

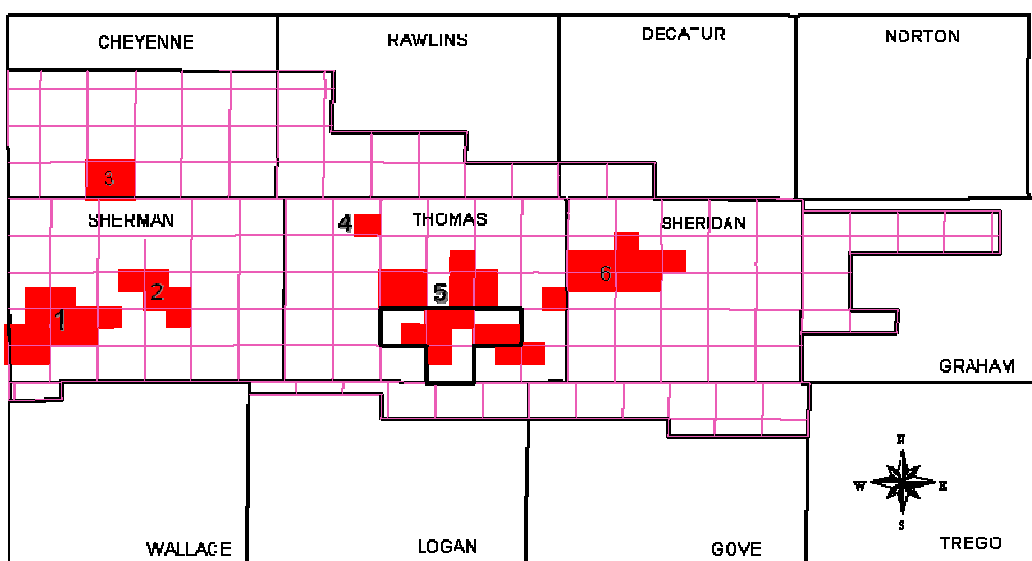
Enhanced Management & High Priority Area

Because the state water plan contains a guideline for the High Plains Aquifer – that of slowing the annual water level decline rate and extending the economic life of the aquifer – a broad stakeholder committee was formed to craft a management approach. This group recommended that aquifer sub-units (areas of similar hydrology) be designated by the appropriate local entity and that these entities develop an enhanced management process to meet the water plan guideline. 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 seven "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



Task 4 is being undertaken at this time. This task calls for public meetings in each HPA to discuss the groundwater conditions and receive recommendations from the land and water

right owners as to possible goals and approaches to the goals. The first round of public meetings was held in November, 2008, but due to an exceptionally late Fall harvest they were poorly attended. The second round of meetings were concluded just prior to this annual meeting. The discussion topics at all the meetings have been posted on the district's website. It is anticipated that a series of public meetings will be necessary for most HPAs as the issues, goals and approaches are many and can be complex. The GMD 4 board and staff do not want to rush this process and will only be facilitating the local discussions and decision-making.

For more information, contact the district or visit the web page at: www.gmd4.org.

Republican River Basin Conservation Alliance

The GMD 4 board approved an effort to coordinate a conservation projects alliance to seek funds from the Kansas Water Office (KWO) that are designated for conservation in the Republican River Basin as a result of recent Kansas legislation. This legislation directs how any award funds coming from Colorado or Nebraska (as a result of the Republican River Compact Settlement Agreement) will be used within Kansas. The legislation, after replenishing the state's water compact litigation fund, directs 2/3 of all Colorado award dollars to the Upper Republican Basin for conservation projects. It also earmarks 1/3 of all remaining Nebraska award funds for conservation projects that will keep Kansas in compliance with the compact in the future. The alliance has been formed to make a comprehensive application to the KWO consisting of a coordinated suite of conservation projects that make the best use of the dollars and/or water that will accrue to Kansas from the settlement actions. The Alliance includes 13 members representing: County commissioners; Cities; Irrigation Districts; GMDs; Production Ag; Economic development; RC&Ds; Financial institutions; area Industry; Animal feeding; the Upper Republican Basin Advisory Committee; Farm Bureau's; and the Environment.

For more information, contact the district or visit the web page at: www.gmd4.org.

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

A new section of EQIP under the 2008 Farm Bill provides funds for water management – specifically including “...*the conversion of Agricultural land from irrigated farming to dryland farming*”. The GMD 4 board is preparing an application to the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service requesting fiscal support to reduce historic consumptive water use in Sherman County HPA SH-2 by using a “WTAP-like” program. The process is heavy on “partnerships” and local support, so sending forward a competitive application will require the support of the HPA participants. The issues and the possibility of an application have been discussed at the SH-1 HPA meeting on February 9, 2009 with strong support. As such, an application is likely to be submitted by the deadline of March 2, 2009.

For more information on AWEP contact your county conservation district, NRCS, or the GMD 4 office.

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	10	9	
AF		225		483.4			29.4	1,667	995.3	
Irrigation Wells	450	28	114	159	81	150	693	876	790	9
AF	104,000.4	3,816	21,686	29,207	16,241	30,537	162,033.6	262,964.8	207,093.1	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	16	7	17	
AF	623.6		96.3	776.5	50	104	963.5	269.5	887.2	
Evap Wells	1									
AF	12.7									
County-Tot-Wells	467	30	122	180	91	155	729	908	835	9
County-Tot-AF	105,725.6	4,041	22,054.4	31,176.7	17,265.8	30,748.4	164,200.5	267,191.6	211,589.8	2,907
GMD-Tot-Wells	3,526									
GMD-Tot-AF	856,900.8									

January 20, 2009 totals = decrease of 4 wells and a decrease of 352.4 Appropriated AF over the January 11, 2008 totals

GMD 4 Comparison of Pumped Water To Appropriated Water

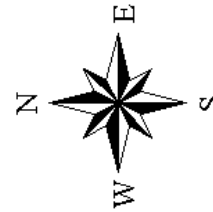
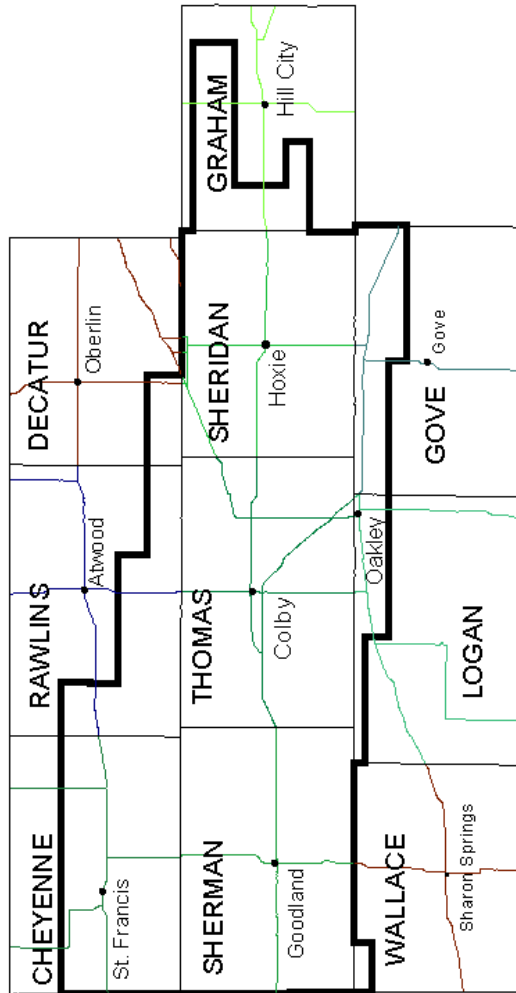
2007 Data

Area	Appropriated Water	Pumped Water	Percent
Sherman County	267,685	131,197	49.0%
Thomas County	213,201	105,680	49.6%
Sheridan County	164,707	83,097	50.5%

The above Data is from the WIMAS data set. WIMAS does not filter by GMD, so only full county data is available. 2008 data is not yet available for this packet.

District Map

Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 Boundary



NOTES PAGE