44th Annual Meeting Minutes – Hoxie, Kansas – Feb 13th, 2019


The 44th annual meeting was opened at 1:32 P.M. CST, February 13th, 2019 at the Hoxie Elks Lodge, Hoxie, Kansas. Board members present were:

Nate Emig
Karen Flanagan
Monty Biggs
Shane Mann

Jeff Deeds
Lynn Goossen
Brent Rogers
Roger Zwerygardt

Ted Nighswonger
Mitchell Baalman
Scott Maurath

Others present were: Staff: Ray Luhman, Shannon Kenyon, Dan Simmering, Jody McCain; Adam Dees - attorney; Kelly Stewart, Steven Walters - DWR; Armando Zarco – KWO; Chip Redmond – K-State

There were 67 persons that signed the attendance sheet. The attendance roster is available from the district office.

President Brent Rogers opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of the board and staff.

President Rogers then presented the 43rd annual meeting minutes, Colby, Kansas, February 7th, 2018. Brent directed attention to the annual meeting minutes printed in the annual meeting packet (page 4) and gave everyone a chance to review them. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes on a unanimous voice vote.

Brent also announced that water use reports were due by March 1st and that they must be done online to avoid a new $20 per water right fee if filed in paper version.

Chip Redmond, a meteorologist from K-State and manager of the Mesonet gave a presentation to attendees on the Mesonet network and that data available to producers on their website. He also discussed his weather predictions for 2019.

Roger Zwerygardt next presented the 2020 proposed operating budget. Roger reported that the 2020 budget was $519,255. With no further questions or comments, the proposed 2020 budget of $519,255 was moved and seconded to be approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Roger Zwerygardt next presented the 2018 calendar year financials. Roger directed attention to the financial report contained in the annual meeting packet at page 8 and asked everyone to review the report. He summarized by reporting that the district brought in $636,559; spent $445,080. The total cash on hand reported as $191,354.

Lynn Goossen next conducted the board elections. Lynn opened Position 8 (Sheridan) announcing that Brett Oelke was the single candidate that had pre-filed. Lynn opened the floor for additional nominations for Position 2. With no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded the nominations for Position 2 cease and a ballot be cast. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Lynn opened Position 9 (Graham County) announcing that Ted Nighswonger was the single candidate that had pre-filed. Lynn then opened the floor for additional nominations for Position 9. With no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that nominations for Position 9 cease and a ballot be cast. No further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Lynn opened Position 10 (Logan County) announcing that there were no pre-filed nominations. Lynn opened the floor for nominations for Position 10. With no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that nominations for Position 10 cease. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
Lynn opened Position 11 (Gove County) announcing that Shane Mann had pre-filed. Lynn opened the floor for nominations for Position 11. With no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that nominations for Position 11 cease. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion to elect the unanimous ballot for all board positions was passed by voice vote.

Lynn Goossen then announced Brett Oelke as position Sheridan #8, Ted Nighswonger as position Graham #9, position Logan #10 as open, and Shane Mann as position Gove #11.

Brent Rogers then provided an update on the Sheridan 6 LEMA. He also announced that the soil moisture probe program will be available again for producers and that applications can be picked up at the front door. He gave an overview of NW Tech Precision Ag program and the growth of the program. He stated that the GMD 4 LEMA was in full effect with pending litigation.

Steven Walters of DWR then addressed Water Conservation Areas (WCA) and encouraged attendees to contact him as a tool for flexibility.

During open session, "kudos" were given Scott Maurath and Mitchell Baalman for the time they served as a board member. Ray Luhman encouraged producers to inquire about getting into a WCA. Paul Niblock addressed concern over water rights with multiple owners and requiring signatures on changes from all landowners. He suggested the law should be changed so that if a water right owner does not have legal access to the point of diversion then their signature should not be needed.

It was moved and seconded that the 44th annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 be adjourned. With no objections, President Rogers declared the 44th annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Jeff Deeds, Secretary