

## 51st Annual Meeting Agenda

**Open Meeting** \_\_\_\_\_ Brett Oelke, President

Welcome  
Introductions  
Announcements

**50th Annual Meeting Minutes** (Page 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Jeff Deeds  
(Motion required to adopt or amend)

**2027 Operating Budget - Proposed** (Page 6-7) \_\_\_\_\_ Lynn Goossen  
(Motion required to adopt for public hearing)

**2025 Calendar Year Financials** (Page 8) \_\_\_\_\_ Lynn Goossen

**Election of Board Positions** (Ballots) \_\_\_\_\_ Brent Rogers

**Unfinished / New Business / Open Session** \_\_\_\_\_ Brett Oelke

Presentations: Mark Billinger, Kansas Geological Survey: Water Quality  
Shannon Kenyon, GMD 4: GMD 4 Updates & 2028 LEMAs

**Announcement of Board Election Results** \_\_\_\_\_ Brett Oelke

**Adjournment** \_\_\_\_\_ Brett Oelke

## District Personnel

February 2025 - February 2026 Board:

POSITION	MEMBER	DUTY	FIRST ARRIVED:	SERVES TO:
Cheyenne #1	<b>Dylan Loyd</b>	Member	2/20	2/26
Rawlins/Decatur #2	<b>Jerry Binning</b>	Member	2/21	2/27
Sherman/Wallace #3	<b>Jeff Deeds</b>	<u>Secretary</u>	2/06	2/27
Sherman/Wallace #4	<b>Nate Emig</b>	<u>Vice President</u>	2/17	2/26
Thomas # 5	<b>Karen Flanagan</b>	Member	5/17	2/27
Thomas # 6	<b>Lynn Goossen</b>	<u>Treasurer</u>	11/14	2/26
Sheridan # 7	<b>Brent Rogers</b>	Member	2/09	2/27
Sheridan # 8	<b>Brett Oelke</b>	<u>President</u>	2/19	2/28
Graham # 9	<b>Carl Davis</b>	Member	2/25	2/28
Logan/Gove # 10	<b>Shane Mann</b>	Member	2/07	2/28
At Large	<b>Marsha Schilling</b>	Member	4/20	2/28

### STAFF:

Shannon Kenyon, Manager  
 Jack Polifka, Irrigation Specialist  
 Trent McCain, Field Technician  
 Jody McCain, Administrative Assistant

### OTHERS:

Jake Kling – Legal Counsel  
 Adams Brown – Accountants



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

<https://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.

## 50th Annual Meeting Minutes – Colby, Kansas – Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

50th Annual Meeting Minutes – Sheridan County 4-H Building, Hoxie, Kansas, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The 50th annual meeting was opened at 1:35 P.M. CST, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Sheridan County 4-H Building, Hoxie, Kansas. Board members present were:

Jeff Deeds	Karen Flanagin	Lynn Goossen
Dylan Loyd	Shane Mann	Ted Nighswonger
Brett Oelke	Brent Rogers	Marsha Schilling

Others present were: Staff: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, and Colter Stoll; Jake Kling – attorney.

There were 50 people that signed the attendance sheet. The attendance roster is available at the district office.

President Brett Oelke opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction of board and staff members.

Secretary Jeff Deeds then presented the 49th annual meeting minutes, Colby, Kansas, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Jeff directed attention to the annual meeting minutes printed in the annual meeting packet (page 4 and 5) and gave everyone a chance to review them. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes on a unanimous voice vote.

Lynn Goossen presented the proposed 2026 operating budget. With no questions or comments, the proposed 2026 budget of \$492,900 was moved and seconded to be approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Lynn then presented the 2024 calendar year financials. He directed attention to the financial report contained in the annual meeting packet on page 8 and asked everyone to review the report. He summarized by reporting that the district brought in \$784,858; spent \$431,993.

Brent Rogers conducted the board elections. The only contested position was the At Large Member. Brent introduced Baker Bugbee, who gave a brief biography and his reasons for running. Then Brent introduced the incumbent, Marsha Schilling. Marsha talked about her background and reasons for running for the board. Brent asked the eligible voters to please mark their ballots. Ballots were collected and turned into Jake Kling for tabulation.

Brownie Wilson with Kansas Geological Survey gave a presentation on the aquifer water level data collected.

Shannon opened the Management Program Hearing at 2:13 p.m. She explained that the Management Program explains how the GMD 4 board and staff carry out their work. The pre-filed testimony included a letter from DWR Chief Engineer, Earl Lewis, approving the plan, with modifications as discussed. Shannon asked for any questions or comments. With no questions or comments, the hearing was closed at 2:14 p.m.

Ashton Redd with VandWater discussed the meter tracking application. She noted that brochures were available for producers to take with them. Ashton noted that she would be available to talk with producers after the meeting if they had questions.

Brent Rogers announced the results of the election with Marsha Schilling retaining her position as the At Large Member.

With no other business to conduct President Oelke declared the 50th annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

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Jeff Deeds, Secretary

## 2027 Proposed Operating Budget

	2027 Proposed	
<b>110 POSTAGE</b>		<b>\$2,000.00</b>
112 General	\$2,000.00	
<b>120 PRINTING</b>		<b>\$1,500.00</b>
122 Administrative	\$1,500.00	
<b>130 DUES</b>	\$300.00	\$300.00
<b>140 SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>	\$600.00	\$600.00
<b>150 INSURANCE</b>		<b>\$17,000.00</b>
151 Office	\$17,000.00	
<b>160 TECHNOLOGY</b>	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00
<b>170 SALARIES AND BENEFITS</b>		
171 Gross Sal, Kpers, SS, Etc.	\$451,000.00	\$477,500.00
172 Health Insurance	\$25,000.00	
173 Unemployment	\$1,500.00	
<b>180 TRAVEL</b>		
181 Board	\$10,000.00	\$18,000.00
182 Staff	\$8,000.00	
<b>190 VEHICLES</b>		
191 Repairs/Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$13,200.00
192 Operation	\$8,000.00	
193 Tags	\$200.00	
194 Purchase/Lease		
<b>200 CONTRACTED SERVICES</b>		<b>\$47,500.00</b>
201 Accounting	\$8,500.00	
202 Legal	\$18,000.00	
203 Misc. Support	\$6,000.00	
204 Legislative Support	\$15,000.00	
205 Water Sampling		
206 Drilling		
<b>210 PUBLICATIONS</b>		
211 Legal Notices	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<b>220 EDUCATION PROGRAMS</b>		<b>\$5,000.00</b>
221 Administrative	\$1,000.00	
222 Equipment/Supplies	\$4,000.00	
223 Education Programs Other		
<b>230 ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		<b>\$10,000.00</b>
231 Office Supplies	\$5,000.00	
232 Copy Machine	\$2,000.00	
235 Bank Charges		
236 Field Supplies	\$3,000.00	
<b>240 NEW EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>\$8,000.00</b>
241 Field	\$3,000.00	
242 Office	\$5,000.00	
<b>250 CONTINGENCY RESERVE</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>260 FACILITY</b>		<b>\$23,000.00</b>
261 Rent		
262 Maintenance	\$15,000.00	
264 Building Utilities	\$8,000.00	
<b>270 DOC EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$425,000.00</b>
271 Equipment	\$40,000.00	
272 Operation	\$30,000.00	
275 Administrative	\$116,000.00	
276 Cost-Share Payments	\$200,000.00	

277 Crop Uniformity Packet Stipend  
**REIMBURSED EXPENSES**  
**300 FOUNDATION**  
 305 Foundation Subscriptions  
 325 Foundation Telephone  
 345 Foundation Accounting  
 350 Foundation Legal  
 370 Foundation Tech Support

	<b>\$39,000.00</b>	
	<b>\$1,067,100.00</b>	<b>\$1,067,100.00</b>

## 2025 Calendar Year Financial Report

### STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS All Accounts – For the period January 1 - December 31, 2025

#### 2025 INCOME (All sources):

Cash forward from 2024 (Cash) -----	\$358,142
County Assessments -----	\$454,984
Interest Earned (GMD4) -----	\$2,782
DOC ITI Income -----	\$191,161
Miscellaneous Income -----	\$0

2025 TOTAL INCOME:            \$1,007,069

#### 2025 EXPENDITURES:

Postage -----	\$698
Printing -----	\$136
Dues -----	\$275
Subscriptions -----	\$802
Insurance -----	\$16,063
Telephone -----	\$6,176
Salaries & Benefits -----	\$340,341
Travel -----	\$10,713
Vehicles -----	\$6,210
Contracted Services -----	\$37,169
Publications -----	\$1,310
Coop/Education Programs -----	\$3,930
Administrative -----	\$16,066
Equipment -----	\$2,241
Facility -----	\$23,698
ITI Expenses -----	\$41,459
Reserve for contingency -----	\$1,004
Foundation -----	\$0

TOTAL 2025 EXPENDITURES ----- \$508,372

Cash on hand – 12/31/25 (All GMD 4 Accounts) ----- \$493,977

Foundation Cash – All (plus interest) – 12/31/25 ----- \$167,669

## **District Updates**

### **1) LEMAs**

The 2028 LEMA renewals represent a critical point in maintaining local control over groundwater management in GMD 4. 2026 is the fourth year of both the GMD 4 LEMA and SD 6 LEMA. For the last couple of years, we have held several regional meetings in the summer and winter months to gather concerns and input regarding future LEMAs. Comments from those meetings have been reviewed with active board leadership. After reviewing those comments, multiple sources of data on the status of our aquifer, and coordination with state agencies, several suggestions are being made for the 2028 renewal of both LEMAs.

The GMD 4 LEMA is proposing a 15% reduction in current LEMA allocations. Townships that were previously not included that had a decline of up to 0.5% average annual decline will now be included (see attached map). The LEMA allocation will be a true five-year allocation benefit in that you can pump all of that in one year or spread it out over five. Municipalities will be included, among those with a reported unaccounted for water greater than 20%, will be required to contact the Kansas Rural Water Association for assistance.

The SD 6 LEMA is proposing a one-inch reduction in current LEMA allocations for a total of 50" for five-years. They will also be expanding to include all of township 8-30.

We are hoping to have a plan submitted very soon so that hearings can be held in 2026 and an order issued in 2026 so that producers know how to plan for 2028.

### **2) Kansas Legislature**

Currently, there is nothing alarming in the Kansas Legislature. However, there are a few things on the horizon that we are keeping a close eye on. As the current administration will change in 2027 there are a lot of questions moving forward as it relates to water. There is a legislative appointed Water Task Force that is in the process of meeting and looking at water issues in Kansas. Nothing in the discussion is off the table. The GMD 4 Manager, Shannon Kenyon, is appointed to the Water Task Force. She is positively encouraged about the current conversations and remains actively engaged in the conversations representing GMDs.

### **3) Irrigation Technology Initiative**

In 2025 we launched the Irrigation Technology Initiative (ITI) in collaboration with the Division of Conservation (DOC). The money for the program allowed us to hire an Irrigation Specialist, Jack Polifka, who conducts Irrigation System Assessments.

These assessments review a producer's well, pump, the irrigation system as a whole, and the practice of irrigation water management. The ITI Specialist then provides them with a report that evaluates the performance of the system, details energy costs and projects, and identifies opportunities for improvement including cost-share opportunities through the DOC as part of the State Water Plan Fund. Reach out to Jack if you would like to have an assessment conducted and be eligible for cost-share.

#### **4) VandWater**

As discussed last year, there is a new meter tracking tool called VandWater. It was developed by a Kansas producer to track his water usage and has expanded it as a tool for other Kansas producers. Feel free to ask us more about the VandWater platform or visit their website at [www.vandwater.com](http://www.vandwater.com). The NW Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation will fund 50% of the subscription in GMD 4. The ITI program has the ability to fund it 100%. This tool is acceptable as back-up meter records and saves a producer from many headaches as noted below.

#### **5) Meters**

Requirements and enforcement related to water-use meters continue to tighten, and water users should understand that regular meter checks are no longer optional. All permitted water users are expected to verify meter operation and record readings at least every two weeks during the growing season. This includes confirming that the totalizer is functioning and documenting the reading by photo and/or written record.

Failure to regularly check a meter increases the risk of undetected malfunctions and inaccurate reporting. When a meter fails and an accurate amount of water use cannot be determined, the Division of Water Resources may assume that the authorized annual quantity was pumped. If a meter malfunction is not identified and documented within two weeks, the water user may be required to provide up to three years of power records and/or AgSense data to reconstruct usage. If sufficient documentation cannot be provided, enforcement actions may follow.

Regular meter checks protect water rights, preserve flexibility under LEMA and other management programs, and prevent costly disputes after the fact. Producers are strongly encouraged to use a meter-tracking tool to document readings consistently. Taking a few minutes every two weeks is far easier—and far less expensive—than trying to resolve a problem after the season is over.

## 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 2, 2026

	CN	DC	GH	GO	LG	RA	SD	SH	TH	WA
<b>DOMESTIC WELLS</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	7	0
AF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44	8.4	14.0	0.0
<b>HYD DREDGE WELLS</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>INDUSTRIAL WELLS</b>	6	2	0	5	2	0	3	10	9	0
AF	162	225	0.0	510	23	0.0	29	1,434	955	0.0
<b>IRRIGATION WELLS</b>	442	27	112	154	80	148	690	860	773	8
AF	102292	3857	21,505	28038	16,104	30,883	160,177	259,046	202,552	2,779
<b>MUNICIPAL WELLS</b>	10	0	5	8	7	3	9	15	14	0
AF	934	0.0	439	931	960	107	738	2,286	2,513	0.0
<b>RECREATION WELLS</b>	3	0	1	0	1	0	3	3	1	0
AF	36	0.0	9.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	405	697	8	0.0
<b>STOCKWATER WELLS</b>	6	0	0	6	1	3	17	7	16	0
AF	719	0.0	0.0	56	9.4	111.0	1,032	270	1,280	0.0
<b>EVAP WELLS</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>DUAL USE WELLS (STOCK &amp; IRR)</b>	0	0	0	7	0	0	6	0	3	0
AF	0	0	0	1410	0	0	1447	0	885	0
<b>COUNTY-TOT-WELLS</b>	464	29	118	181	91	154	734	897	824	8
<b>COUNTY-TOT-AF</b>	104,143	4,082	21,952	30,946	17,106	31,101	163,871	263,157	208,208	2,779
<b>GMD-TOT-WELLS</b>	3,499									
<b>GMD-TOT-AF</b>	847,930									

## GMD 4 Selected Trends

This is the newest feature in the annual meeting packet. If there are other annual trends you would like to see tracked, let us know.

YEAR	Budget <sup>1</sup>	Total Wells	Total AcreFeet <sup>3</sup>	
2005	\$419,365	3,546	860,387	
2006	\$434,250	3,540	859,582	
2007	\$411,952	3,530	857,253	
2008	\$438,965	3,526	856,900	
2009	\$433,455	3,520	854,673	
2010	\$454,450	3,516	853,710	
2011	\$569,125	3,513	852,330	
2012	\$490,770	3,494	849,639	
2013	\$561,680	3,498	851,156	
2014	\$519,587	3,503	850,524	
2015	\$496,397	3,504	849,692	
2016	\$469,915	3,502	848,846	
2017	\$457,515	3,502	848,480	
2018	\$530,455	3,501	848,190	
2019	\$405,655	3,497	847,592	
2020	\$405,636	3,501	847,876	
2021	\$408,301	3,503	848,046	
2022	\$431,827	3,502	847,945	
2023	\$440,413	3,500	847,870	
2024	\$440,448	3,506	848,441	
2025	\$845,975	3,499	847,930	Includes \$450,000 ITI Budget from KDA DOC

<sup>1</sup> Operating budget w/o carryover for the calendar year

<sup>2</sup> Authorized appropriation quantities – all rights – GMD4 – January of following year – rounded to nearest AF

## GMD 4 Comparison of Pumped Water to Appropriated Water

### 2019 Data (1/1/2019 – 12/31/19)

Area	Appropriated Water	Pumped Water	Percent
Sherman County	263,240	84,534	32%
Thomas County	208,342	53,860	26%
Sheridan County	163,906	37,692	23%

### 2020 Data (1/1/2020 – 12/31/20)

Area	Appropriated Water	Pumped Water	Percent
Sherman County	263,240	128,203	49%
Thomas County	208,271	97,547	47%
Sheridan County	163,906	70,302	43%

### 2021 Data (1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021)

Area	Appropriated Water	Pumped Water	Percent
Sherman County	263,240	127,773	49%
Thomas County	208,240	93,967	45%
Sheridan County	163,836	64,433	39%

### 2022 Data (1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022)

Area	Appropriated Water	Pumped Water	Percent
Sherman County	263,142	146,093	56%
Thomas County	208,200	123,169	59%
Sheridan County	163,900	92,261	56%
Total for District	847,870	484,642	57%

### 2023 Data (1/1/2023– 12/31/2023)

Area	Appropriated Water	Pumped Water	Percent
Sherman County	263,157	88,163	37%
Thomas County	208,200	73,305	35%
Sheridan County	163,872	57,312	35%
Total for District	848,441	299,419	35%

### 2024 Data (1/1/2024– 12/31/2024)

Area	Appropriated Water	Pumped Water	Percent
Sherman County	263,157	136,347	52%
Thomas County	208,208	112,281	54%
Sheridan County	163,871	75,396	46%
Total for District	847,930	427,638	50%

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

2025 data is not yet available in WIMAS.

# District Map

## Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 Boundary



