

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
June 14, 2023

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The June 14, 2023 board meeting was opened at the GMD 4 office in Colby, Kansas by President, Brett Oelke.

Board members present for some or all the meeting were:

Jerry Binning, Jeff Deeds, Nate Emig, Karen Flanagan, Lynn Goossen, Ted Nighswonger, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Shilling.

Board members absent: Dylan Loyd and Shane Mann.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Colter Stoll – GMD 4 staff; Rebecca Hageman and Kelly Stewart – DWR; and Richael Young (virtually).

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Lynn Goossen moved that the consent agenda be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

Brent Rogers moved the minutes of the April 5, 2023 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate Emig and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Nate Emig moved that the financial reports and expenditures for the months of April and May be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Nothing presented.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart that most of the last month was spent combing through the water use reports to determine if there were any overpumps. He noted that it takes not only a lot of time, but man power as well to go through. Kelly then described the steps that are required by their office, if an overpump has been confirmed.

Rebecca Hageman reported that she has been working with Shannon and Colter to verify that all repair forms, inspections, and any other relative information is on file in the Stockton office, which may be pertinent to the accuracy of water pumped in the 2022 year. She has also been working with Colter on streamlining fieldwork inspections, so that there is not a duplication by both offices.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. April and May Updates

All MYFA applications that were requested by producers that requested them have been mailed out to the producers. Advisory Committee meetings have been held for the SD-6 and GMD4 LEMAs. May 2nd Shannon presented her Water Rights 101 to the NRCS folks in Scott City. Shannon and Colter have been working with the Stockton Field Office closely to work collaboratively on field work so both offices can be more efficient and share the workload. They have also been working with Stockton on the 2022 possible overpump list and touching base with the producers. With the signing of both HB 2279 & HB 2302 much talk has been circulating on the roll out of those bills and what they mean for us.

Shannon was asked to attend the Kansas Water Authority meeting on June 6th and then accompany Kansas Legislators on a KGS tour to end in Garden City on Friday, June 9th. She felt it was a very product trip, with several good discussions held.

Shannon distributed information on Rainesphere, a company brought to her attention by the owner Dave Smith, who stopped in the office. Shannon spent time Tuesday, at Lon Frahm's with KU Sociology students on tour, learning about the importance of water in Kansas.

b. Future Opportunities

Shannon's next priority is to complete the assessments prior to the Budget Hearing in August. She also plans to go back out and do public outreach July 24th through the 27th.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Colter reported that since the last meeting, he has worked about 360 hours. Ninety of those have been spent in the field. He checked 73 wells and conducted 5 rate tests. There was also a tail water complaint reported. The owner was contacted and the situation was handled the same day. Shannon and Colter went to Stockton to work with Mark, expanding their knowledge of the ARC GIS program. Colter has also been assisting in checking wells within GMD 4 that have not been visited for 10 years or more. This is the first time that Stockton has shared this list with our office. Colter and Taylor led an activity at the Conservation District Roundup on April 25th, for 4th grade students, and discussed the aquifer and how it works.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

The Advisory Committee met on June 1st. Shannon distributed the minutes of the meeting. Lynn Goossen reported that the meeting did not have a large attendance, but had great discussion on how to save more water.

b. SD-6

The Advisory Committee met on April 25th. Shannon reported that there were no overpumps. They stayed under their initial pumping goal.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report at this time.

d. Public Outreach

Shannon discussed the summary of the public outreach, and put together a wish list of resources that address the topics brought up through the sessions.

e. Online Shirts

It was the consensus of the board to order shirts for staff and board members. Shannon will resend the information to board members. They will need to reply back with the style, color, and size desired.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. End gun removal

It was brought to Shannon's attention by a producer that there are still a number of end guns in use out there. According to water use reports, 99 end guns were reported this last year. It was mentioned that GMD 5 has a buyback program. No action was taken.

b. Chase Larson – VandWater, Inc.

Chase was unable to attend the meeting.

c. P.L.J.V. Tomorrow's Water America the Beautiful

Shannon directed the board's attention to the handout from Matt Smith with the Playa Lakes Joint Venture. He would like a letter of support.

d. Executive Session – City of Quinter

Tabled to the next meeting.

e. Executive Session – Staff Contracts

Karen Flanagan moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the board, and staff as requested for the purpose of performance reviews. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

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Karen Flanagan moved to go into executive session for an additional 10 minutes with the board, and staff as requested for the purpose of performance reviews. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

Marsha Schilling moved to approve salaries as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deeds and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Richael Young gave an update on TAPPH2O. The cost share arrangement has changed. Producers need to submit their paid invoice to the GMD 4 office, and will be reimbursed \$50 per meter invoiced. It was brought up that the invoices are still coming from ERA Economics, and unfortunately look like a “phishing”/scam email, and might be discarded. Richael will send out an email to those signed up about the change in pricing/reimbursement.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for August ²3, 2023 at 9 a.m. C.D.T. at the GMD 4 office. The 2024 Operating Budget Hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. C.D.T.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Deeds, Secretary