

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
December 14, 2023

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The December 15, 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:

Karen Flanagan, Nate Emig, Lynn Goossen, Brett Oelke, Dylan Loyd, Shane Mann, Ted Nighswonger and Marsha Schilling.

Board members absent: Jerry Binning, Jeff Deeds, and Brent Rogers.

Others present for some or all of the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain and Colter Stoll – GMD 4 staff; Jake Kling – GMD 4 Attorney; Kelly Stewart – DWR (virtually); Keadron Pearson (virtually).

Lynn Goossen moved to appoint Marsha Schilling as acting secretary in Jeff Deeds absence for both the regular board meeting and the Foundation meeting. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Changes to the agenda were noted:

Add 8. c. Management Program and 8. d. Annual Meeting

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ted Nighswonger moved the minutes of the November 8, 2023 board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Nate Emig moved that the financial report and expenditures for the month of November be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

3. OPEN FORUM

Lynn Goossen mentioned that he had been contacted by Mike Frakes, with 360Yield Center. He is wanting to work with local producers to get their new technology out in the

field. Discussion ensued regarding how it works. One of the major factors is the cost of the system.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart reported employees of the Stockton Field Office will start measuring wells for KGS on the eastern boundary of their jurisdiction. Water use reports have been printed, and should be showing up in producer mailboxes with a week or two. Kelly noted since fall harvest ended the Stockton Field Office has blown up with paperwork (change apps, MYFAs, etc.). They have one employee working on the weekends to try to help alleviate the backlog of paperwork at headquarters. He noted that two other employees will also be working through headquarters paperwork, as they have time during the work week. Rebecca Hageman has taken a leave of absence due to a family illness.

Keadron Pearson reported the Upper Republican RAC met in Colby last week, with three requests for letters of support for the Kansas Water Plan Partnership Initiative, with a deadline of December 29, 2023. It was decided to table two of the letters of support, and approved the third. The Kansas Water Authority Meeting was held on December 13, 2023 in Concordia. They reviewed information to be included in the annual report, which will hopefully be released in January. The next Kansas Water Authority meeting is scheduled for January 23rd & 24th in Topeka.

5. MANAGERS REPORT

a. November Update

November 15th and 16th was the Governor's Water Conference. There was a meeting prior to that on reviving the Kansas Water Congress. Shannon let the group know that she felt it was important for Kansas water issues to have a voice at the federal level but that we discontinued our membership as we were not seeing the benefit. She doesn't know if this will go anywhere as there was not many in attendance. The rest of the conference went great as usual. Making connections and networking is the greatest benefit and Shannon felt like a lot was accomplished with that.

Shannon was invited to be on a panel for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Conference in Wichita on November 21st. There were five on the panel and sent a good message on how communication and working together provides positive results in water.

On December 1st Shannon escorted Vijay Ramasamy around SD 6 and met with producers there. Vijay is the newly appointed Special Advisor for Water with the Governor's Office. Shannon has been very impressed with him. His main objectives were to learn how the SD 6 LEMA began and its local impact as well as what the government could provide to help them further. He plans to come back out and even wants to work on a sprinkler!

Last week Shannon and Jody were in Hoxie, Colby, Goodland, and Saint Francis for public meetings. Shannon distributed the notes taken at each meeting, along with comments placed in the "suggestion box."

Shannon discussed the study KDHE did with Ft Hays University on water quality in the alluvial aquifers in the northern part of GMD 4. The report is available to anyone that would like.

Shannon met with Daran Rudnick with Kansas State Univeristy, in regards to the Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS) program. Discussion ensued regarding the gist of the program.

Shannon noted that our office has been busy, to the point of overloading her desk with requests for change applications, with producers starting to "chase water."

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was finally brought on-line at this time.

b. Future Opportunities

A Kansas Groundwater Management Districts Association meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2023 in Stafford. The meeting is where the five GMDs get together and attempt to collaborate. The most pressing issue is the upcoming report due in January to the Kansas Legislature and we still have not seen a template of the information they are requesting.

In January the Water Use Reports will begin, there will be a RAC Legislative week in Topeka along with Shannon's report to the legislature. Jody will be doing end of the year books for the auditors, and Colter will need to visit end of year readings for the 5-5-11s.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Colter reported that since the last meeting, he has worked about 198 hours. Sixty four of those have been spent in the field. He checked approximately 144 wells. Colter and Shannon have created a 5 year rotation plan, devised to check all the wells within GMD 4. To simplify the compliance check paperwork in the field, Jody designed a new form. Colter is using the new forms, which are then given to Jody to enter in a new spreadsheet. He also has worked on some MYFA applications as well as some change applications.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA
Nothing to report.

b. SD-6

Nothing to report at this time.

c. Other LEMA Developments

Nothing to report.

d. Viannix

This is a company that Weston McCary has been working with on the WISE program. They build sensors for anything and need towers for their sensors to communicate with the cloud. They can also put sensors on wells to measure depth to water. They would like to submit a grant for the Kansas Water Plan Partnership Initiative.

Karen Flanagan moved to have Shannon write a letter of support for the Viannix KWPPPI grant. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

e. Producer Roundtable Sponsorship

Lynn Goossen presented the idea to sponsor producer panels. The idea would be to have “miniature field days”, where producers using different technologies would be leading the discussions. They could share their success stories, concerns, and issues, what to do- or what not to do.

The regular monthly board meeting was recessed, to go into the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation Meeting at 4:31 p.m.

The regular monthly board meeting reconvened at 4:36 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Executive Session – To protect trade secrets

At 4:37 p.m. Marsha Schilling moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the board, attorney, manager, and Kelly Stewart to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 4:57 p.m. Marsha Schilling moved to go into executive session for an additional 20 minutes with the board, attorney, manager, and Kelly Stewart to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

The board came out of executive session at 5:05 p.m.

Ted Nighswonger moved to approve a waiver of 5-24-10 for Dan Haffner. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

At 5:15 p.m. Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the board, attorney, and Kelly Stewart to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Shane Mann and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

b. Executive Session – Personnel

Dylan Loyd moved to go into executive session at 5:35 p.m. for 10 minutes with the board of directors, and Jake Kling for the purpose of personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

c. Management Program

The Legislative Post Audit committee has recommended that we put a written policy in place to review the management program every year.

Shane Mann moved to make it policy that the management program would be reviewed for approval annually at the February regular board meeting. The motion was seconded by Dylan Loyd and passed unanimously by voice vote (no "nay" votes).

d. Annual Meeting

Shannon asked for a volunteer to run the elections at the Annual Meeting. Dylan Loyd volunteered. The Annual Meeting will be held on February 21, 2024 at the Colby Event Center.

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

It was noted that there is a lot of new irrigation in Graham County.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 10th, 2024 at 9 a.m., with the Revised Budget Hearing scheduled at 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:


Marsha Schilling, Acting Secretary

