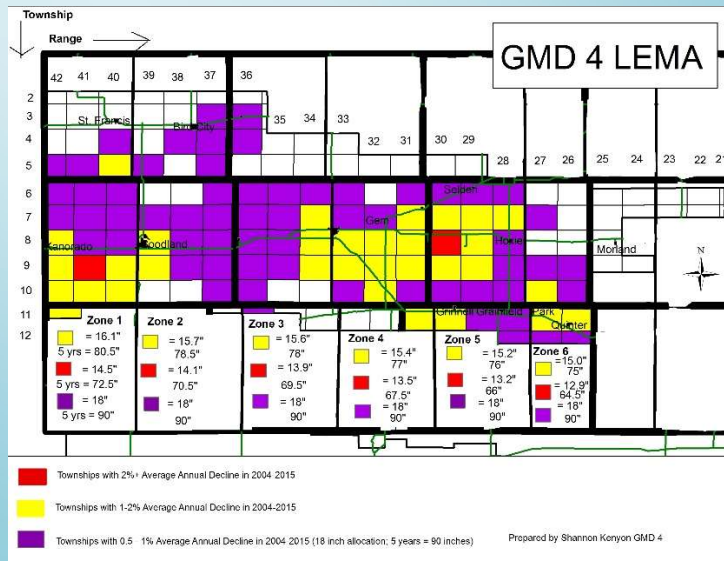


The Water Table



SD 6 & GMD 4 LEMA RENEWAL

Hearings for both LEMAs have concluded and we are awaiting the order from the Division of Water Resources. No changes were made to the SD 6 LEMA and will remain exactly as the 2018-2022 LEMA with the exception that they can now enroll in a Multi-year Flex Account. Very few changes were requested of the GMD 4 LEMA. Irrigation accounts will remain the same except for those that were not restricted more than 25% in the first LEMA will now be included in the township amounts. The other change involves LEMA irrigation accounts converting to another beneficial use will now have a LEMA account. Before, beneficial uses other than irrigation did not have a LEMA account. For the majority of irrigation in the GDM 4 LEMA, your LEMA account did not change. You will receive a letter if it did. Call the office if you have questions.

Contents

Special Interest Articles

SD 6 & GMD 4 LEMAs	1
Public Outreach	2
Drought & LEMA Year 5	2
Multi-Year Flex Accounts	3
Technology Cost Share for 2022	3

Individual Highlights

Colter's Field Notes	2
Pumping the Tailwater	3



Public Outreach

In the near future, we are hoping to provide more public outreach to our water users. We have a host of multiple sources to assist us in putting on public education gatherings for not only our producers, but all water users.

With that, we would love

your ideas on what would interest you. A basic Water Rights course? Want to know more about hydrology? Do you just want to sit around with a local group over lunch and talk about everything water? Let me know your ideas! Call our office or email them to skenyon@gmd4.org

***“All the great values of this territory have ultimately to be measured in acre-feet”
~ John Wesley Powell, Montana Constitutional Convention, 1889.***

Colter's Field Notes

As the “newbie” I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in the field getting to know our producers and assisting with water management and compliance. If you haven’t already, please stop in or catch me in the field to say hello and allow me to introduce myself. As I am up-to-speed on most things, I highly encourage producers to contact me to discuss water management, meter issues, programs available, compliance questions, or just any question you have. If I don’t have the answer, I will do my best to find it for you.

Drought and LEMA Year 5

With it being an extreme drought and the fifth year of both the SD 6 LEMA and the GMD 4 LEMA, many of you have been short on water. I am thrilled to say that the majority of water right users that have called to check their balances have plenty of water in their LEMA accounts to get them through but have come against their certified annual water right quantities. In any other year we can enroll those that might overpump those certified quantities with a Multi-year Flex Account (MYFA) but with it being the fifth year of the LEMAs, the only solution is a Term Permit through the Division of Water Resources. PLEASE CHECK YOUR METERS to make sure you have not overpumped your LEMA or certified quantities. If you have, please contact our office as there may be a solution but the paperwork will need to be filed soon to avoid very stiff penalties. Those penalties could be up to a \$10,000 fine and a two-year suspension depending on how much water was overpumped. We cannot stress enough the importance of monitoring the amount of water you have pumped.

Multi-Year Flex Accounts (MYFA)

There was some confusion about the GMD 4 LEMA in that you could overpump your water right. That is not true. The only program that offers that flexibility is a MYFA. A MYFA gives you a quantity to use over five years. If you pump it all in one year then you're off for the next four. Each water right's MYFA quantity is different as it's based off historical use. If you would like to inquire further about enrolling into a MYFA, please contact our office. Enrollment for 2023-2027 begins January 1st, 2023.

Technology Cost-Share

There is still money available for irrigation technology cost-share! The money comes from the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation and matched with Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation funds. Each producer can apply for up to \$10,000 in a 50% cost-share (\$5000 grant cost and \$5000 producer cost). Irrigation technologies to be included are soil moisture probes, variable rate irrigation, autonomous pivot, bubbler/I-Wob nozzles, telemetry, and TappH2O. The application is very simple! Please contact our office for more information or to have an application sent to you.



Pumping the Tailwater Shannon Kenyon

As many of you know, our office has been extremely busy assisting producers with how much water they have left for the certified quantity as well as what is in their LEMA account. First off, I want to thank all of you for your patience in working with us. We were not always immediately available to assist but got back to you as soon as we could. Next, I want you all to give yourselves a big ole pat on the back as YOU DESERVE IT! The majority of water users who have called or stopped by so far have more in their LEMA account than they do a certified water right. This shows that water management is a high priority for Northwest Kansas and I want to see this momentum keep on going! Let's continue to make little changes to extend the life of our aquifer!

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Important Dates

**Monthly Board Meetings – First Wednesday of every month @ 9 am.
(Except February & December)**

November Board Meeting: November 2nd

Governor's Conference on Water: November 16th & 17th

Annual Meeting: February 15th, 1 pm MST, Goodland

***Meetings are subject to change depending on weather, planting, & harvest!
Please visit www.gmd4.org as well as our Facebook and Twitter page for
meeting information and changes.***

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 - Colter Stoll – Field Scientist cstoll@gmd4.org
 - Jody McCain – Administrative Assistant jmccain@gmd4.org
- | | | |
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