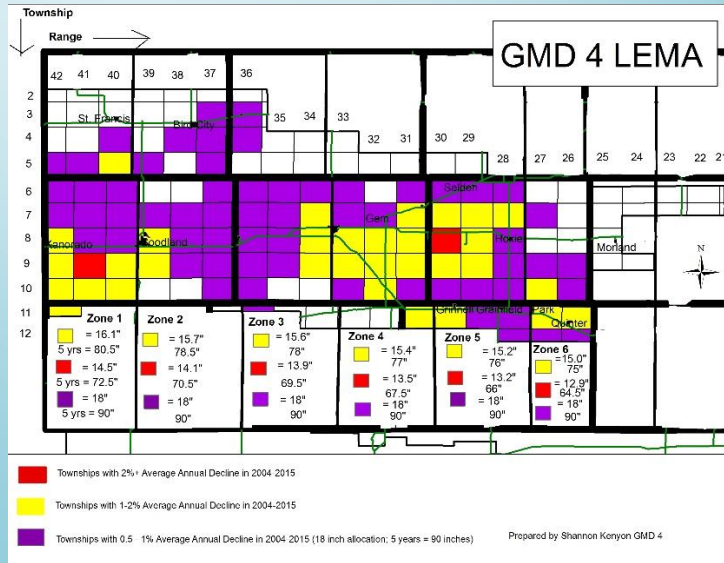


# The Water Table



## SD 6 & GMD 4 LEMA RENEWAL

The GMD 4 Board of Directors has moved to request a renewal for both LEMA's. The SD 6 LEMA did not change except now those producers will be able to enroll in a Multi-Year Flex Account. The GMD 4 LEMA is also remaining the same except for instances where an irrigation water right is converted to another use then the LEMA quantity will follow that water right. The requests for both LEMA's have been officially submitted to the Division of Water Resources. If the provisions of the proposals are suitable to them then hearings will be scheduled. Please be on the lookout for those dates. Anyone is welcome to provide written and/or oral testimony at those hearings either supporting, opposing, or neutral. We hope to have a final decision and order on both LEMAs before everyone starts planning for 2023 crops.

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## Welcome New Field Scientist Colter Stoll

In February we hired a new Field Scientist, Colter Stoll. Colter is from Oakley and lives in Colby with his wife and two children. He is a graduate of the Precision Agriculture Program at Northwest Technical College.

Colter is eager to get into

the field and meet our producers and help keep everyone in compliance. Be patient with us as we are getting him trained and certified to do rate tests.

If you see him in the field, feel free to flag him down and see how he can help your operation.

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*Did you know...you, as a landowner, are required to provide us and the State of Kansas a copy of your deed(s) when you purchase ground with a water right? Your agent does not do this for you.*

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### Colter's Field Notes

For those water rights affected by the GMD 4 LEMA you will have additional metering requirements and are **required to record your meter reading every two weeks**. It will be required that you have an alternate way to meter your water usage. Some of those acceptable ways are:

- TAPP H2O App
- AgSense
- Pivot hours
- Electric hours
- Dated Pictures
- Log Book
- Pressure sensors
- Additional meter

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2022 legislative session has been a busy one for us. Last year a new House Water Committee was formed where they learned about all things related to water within Kansas. Last summer there was a special session in Garden City where they met and this year introduced HB 2686 that was also known as the "Mega Water Bill". It was designed to create a new Department of Water and Environment, impose tax on irrigation water, and revise GMDs election and voting procedures. It made it out of committee but only with one requirement of GMDs to submit financial and conservation plans to them and to impose a percent of sales tax to water projects. By the time you read this article it may already be passed or dead.

SB 548 & SB 549 were also introduced so municipalities can exclude themselves from a GMD. These bills are a result of lack of communication and a legal feud between the City of Wichita and GMD 2.

## **Water Table Data**

The Kansas Geological Survey conducted its annual well measurements in January. Overall GMD 4 saw an average decline of 0.53 feet. This is less than the previous year that had a decline of 0.7 feet. GMD 1 (Scott City) had a decline of 0.57 feet this year and GMD 3 had a decline of 2.08 feet for comparison. The entire network saw a decline of 1 foot so keep up the great work with your improved farm management in time of drought!

## **Technology Cost-Share for 2022**

Sometime in April there will be a cost-share program for water saving technology. The Northwest Kansas Groundwater Conservation Foundation is partnering with the Kansas Division of Conservation to match funds and make the program available. So, if there is something you've been wanting to try or invest in, get your quotes ready! Some examples of potential funding would be soil moisture probes, variable rate irrigation, autonomous pivot, TappH2O, bubbler nozzles, and any type of telemetry. There will be a cost-share and a maximum per producer but those details are still forthcoming. Be sure to contact our office after April 6<sup>th</sup> for more details.



### **Pumping the Tailwater** Shannon Kenyon

As I've spent more time in Topeka this last year with the formation of the House Water Committee I have to spread the love to you all, our stakeholders, on what a great job you are doing managing your water. Our legislators have noticed the great work you do and convey that to me. I want to convey that to you and with all sincerity, thank you. Our work in Topeka is ongoing though and we have to educate and promote others around the state how to conserve water and how to work with other agencies. Because some of them do not, laws are being proposed that would put harm on the water users in Northwest Kansas. I will continue to fight against this proposed harmful legislation and promote good water policy for GMD 4.

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Find us on the Web:  
[www.gmd4.org](http://www.gmd4.org)



## Important Dates

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

**April Board Meeting: April 6th**

**May Board Meeting : May 4th**

**June Board Meeting: June 1 st**

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

## Staff and Board of Directors

- Shannon Kenyon – Manager [skenyon@gmd4.org](mailto:skenyon@gmd4.org)
  - Colter Stoll – Field Scientist [cstoll@gmd4.org](mailto:cstoll@gmd4.org)
  - Jody McCain – Administrative Assistant [jmccain@gmd4.org](mailto:jmccain@gmd4.org)
- |                              |                 |                 |
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