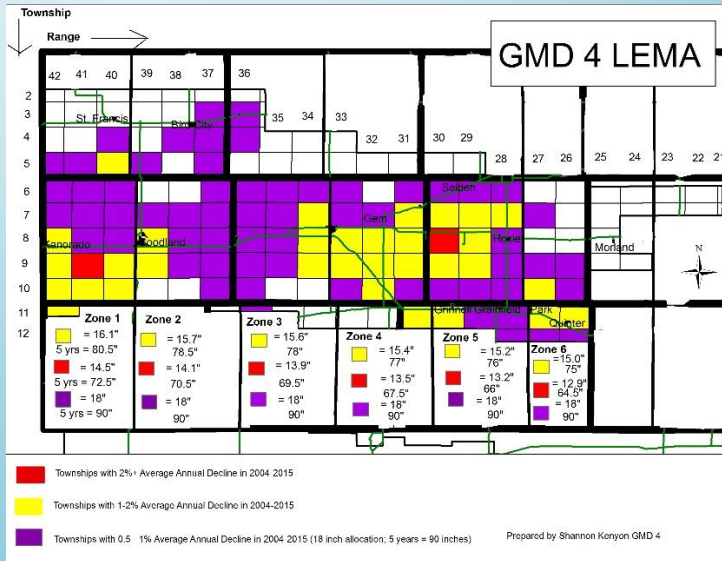


The Water Table



HELP IS ON THE WAY!!!

HB 2302 has been signed into law which authorizes and additional \$18 million to the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF). Our region will be seeing a good amount of those dollars for specific projects for all users! For those in irrigation and stockwater, there will be more cost-share available November 1st for water saving technology. For more detail please read the article on Page 3. I will be pushing out text messages for those that signed up when more information becomes available. If you haven't yet signed up text "GMD4" to 833-748-1288. Municipalities also have a chance to utilize SWPF money for infrastructure repairs and start-up money to encourage less water usage among their citizens. Many more opportunities on the table for all water users. We should have more information for our public outreach meetings in December.

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Public Outreach

We will be doing our third round of public outreach the week of December 4th. Specific times and locations have not been set yet, but will be sent in a postcard as well as put on our website. We will also be texting the information for those that signed up

to receive those updates. This round we will be discussing in further detail the funding opportunities to our region and what you can get signed up. This round of meetings will describe in more benefit.

*—“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

Just a reminder that if there is oil and oil filters on the ground at your well sights that this can be a violation through KDHE. I would like to remind producers of their overall cleanliness of their well sights. 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. If you see me out in the field don't hesitate to come say hello.

SD 6 & GMD 4 LEMA Year 1

We have successfully launched another five-year period for both LEMAs! Very little was changed to both. The SD 6 LEMA now allows for Multi-Year Flex Accounts (MYFAs) and the GMD 4 LEMA will include any use of water that purchases an irrigation right that is subject to the LEMA. As some of you have had a wet year and others have not I highly encourage you to check into a MYFA. This will allow you to have up to a five-year allocation of your LEMA quantity, but maybe less, depending on the specific water right. A MYFA allows you to utilize all the water you need without risk of overpumping your certified annual quantity. There is a caveat in that if you overpump the MYFA quantity, you will be turned off for two years. The application deadline to include 2023 is December 31st and costs \$400. For those of you with rainfall this year it is a great opportunity to bank it. For those of you still really dry, it will allow you to borrow from tomorrow to get you by today.

2022 Water Level Measurements

As always, in January, the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) measures wells in western Kansas. We thought those measurements were going to be ugly! They weren't pretty but not as bad as anticipated. From 2021 we saw an average drop district-wide of 1.2 feet in the aquifer. Keep in mind that takes into consideration all the well measurements throughout the district so some areas were more drastic than others. Give us a call at the office if you would like more specific data related to your area.

Irrigation Technology Cost-Share

November 1st, about \$500,000 will become available through the Division of Conservation for irrigation technology cost-share for all five of the Groundwater Management Districts. There will be specific amounts for each component instead of a percentage and respacing of nozzles is included this year! The maximum amount per producer is \$10,000. Other items included are soil moisture probes, Autonomous Pivot, TappH2O, VandWater, AgSense, and a few others. The money will go fast so please don't procrastinate and if you need help getting applied for, please contact our office. Applications will be accepted through the county conservation districts.



Pumping the Tailwater Shannon Kenyon

I have been tickled pink by all the positive feedback and input coming from our public outreach meetings! To hear the overwhelming support for local initiatives to save water, ideas to do better, and learn what is needed from you to do that is humbling. I, of course, have been passing this onto the Board of Directors as well as many State agencies for their support in these endeavors. Trust me when I say they are working hard to get us the support we need to be successful at the local level. I want to keep the momentum up. With more public outreach meetings in December I challenge you to bring a neighbor. Let's get more people involved in these discussions. As I've stated many times, we all are not part of the problem, but we ALL can be part of the solution.

