

NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 4
January 7, 2026

1. OPEN MEETING, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA

The January 7, 2026, board meeting was opened at the GMD 4 Office, Colby, Kansas by President, Brett Oelke.

Board members present for some, or all the meeting were:

Jerry Binning, Carl Davis, Nate Emig, Lynn Goossen, Shane Mann, Brett Oelke, Brent Rogers and Marsha Schilling.

Board members absent were: Jeff Deeds, Karen Flanagan, and Dylan Loyd.

Others present for some, or all the meeting were: Shannon Kenyon, Jody McCain, Trent McCain, and Jack Polifka – GMD 4 staff; and Jake Kling – GMD 4 attorney; Kelly Stewart and David Means -- DWR; Keadron Pearson – KWO; Steve Frost – DOC; and Baker Bugbee (virtually).

Shane Mann moved to appoint Brent Rogers Acting Secretary in Jeff Deeds absence. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Marsha Schilling moved the consent agenda be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Rogers and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes.)

Shane Mann moved that the minutes of December 3, 2025, board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jerry Binning and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

Shannon distributed copies of the updated December financial statements.

Discussion ensued on the need for additional motions when the consent agenda motion covers the Previous Meeting Minutes and Expenditures & Financial Reports.

3. OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report.

4. AGENCY REPORTS

Kelly Stewart noted that the annual well measurements with KGS have wrapped up in Northwest Kansas. It is officially Water Use Reporting season. There is a hearing for DWR Rules and Regulations scheduled for January 8, 2026.

Keadron Pearson reported the next scheduled KWA meeting is January 27th in Topeka. She noted that the Kansas Water Authority's FY 2025 Annual Report is available online, on the Kansas Water Office website.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Manager Updates

The GMDs had a meeting in Manhattan with DWR to discuss a variety of topics, in hopes of increasing communication and understanding between the agencies. Shannon felt it was a productive meeting and looks forward to them continuing in the future.

There will be a KGMDA meeting in February, during the 2026 Legislative Retreat.

Shannon also distributed a copy of the moratorium reissued by Chief Engineer, Earl Lewis.

b. Future Opportunities

Shannon provided testimony for the KGMDA for the DWR Rules and Regulations hearing taking place tomorrow. She did not provide testimony on behalf of GMD 4.

NW Kansas Water Day is scheduled for January 14, 2026, at the Colby Event Center. We have set up advertising with the local radio stations to encourage producers and community members to attend.

Jack and Shannon will be gone February 2 – 4, 2026 for the Legislative Retreat.

Water Use Reports have been delivered, and we are scheduling appointments accordingly.

6. FIELD REPORTS

Trent reported 130 checked since the last board meeting. Municipal well checks are complete, except for Morland. Most of the 5-5-11 Limited quantity checks are almost complete as well. Thanks to the weather, he is also ahead of schedule on the 2026 well check list.

Jack reported 7 more evaluations have been completed, with more producers interested in getting on the list. He has been working on reports and onboarding paperwork. He has approximately 27 testing units lined up for spring

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. GMD 4 LEMA

Shannon guided the attendees through the changes made to the draft proposal. She noted that the goal statement has not been figured yet as she was still working through the spreadsheet for the new townships.

b. SD-6

Shannon guided the attendees through the changes made to the SD 6 draft proposal as well. Several minor changes were noted that will be investigated.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. WTAP

Steve Frost presented information on the Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP). A target area map of the Prairie Dog Creek Basin was provided. Applications will be available online, and a letter will be sent to producers in the target area. The application submission period is February 15th – March 30th, 2026. The Department of Conservation would like GMD 4 to give recommendations on applications submitted.

Brent Rogers moved to defer recommendations on the WTAP program. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

b. Annual Meeting

Shannon reminded the board members up for re-election that petitions are due one week before the Annual Meeting. She gave a rundown of the timeline of the regular board meeting, annual meeting, and foundation meeting to take place.

Shane Mann moved to have Dylan Loyd conduct the elections at the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Lynn Goossen and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

c. Budget Hearing

Shannon Kenyon opened the budget hearing at 10:12 a.m. She reported there was no pre-filed testimony. Shannon provided her testimony and passed around the budget showing the 2026 final assessed, and the 2026 revised to include the 2025 carry-over. The budget hearing was closed at 10:13 a.m.

Following discussion, Brent Rogers moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the 2026 budget of \$492,900.00 approved originally on August 6, 2025, requires amending in order to incorporate the 2025 cash carryover funds; and

WHEREAS the district lawfully scheduled and conducted a public hearing to consider all testimony regarding the budgeting of carryover funds and other issues.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the 2026 final operating budget shall be adopted as revised based on its presentation by GMD 4 staff during the lawfully conducted public hearing. The final 2026 operating budget of \$1,043,184.00 shall be:

ATTACHMENT A: 2026 FINAL BUDGET

Lynn Goossen seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

d. GAAP WAIVER

Shane Mann moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4, Colby, Kansas, has determined that the financial statements and financial reports for the year ended 2025 to be prepared in conformity with the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) are not relevant to the requirements of the cash basis and budget laws of this state and are of no significant value to the Board of Directors or the members of the general public of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 and

WHEREAS there are no revenue bond ordinances or resolutions or other ordinances or resolutions of the municipality which require financial statements and financial reports to be prepared in conformity with K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) for the year ended 2025.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4, Colby, Kansas, in regular meeting duly assembled this 7th day of January 2026 that the Board of Directors waives the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) as they apply to the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4, for the year ended 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors shall cause the financial statements and financial reports of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 to be prepared on the basis of

cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of this State.

The motion was seconded by Carl Davis and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

e. Executive Session – To Protect Trade Secrets

At 10:47 a.m. Lynn Goossen moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the manager, board, staff, agency representatives and attorney to protect trade secrets. The motion was seconded by Marsha Schilling and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

The session expired.

Lynn Goossen moved to approve the waiver discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Carl Davis and passed unanimously by voice vote (no “nay” votes).

9. OPEN SESSION – Public Questions/Comments:

Nothing to report.

10. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next board meeting will be February 18, 2026, starting at 10 a.m. M.S.T. at Freedom Hall, (the old VFW) Goodland, Kansas. The 2026 Annual Meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. M.S.T., with an alternate date of February 25, 2026, if a quorum is not available on the 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business and no objections, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Brent Rogers, Acting Secretary

