



October 2008

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Solomon Working Group Update: Upper Solomon Forks Model | 1 |
| GMD No. 4 Enhanced Management Areas in the Upper Solomon Basin | 2 |
| Subbasin Water Resource Management Program Updates Website | 4 |
| Division of Water Resources Publishes Newsletter | 4 |

Solomon Working Group Update: Upper Solomon Forks Model

By Darci Paull

The Solomon Working Group convened April 23, 2008, for the first time in two years. During the interim, a groundwater model was jointly constructed and reviewed by a technical advisory committee that included the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Kansas Water Office, Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4, and the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Division of Water Resources. S.S. Papadopulos and Associates was hired to construct the model.

S.S. Papadopulos and Associates presented modeling results to the working group at the April meeting. Following the presentation, the consultant answered questions. Following the presentation, the working group discussed options for baseline model scenarios to be run to use the model. Baseline model scenarios will allow the working group to assess possible management options to address water resource concerns within the Upper North and South Forks of the Solomon. The discussion resulted in six scenarios:

1. Run scenario(s) where Ogallala pumping is turned off within the boundaries of the Upper North and South Fork Solomon and alluvial pumping remains and vice versa.
2. Run a scenario where pumping continues at the current rate in the Ogallala and alluvial aquifers within the boundaries of the Upper North and South Fork Solomon.
3. Run a scenario where pumping in the Ogallala and the alluvial aquifers is turned off within the boundaries of the Upper North and South Fork Solomon.
4. Run a scenario that adjusts or lowers the evapotranspiration to see the outcome of eliminating or reducing phreatophytes within the Upper North and South Fork Solomon basin. GIS coverage will be provided by the agency.
5. Run a scenario that turns off pumping on soils that are deemed marginal for irrigation. GIS coverage will be provided by the agency.
6. Run a scenario that removes the anomalously high precipitation years from the model.

The working group also recommended running an economic *(continued)*

Solomon Working Group Update *(continued)*

run. This would need to be done separately from the hydrology style baseline runs.

In July, the working group met again to discuss the baseline scenarios further and to receive guidance from S.S. Papadopoulos and Associates. A few of the scenarios were slightly adjusted. The seventh scenario will not be run initially. The other six model runs should be available later this year or early next year. The working group will continue to meet to discuss management options for the Upper North and South Forks of the subbasin. For more information visit www.ksda.gov/subbasin/.

GMD No. 4 Enhanced Management Areas in the Upper Solomon Basin

By Scott Voss

Upcoming High-Priority Area Meetings

In an effort to extend and conserve the life of the Ogallala-High Plains aquifer in northwest Kansas, Groundwater Management District No. 4 designated six high-priority areas to target for special management practices. The board will conduct at least one public meeting within each high-priority aquifer subunit to a) inform land owners and water users of the district's process and findings; b) to discuss the area's future outlook based on district findings; c) to request input from attendees about preferred future actions, specifically including preferences for a groundwater budget for the next 20 years; and d) what management policies/actions/strategies should be considered by the board to achieve the preferred groundwater budget.

Following the public meetings, the board will decide what groundwater use goals (groundwater budgets) are appropriate for each high-priority aquifer subunit and what management approaches should be implemented. These decisions will be incorporated into the management program before being undertaken. If new regulatory authorities are considered necessary or prudent, either by the public or the board, they will be further explored at this step in the process.

All landowners and water users located in the six high-priority areas are encouraged to attend their corresponding meeting. These meetings are to seek input about preferred future actions, including how long the life of the designated aquifer subunit should be extended and what management strategies should be implemented by the board to achieve the desired future outcome(s). Meetings will be in early November as follows:

CN#3; November 3; St. Francis; Riverside Recreation; 9 a.m.

SH#1; November 3; Goodland; Howard Johnson Motor Inn; 2 p.m.

TH#4; November 4; Colby; Colby Community College Union, Room 107; 9 a.m.

*SD#6; November 10; Hoxie; Hoxie Elks Lodge; 9 a.m.

*TH#5; November 10; Colby; City Limits Convention Center; 2 p.m.

SH#2; November 12; Goodland; Howard Johnson Motor Inn; 9 a.m.

*partially or entirely located within the Upper Solomon Basin

For more about the GMD 4 high-priority areas and/or public meetings, visit www.gmd4.org/, or contact GMD 4 at (785) 462-3915. *(continued)*

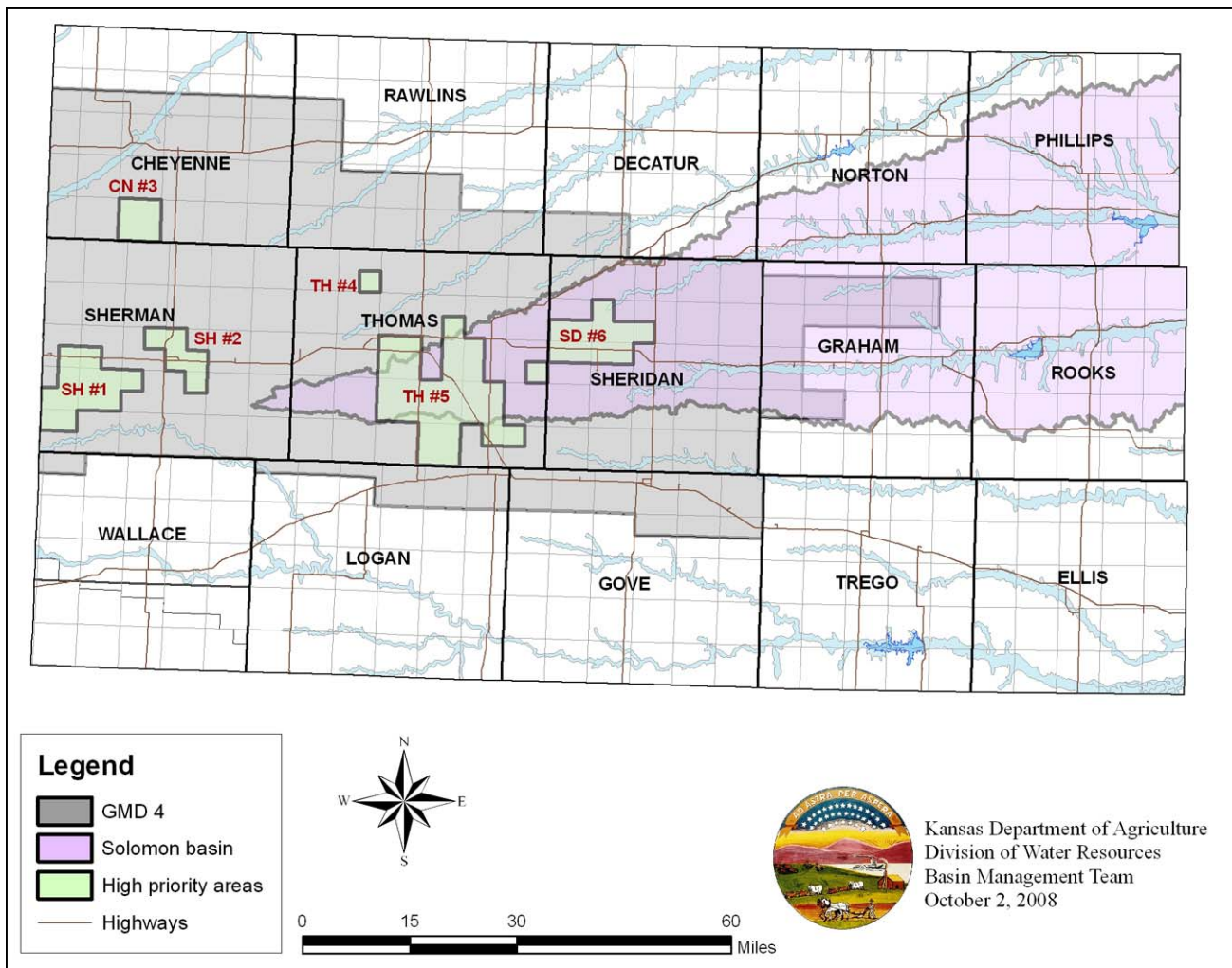
GMD 4 Enhanced Management Areas in the Upper Solomon Basin *(continued)*

Water Transition Assistance Program Eligible Areas Within GMD 4

New eligible areas within GMD 4 have been added to the Water Transition Assistance Program. Water Transition Assistance Program, a voluntary, incentive-based retirement program administered by the State Conservation Commission that reduces consumptive use of groundwater through permanent dismissal. On September 8, 2008, the chief engineer of the Division of Water Resources designated the six-high priority areas “in need of aquifer restoration” and conditionally closed the areas to new water appropriation, which makes them eligible for Water Transition Assistance Program. The conditional closure does not affect term, temporary or domestic water rights. If no Water Transition Assistance Program funds are used in a high-priority area, it allows the area to revert back to current GMD 4 regulations if the Water Transition Assistance Program is eliminated in the future.

Water Transition Assistance Program retirement applications can be made from October 1 through November 15 and from February 15 through March 31.

For more information visit www.scc.ks.gov/, or contact Steve Frost, water conservation program manager, at (785) 296-8964, or by email to steve.frost@scc.ks.gov.





KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Division of Water Resources
Subbasin Water Resource Management Program
109 SW 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283
Phone: (785) 296-3705 Fax: (785) 296-4619 046

Visit http://www.ksda.gov/subbasin/mailing_list/ to sign up for other online newsletters!

Subbasin Water Resource Management Program Updates Website

The Subbasin Water Resource Management Program has updated their [website](#) with new content and updated project areas. The current project areas include the Upper Arkansas River Subbasin, Middle Arkansas River Subbasin, Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin, Solomon River Basin, Pawnee River Subbasin, Ogallala aquifer and Ozark Plateau aquifers.

Newly added content includes information on voluntary incentive programs, the new five-phase process, hydrologic modeling and the 2007 field summary for each area. We are working on a section for the streamflow monitoring data under the Pawnee-Buckner-Sawlog subbasin. The streamflow monitoring data will be available in the near future for the Solomon subbasin.

We are always looking for ways to improve our website or to make it more useful. Please feel free to send an email through the “contact information” section or submit your feedback on the comment form in the top right-hand corner of the website.

Division of Water Resources Publishes Newsletter

The Division of Water Resources' electronic newsletter, DWR Currents, is distributed quarterly and focuses on providing useful, timely information related to Kansas' water resources. You can subscribe to receive the newsletter via email, or view current and past newsletters, at www.ksda.gov/dwr/.