

MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2012
BIG BEND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT #5
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The monthly board meeting of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5 was held at the District office in Stafford on Thursday, January 19, 2012. Board members present were Kent Lamb, John Janssen, Fred Grunder, Curtis Tobias, Darrell Wood, Kraig Froetschner, Kevin Schultz and Phillip Martin. Board member not present was Ed Shultz. District staff present was Wes Essmiller. Guest present was Cameron Conant.

President Darrell Wood called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m.

Kevin Schultz moved, Phillip Martin seconded to accept the December minutes as written. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Kent Lamb moved, Kraig Froetschner seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried 7-0-1.

DWR discussed the drought term permits and how it has overloaded the office in Topeka. There will now be a 8-12 month wait on all new applications until the workload slows a bit. DWR also said that they were considering raising the amount on a Temporary Permit to 4 million gallons to help aid with the backup in Topeka and to facilitate the Oil and Gas operations in Kansas. Kevin Schultz moved, Kraig Froetschner seconded to have the manager draft a letter expressing our concerns with this increase and that in closed basin, any water pumped over 1 million gallon, should be offset from existing water rights. Motion carried 5-2-1.

There was a discussion on the Walnut Creek IGUCA review and information that we will need to obtain prior to the review. This information would be obtained from the Hydrologic model at an estimated cost of 40 thousand dollars. That would not include testimony from Balleau Groundwater. The board also asked the manager to approach Walnut Creek Irrigators Association to help offset the cost of the model run due to the fact that they would be recipients of any positive changes that would come from the review.

A discussion was held on the Sterling College water right applications. The current model doesn't show adequate water being available in the area based on sustainable yield even if it were raised to 3500AF in a 2mile circle. Curtis Tobias moved, John Janssen seconded that the manager should draft a letter to Sterling College stating that unless the district opens to 3700, that no permits will be available. Motion carried 7-0-1. The district will approve the two thermal exchange applications and a 15 AF application but the college would need to be aware of the rules on that type of permit first. The board also suggested that the college should approach the city or area water users to acquire the amount of water they are looking for

Three of the district's water rights had WRCP contracts expire on 12/31/2011 and are in need of renewal Curtis Tobias moved, Kevin Schultz seconded to re-enroll the three water rights in the 5-Year Water Rights Conservation Plan (WRCP). Motion carried 7-0-1.

John Janssen moved, Kraig Froetschner seconded, to go into executive session at 2:45 p.m. for 15 minutes for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Executive session is required to protect the privacy interest of the parties involved. Motion carried 7-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 3:00 p.m.

The Board discussed salaries for 2012. Kevin Schultz made a motion to accept the recommendations for the salaries as submitted by the Manager. John Janssen seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0-1.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 3:10 p.m.