

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 20, 2014  
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 February 20, 2014. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Tom Taylor, Fred Grunder, Phillip Martin, Kent Lamb, Justin Gatz and Bob Standish. Board member Curtis Tobias was not present. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand. Guests present were Jeff Lanterman, Aaron Koehn, Mike Oldham, Carrie Cordova, Pete Striffler, Richard Wenstrom, Jackie McClaskey, David Barfield, Lane Letourneau, Leland Higbie and Vernon Hirt.

The February regular board meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Fred Grunder moved and Bob Standish seconded to accept the January minutes as written. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Justin Gatz arrived at 2:01 pm.

Bob Standish moved and Tom Taylor seconded to accept the February treasurer's report. Following discussion, the motion carried 7-0-1.

Manager Feril presented the proposed 2015 budget to the board and described the amendments to the existing adopted budget. Following discussion, Kent Lamb moved and Bob Standish seconded to present the proposed budget to the public at the annual meeting for review. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Kent Lamb moved and Tom Taylor seconded to approve the annual meeting packet for distribution to the public. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Aaron Koehn, accountant for VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt Chtd, gave the board an overview of the annual audit for fiscal year 2013. Questions and comments from the board followed the presentation. Bob Standish moved and John Janssen seconded to accept the 2013 audit report. Motion carried 7-0-1.

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) presented the *Vision for the Future of Kansas Water* to the board at the January board meeting. At that meeting, the KWO requested that the board submit recommendations for the Vision document for the GMD5 area. The board discussed the Vision document as it is currently proposed. Currently, the Vision discusses water declines in the Ogallala Aquifer and reservoir preservation. The Great Bend Prairie and Equus Beds aquifers are currently not differentiated as having different issues. Based upon hydrologic data in the District, the water level fluctuations are minimal depending on annual precipitation. However, water quality is becoming a significant issue in these aquifers that should be included in the Vision document. The board also recommends the enhancement of incentive-based conservation and technology to help maintain the sustainable nature of the local aquifers.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. Recently the KWO submitted a scope of work to the five Groundwater Management

Districts supporting the LEMA activities in each of the Districts. The proposed HB2695 was discussed as well. As the bill is currently written, it will make the “sprinkling of roadways with irrigation water” a Class C misdemeanor. Additionally, the bill allows the Chief Engineer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources (KDA–DWR) to impose increased civil penalties for violations of the Water Appropriation Act. As it is written, the board is concerned with how it does not account for environmental conditions in the enforcement of the violation. The Central Kansas Water Bank Association’s (CKWBA) recent activity was discussed as well.

The Secretary of Agriculture for the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Jackie McClaskey, was at the board meeting to meet the board and become informed with the programs within the District. The Chief Engineer, David Barfield, reviewed the current status of the Rattlesnake Creek/Quivira NWR impairment investigation. At this point, KDA–DWR is waiting for a response to an October 2013 letter that KDA–DWR sent to the USFWS. Until these responses are received, the investigation is on hold. The District submitted a proposal for an alternative calculation method for the Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) allocations within the District. KDA–DWR staff has been reviewing this proposal and the Chief Engineer presented some preliminary calculations for review with the board. Following thorough discussion regarding the reasoning behind the proposal, the Secretary of KDA recommended that the proposal be resubmitted as a pilot program with the same provisions as the previous proposal to determine the conservation effects of removing the endgun from an irrigation system. Manager Feril stated he would redraft the proposal for the board’s review at the March board meeting. The District submitted draft regulations to KDA–DWR for review and adoption for use in District boundaries that would require the offset in water for temporary permits over one million gallons up to four million gallons. The Chief Engineer noted the concerns that KDA–DWR has with the draft regulations. Following a discussion regarding the need for these regulations in the District, the Chief Engineer agreed to take a closer look at the regulations. The Chief Engineer gave an overview of the recent resolution passed by the City of Hays to pursue the R9 Ranch as a viable source of water for the city and the process the City would have to go through to transfer the water across basin boundaries.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 4:57 p.m.