

MINUTES – JUNE 12, 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 June 12, 2014. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Tom Taylor, Kent Lamb, Justin Gatz, Fred Grunder, Phillip Martin, and Bob Standish. Board members John Janssen and Curtis Tobias were not present. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand. Guests present were Cameron Conant, Ray Flickner, Mark Wentzel and Mike Oldham.

The June regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Manager Feril requested to add items 3a (Application for Permit No. 48982) and 3b (Index Well project) to the agenda.

Kent Lamb moved and Bob Standish seconded to accept the May minutes. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Bob Standish moved and Phil Martin seconded to accept the June treasurer's report. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0-1.

Justin Gatz arrived at 7:04 p.m.

The first item up for discussion was a permit application for File No. 48982. The application is for the Great Bend public library's closed loop geothermal system. The application is for 265AF of water to be put to beneficial use within the city limits of Great Bend and therefore does not meet spacing to numerous domestic and non-domestic wells per K.A.R. 5-25-2. However, the applicant proposes to utilize a Class V injection well on the property to create a non-consumptive system. Phil Martin moved and Kent Lamb seconded to waive K.A.R. 5-25-2 and recommend approval of the application. Motion carried 5-0-1.

The next item discussed is the Index Well project. In the May board meeting, the proposal to install equipment into an existing observation well in Edwards county was discussed briefly. Manager Feril has worked with the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) to help pay for and install the equipment to create an Index Well within GMD5. The proposed cost to the District is \$1550 for the equipment and \$300/year for the communications service. Following discussion, Phil Martin moved and Bob Standish seconded to proceed with the project. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Fred Grunder arrived at 7:19 p.m.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. The GMD managers have been discussing each office's procedures for handling annual assessments to insure consistency and efficiency. This is an ongoing project with the managers. Additionally the managers have been beginning discussions with software developers to create a spatial database system for the operations of each district. At this point, the managers are asking each of their boards of directors for input on the priorities of this system. The District board recommended that Manager Feril use best judgment in determining the priorities for GMD5. The upcoming public tour for the 50-year Vision on

the Future of Kansas Water was discussed briefly as well. It is noted that St John will be one of the first stops on this tour on July 7, 2014. Each board member was encouraged to attend this meeting. Manager Feril then briefed the board on the recent KGS Field Conference Tour held in Central Kansas. No further action was taken by the board at this time.

Cameron Conant, representing the Division of Water Resources, was on hand to update the board on current issues. DWR is currently in the middle of moving their headquarters office from Topeka to Manhattan. KDA-DWR has recently completed their meter compliance checks for Quivira Wildlife Refuge. These checks have been submitted to headquarters for review. A recent issue of two reversed meters found by District staff has been forwarded to KDA-DWR for enforcement. The enforcement has not yet been finalized by KDA-DWR. Following further discussion about the investigation, no action was taken by the board.

Mike Oldham gave an update on the activities of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) at Quivira Wildlife Refuge (Quivira). The Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) has been finalized for Quivira. This document will serve as guidelines for the operation of the refuge for the next 15 years. The Service is working to have new gravel spread along the primary drive through Quivira by the beginning of August. The Service is in the midst of working with partners to submit a grant proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to remove Russian olive and Tamarisk from the stream corridor of the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin. Following discussion, the board requested that Manager Feril begin drafting a possible letter of support for this proposal to be reviewed by the board.

Ray Flickner noted the upcoming KWA meeting in Olathe in August. Additionally, he noted some of the proposed projects to move water around regionally via aqueduct or pipeline.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 8:22 p.m.