

MINUTES – MAY 8, 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 May 8, 2014. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Curtis Tobias, Tom Taylor, John Janssen, Kent Lamb, and Justin Gatz. Board members Fred Grunder, Phillip Martin, and Bob Standish were not present. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Cameron Conant, Richard Wenstrom, and Mike Oldham.

The May regular board meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Kent Lamb moved and Curtis Tobias seconded to accept the April minutes. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Kent Lamb moved and Tom Taylor seconded to accept the May treasurer's report. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0-1.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. The installation of an Index Well with continuous real-time monitoring in the District was discussed. Currently the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) operates and maintains three Index Wells in western Kansas. Manager Feril has approached KGS to determine their interest in operating one within the District. The board requested further information regarding the cost for the equipment required for the project and to explore cost sharing with other agencies. Manager Feril discussed briefly the Vision work session meeting in Manhattan. The board also discussed briefly the recent developments in the court case in Haskell County (12-CV-9). No action was taken.

Justin Gatz arrived at 7:34 p.m.

Cameron Conant, representing the Division of Water Resources (DWR), was on hand to update the board on current issues. DWR has informally approved the District's Multi-Year Flex Account proposal, but recommends waiting for official documentation to arrive from the Chief Engineer before proceeding with further actions. The implementation of this proposal will have to be through Rules and Regulation. No action was taken at this time.

Mike Oldham, representing the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), was present to participate in discussion with the board but did not provide the board with an update on activities at Quivira NWR.

Richard Wenstrom, representing Water PACK, gave an update on current activities of their organization. Mr. Wenstrom noted recent articles relating to water resources. The first is in Wall Street Journal with the title *Scarcity Fallacy*. This article describes how when resources are limited the ingenuity of producers and industry often overcome the limitations by adopting new innovations to extend the resource further. The second is a guidance document titled *Keep the Tap Flowing*. The purpose of this document is to encourage discussion among stakeholders regarding the water resources of the state. Finally, Water PACK will be submitting a letter to the Kansas Water Office regarding the Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas project. This letter will highlight the unique

characteristics of the Great Bend Prairie aquifer and the economic effect of irrigation on the area. Mr. Wenstrom provided the board with a draft copy of this letter for discussion only. No action was taken by the board.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.