

MINUTES – JANUARY 15, 2015  
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 15, 2015. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Curtis Tobias, Tom Taylor, Kent Lamb, Justin Gatz, Phillip Martin, and Bob Standish. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Cameron Conant, Richard Wenstrom, Mike Oldham, Aron Flanders, Bryan Meier, Daniel Clement, Ray Flickner and Leroy Wetzell.

The January regular board meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Phil Martin moved and Bob Standish seconded to accept the December minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Tom Taylor arrived at 1:03 p.m.

Bob Standish moved and Phil Martin seconded to accept the January treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 8-0-1.

Manager Feril presented the audit engagement letter from VonFeldt, Bauer, & VonFeldt, Chartered for review by the board. Bob Standish moved and Justin Gatz seconded to accept the engagement letter in order to conduct the District's financial audit. Motion carried 8-0-1.

In the December board meeting, the board discussed a formal request for the model files and associated documentation for the District's hydrologic model from Burns and McDonnell on behalf of the cities of Hays and Russell. Following thorough discussion, John Janssen moved and Bob Standish seconded to deny access to the hydrologic model's source files but would consider model scenario proposals per District policy if the cities of Hays and Russell requested them. Motion carried 8-0-1.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. The upcoming board roundtable event and legislative reception in Topeka was discussed briefly and all board members were encouraged to attend. Following the recent deadline to open a savings account, there were approximately 460 new savings accounts opened with the Central Kansas Water Bank Association. This brings the total participation in that program up to approximately 15% of all active water rights within the District. The previously authorized Walnut Creek and Rice county model scenario runs with Balleau are still pending report generation, but are in the final stages of completion. The District staff has been busy gathering water level information throughout the District and the data is not yet available for discussion.

Cameron, representing the Division of Water Resources, was on hand to update the board on current issues. The field office is completing their annual water level measurements at this time as well. Additionally, the annual water use reports have been mailed out to area water users. The field office is encouraging water users to utilize the online reporting tool that has been developed.

Mike Oldham, representing the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, was present to discuss the operations at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Currently water in the streambed is iced over and minimal streamflow is measurable as it enters refuge property,

Aron Flanders with the Partners Program was present to update the board on the project to remove woody invasive species from the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin. The grant to help pay for this project did not get funded this year, but the group is still trying to get acres cleaned up as existing funding is available.

Ray Flickner provided an update on the recent KWA activities. There was a meeting in Wichita regarding the 14 new Regional Leadership Teams and how they would be interacting with the 12 existing Basin Advisory Committees. There was also brief discussion regarding the anticipated bills to be introduced this legislative session. No action was taken by the board.

Richard Wenstrom, representing Water Pack, provided a brief overview of recent meetings they have had with Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey and Lane Letourneau. Additionally, Water Pack has been conducting meetings with county Farm Bureau boards to better acquaint themselves with the needs of each county.

In other business, the upcoming annual meeting for the District was discussed. The three board members that are up for re-election were asked individually if they were planning on running again as incumbents. Each responded that they were willing to serve another three-year term if re-elected. The discussion shifted to featured speakers for the meeting. Several names were mentioned and the board requested that the manager attempt to get Governor Brownback to be the featured speaker.

Justin Gatz moved and Fred Grunder seconded to go into executive session at 2:57 p.m. for 15 minutes for the purpose of discussing confidential data relating to financial affairs of a partnership. Motion carried 8-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 3:07 p.m.

Justin Gatz moved and Fred Grunder seconded to approve the proposal to have Kent Askren to assist the District with keeping up with the activities in Topeka throughout the 2015 Legislative session for \$2500. Motion carried 8-0-1.

A brief discussion on a proposed scope of work with Balleau Groundwater was held regarding the Rattlesnake Creek Management Plan objectives. This scope of work was requested by Water Pack. Per District policy adopted in November 2014, it is at the discretion of the board regarding the utilization of District funds for model scenarios. Justin Gatz moved and John Janssen seconded to pay half of the projected cost not to exceed \$14,000 and to have Water Pack pay the difference. Motion carried 7-0-2.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 3:31 p.m.