

MINUTES – DECEMBER 14, 2017  
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, December 14, 2017. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Fred Grunder, Tom Taylor, Kent Lamb, Bob Standish, Jerry Cullop, and Justin Gatz. Board member Phil Martin was not present. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Jeff Lanterman, Pat Janssen, Vin Kissick, Richard Wenstrom, Brian Klager, John Donley, Kent Moore, and Heidi Mehl.

The December regular board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Darrell Wood.

Item 5 was removed from the agenda.

Bob Standish moved and Justin Gatz seconded to approve the November minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Bob Standish moved and Justin Gatz seconded to accept the December treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 6-0-1.

John Janssen arrived at the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

The District received a recommendation request for an application for Term Permit File No. 20179053 recently. The applicant is proposing to utilize an existing well owned by KDOT for fire protection supply. The existing well is not currently in use by KDOT and this well would supply water for Pratt County and surrounding areas. The application does not meet spacing to two nearby domestic wells. These domestic well owners have provided voluntary spacing waivers to the applicant. Additionally, the applicant is requesting a term permit for twenty years which does not meet the requirements per K.A.R. 5-25-13. Following discussion, Justin Gatz moved and Fred Grunder seconded to recommend a waiver of K.A.R. 5-25-2 and K.A.R. 5-25-13 to recommend approval of the application as presented. Motion carried 6-0-2.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. Mr. Feril highlighted the upcoming meeting KDA is planning on January 3 in Topeka to present KDA's legislative agenda for the coming session. The District recently received notice of the annual notice for Kansas Water Congress membership dues. The board discussed the benefits and drawbacks of maintaining the membership for 2018. Following a thorough discussion, Tom Taylor moved and Justin Gatz seconded to discontinue the membership for 2018. Motion carried 6-0-2. The upcoming legislative reception in Topeka will be a little different format this next year. The activities will include multiple GMD board roundtable events and be located at the Dillon House near the capitol building. Mr. Feril noted the anticipated cost for these events and provided further explanation to the board. Following discussion, Fred Grunder moved and Justin Gatz seconded to actively support these events and provide travel arrangements for any board member or District staff to attend. Motion carried 6-1-1. In consideration of the upcoming legislative session, Mr. Feril presented the board with a proposed memorandum of agreement for legislative monitoring and lobbying services in Topeka for 2018. After consideration, Kent Lamb moved and Justin Gatz seconded to enter into the agreement for \$12,000 in FY2018. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Heidi Mehl arrived at the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Heidi Mehl, representing The Nature Conservancy (TNC), provided those in attendance with an update on TNC's activities in this area. TNC is working to obtain funding to remove invasive phreatophytic plants from the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin. Additionally, TNC is working to provide cost-sharing and/or incentives for irrigation efficiency technology and participation in the CKWBA.

Orrin Feril and the LEMA committee provided a brief update on the current status of the Rattlesnake Creek LEMA. The LEMA committee is making good progress and is pushing forward on getting the LEMA implemented as a remedy for the Quivira NWR impairment.

Jeff Lanterman, representing KDA-DWR, stated that KDA staff will be starting measuring the cooperative well network in the coming week. The Stafford field office processed approximately 50 term permits for water bank withdrawals this fall. During the past several weeks the Stafford field office has been focusing on processing non-irrigation field inspections for certification.

Vin Kissick provided an update on the KWA activities to the board. At the KWA meeting in McPherson, there were a few items of note for discussion. The Research Coordination Workgroup has met and itemized areas of research it feels are important for funding by the state water plan. It is notable that none of the groundwater management districts were consulted regarding these research areas. Burke Griggs provided a review of the activities the legislative Special Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Representative Tom Sloan. In the coming year, Mr. Griggs will likely be conducting a Kansas Water Appropriations Act review at the request of the legislature.

Orrin Feril, representing the Great Bend Prairie RAC, provided an update to the board. Three of the RAC's goals (feed wheat, public water supply, and water quality) are better suited as statewide goals for proper implementation. Only one of these goals (feed wheat research) has been elevated to a statewide goal at this point, but yet it was not one of the research items identified by the Research Coordination Workgroup for prioritization. The RAC has requested further guidance by the KWA regarding the purpose of the RAC at this point.

Kent Moore, representing WaterPACK, stated there is high anxiety in the Rattlesnake subbasin regarding the LEMA proposal and encouraged the District to emphasize augmentation in that proposal. Additionally, there is general consensus amongst the group to support the removal of end guns from center pivot systems. WaterPACK is working through an economic study of the area in 2018. The study has three primary items of focus 1) corn yield function specific to this area of the state; 2) the impact of irrigation on land values; and 3) the relationship between livestock and irrigation. WaterPACK is hoping to have this study finalized by September 2018.

Justin Gatz moved and Fred Grunder seconded to go into executive session at 11:35 p.m. for thirty minutes for the purpose of discussion personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the parties involved. Motion carried 7-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 12:05 p.m.

Fred Grunder moved and Justin Gatz seconded to approve staff salaries at the discretion of the manager and the manager's salary be increased to \$80,000 annually effective January 1, 2018. Motion carried 7-0-1.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for January 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Attest by: Fred Gunder Dated 1.11.18