

MINUTES – JUNE 8, 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 June 8, 2017. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Fred Grunder, Kent Lamb, Bob Standish and Justin Gatz. Board members Phillip Martin, Jerry Cullop and Tom Taylor were not present. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Richard Wenstrom, Jeff Lanterman, Calvin Kissick, Brian Klager, Berry Bortz, Stan Lawrence, David Landis and Pat Janssen.

The June regular board meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Darrell Wood

Justin Gatz joined the meeting via conference call.

An executive session for attorney-client discussion was added to the agenda as item 10a.

Kent Lamb moved and Fred Grunder seconded to approve the May minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.

John Janssen joined the meeting via conference call at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Bob Standish moved and Kent Lamb seconded to accept the June treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0-1.

Justin Gatz joined the meeting in person at approximately 9:20 a.m.

The District received an application for permit file number 49710 to appropriate up to 12.5 acre-feet for recreation use in Barton County. In order to mitigate any increase in net consumptive use in the area, this permit requires an offset from nearby appropriated water rights. The applicant proposes to offset the use by the application by dismissing an existing water right number 46771. The application does not meet spacing requirements per K.A.R. 5-25-2 to Water Right File No. 18106. Due to the current status of water right number 46771 as determined by KDA-DWR, it was recommended by District staff that the application file number 49710 be denied as presented. Following discussion, Justin Gatz moved and Bob Standish seconded to recommend denial of the application, and encourage the applicant to explore alternative sources for an offset from nearby certified water rights. Motion carried 4-1-1.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. Mr. Feril provided a brief overview of some of the presentations at the GMDA summer conference in Albuquerque NM. Additionally, the current status of the District vehicles and possible replacement was discussed. District staff is working with dealerships within the boundaries to get equivalent bids for the board to review. No action was taken by the board.

Jeff Lanterman, representing KDA-DWR, noted the retirement of Jim Bagley on June 12. Mr. Bagley has an asset to the state for several decades. David Landis from Sterling College was present to continue the discussion regarding the water appropriations for Sterling College. Mr. Lanterman provided the board with a brief explanation of the current status of the college's water appropriations and potential course of action. No action was taken by the board.

Calvin Kissick, representing KWA, provided an overview of the recent KWA meeting in Garden City on May 18. No action was taken by the board.

Berry Bortz, Great Bend Prairie RAC Chair, provided an update on the RAC's activities. Kansas State University is proposing to initiate feeding trials to utilize wheat grains in western Kansas soon. The GBP RAC will have the next meeting later in June. The GBP RAC will be meeting with nearby RACs to discuss common issues regarding lower quality groundwater in July.

Pat Janssen, WaterPACK, provided an update on The Nature Conservancy's phreatophyte removal projects. Mr. Janssen noted that WaterPACK has engaged with Nathan Hendricks (KSU) to conduct an economic analysis of water reductions in this area.


Lynn Preheim joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m. via telephone.

Fred Grunder moved and Bob Standish seconded to go into executive session at 10:00 a.m. for twenty minutes for the purpose of discussion of information deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. Executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the parties involved. Motion carried 5-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 10:20 a.m.

Justin Gatz moved and John Janssen seconded to go into executive session at 10:20 a.m. for ten minutes for the purpose of discussion of information deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. Executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the parties involved. Motion carried 5-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 10:30 a.m.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for July 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Attest by:  _____ Dated 7-13-17 _____