

MINUTES – MAY 11, 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 May 11, 2017. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Fred Grunder, Phillip Martin, Jerry Cullop, Kent Lamb, Bob Standish, Tom Taylor and Justin Gatz. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Richard Wenstrom, Jeff Lanterman, Calvin Kissick, Brian Klager, Berry Bortz, and Pat Janssen.

The May regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Darrell Wood.

Jerry Cullop requested a discussion regarding the water issues at Sterling College to be added to the agenda as item 5a.

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

Justin Gatz joined the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m.

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

The District received an application for permit file number 49690 to appropriate up to 15 acre-feet for stockwater use in Pawnee 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 District has received a reduction request for Water Right No. 5428 to offset this application appropriately. The application does not meet spacing requirements per K.A.R. 5-25-2 to Water Right File Nos. 12410 & 33161. Following discussion, Bob Standish moved and Phil Martin seconded to waive K.A.R. 5-25-2 and recommend approval of the application for permit file number 49690 contingent on the reduction of Water Right File No. 5428. Motion carried 8-0-1.

Jerry Cullop requested a preliminary discussion regarding the water appropriations for Sterling College. Jeff Lanterman provided an overview of the limitations in place at the college and the various options available to the college for expansion. No action was taken by the board.

Mr. Feril presented the board with a scope of work for updating the District's hydrologic model and running a model scenario to assess aquifer sustainability taking into account water quality. Following thorough discussion amongst the board and the public in attendance, Fred Grunder moved and Bob Standish seconded to table the proposal until the 2017 water use information is available for inclusion in the update. Motion carried 6-2-1.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. District staff has been working on the development of the spatial database (GMD mobile) with fellow groundwater management districts and GIS workshop. The Nature Conservancy is working with Kansas State University to obtain funding to assess and update critical tools needed for future management of the water resources in the area. At this stage, TNC is seeking additional partners in this project in order to submit a letter of intent in May and full application in August. Following discussion, John Janssen moved and Fred Grunder seconded to submit a letter of support for the project. Motion carried 7-1-1. Kansas Department of Agriculture will be holding

hearings on the proposed rules and regulations (K.A.R. 5-14-10 & 5-14-12) on May 22. These regulations were reviewed and discussed by the board and those public in attendance. By consensus of the board, the District will be supplying comments in regards to K.A.R. 5-14-12. The District board recommends the 4th provision in subsection (j) of K.A.R. 5-14-12 be modified to allow the expired penalties to be expunged from the water right record.

Jeff Lanterman, representing KDA–DWR, noted the upcoming regulatory hearing on proposed revisions to K.A.R. 5-5-9 and 5-5-10 on July 25. The proposed language in these regulations was provided to the board and public present. No action was taken by the board.

Calvin Kissick, representing KWA, stated the next KWA meeting will be in Garden City on May 18. Additionally, Mr. Kissick noted recent developments in GMD2 regarding wastewater lagoons in sensitive groundwater areas. No action was taken by the board.


Berry Bortz, Great Bend Prairie RAC Chair, provided an update on the RAC’s activities. The GBP RAC will be meeting with nearby RACs to discuss common issues regarding lower quality groundwater.

Richard Wenstrom provided an update on WaterPACK’s water technology farm for calendar year 2017. Additionally, WaterPACK is pursuing an economic impact study for the region with the assistance of Kansas State University.

In other business, Mr. Feril provided the board with an update on recent developments on the Waters of the US rule by the EPA. Mr. Feril described a recent meeting in Kinsley regarding the City of Hays / R9 Ranch process. No action was taken by the board.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for June 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 6.8.17