

MINUTES – DECEMBER 12, 2019  
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 12, 2019. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Phil Martin, Tom Taylor, Kerry Froetschner, and Justin Gatz. Board members not present were Marlyn Spare and Jerry Cullop. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand. Guests present were Kent Moore, Cameron Conant and Senator Mary Jo Taylor.

The December regular board meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Darrell Wood.

Justin Gatz moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the November minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.

John Janssen joined the meeting approximately 8:35 a.m.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the December treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Phil Martin moved, and Justin Gatz seconded to accept the December treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0-1.

Tom Taylor and Senator Mary Jo Taylor joined the meeting approximately 8:40 a.m.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. Recently, The Nature Conservancy was awarded a Conservation Innovation Grant for the next three years. This CIG project will focus on creating fresh approaches to water use efficiency for communities and wildlife in a water-stressed area of Central Kansas. The District is a partner on this project and will be involved in its development. The board had a brief discussion regarding the membership on the subcommittee focused on developing a resolution for the Rattlesnake Creek region. Orrin noted that the District's pressure transducers are over 10 years old and are in need of replacement. Currently the District has eleven pressure transducers deployed in the Rattlesnake Creek and Pawnee River subbasins. After discussing options with Kansas Geological Survey, KGS is willing to purchase two to be deployed to the area. This leaves the remaining 9 units to be replaced. Orrin presented In-Situ quotation # Q-47352 for consideration by the board. Phil Martin moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the quotation for \$13,341.00. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Cameron Conant, KDA-DWR, stated that the annual water use reports would be mailed out soon, but they would not be on the traditional cardstock like previous years. All water users are encouraged to file their water use reports online. Cameron also announced that the Chief Engineer will be retiring on March 6, 2020.

Kent Moore, WaterPACK, highlighted the TNC CIG project as well. Kent also recommended that the board consider re-branding the Rattlesnake Creek issues to move away from being tied to the previously proposed LEMA plan.

In other business, John Janssen encouraged the augmentation subcommittee to consider the use of lateral trenching such as work completed by DeWind Dewatering. John has been in contact with DeWind Dewatering and would encourage a presentation to the board in the future. A brief video was presented to further explain how this system would work. Orrin Feril stated he would check with Peter Balleau to determine if there are potential pitfalls with using this technology for the augmentation project.

John Janssen moved, and Phil Martin seconded to go into executive session at 10:05 a.m. for thirty minutes for the purpose of discussion personnel matters of non-elected personnel to conduct performance reviews. Open session will resume at 10:35 a.m. Executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the parties involved. The motion carried 6-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 10:35 a.m.

Tom Taylor moved, and John Janssen seconded to go into executive session at 10:35 a.m. for five minutes for the purpose of discussion personnel matters of non-elected personnel to conduct the manager performance review. Open session will resume at 10:40 a.m. Executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the parties involved. The motion carried 6-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 10:40 a.m.

Justin Gatz moved, and Fred Grunder seconded to increase the manager's salary to \$88,000 effective January 1, 2020. The motion carried 5-1-1.

Justin Gatz moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to accept the manager's recommendations for salary changes for District staff effective January 1, 2020. The motion carried 6-0-1.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for January 09, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Attest by:  Dated 1-9-2020