

MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 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, January 10, 2019. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Kent Lamb, Fred Grunder, Justin Gatz, Jerry Cullop and Kerry Froetschner. Board members Tom Taylor and Phil Martin were not present. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Kent Moore, Calvin Kissick, Berry Bortz, Leah Chadd, Jeff Lanterman, Marlyn Spare, Robb Suiter, Robert Neeland and Richard Wenstrom.

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

Kent Lamb moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the December minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the January treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Kent Lamb moved, and Jerry Cullop seconded to accept the January treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0-1.

Orrin Feril presented the audit engagement letter from VonFeldt, Bauer, & VonFeldt, Chartered for review by the board. Fred Grunder moved, and John Janssen seconded to accept the engagement letter in order to conduct the District's financial audit. Motion carried 5-0-1.

The Chief Engineer recently approved the District's revised management program that was submitted in October. The next step is for the District to hold a public hearing to review the approved management program. Following a discussion on the proposed time and location for the hearing, Kent Lamb moved, and Fred Grunder seconded to hold the hearing on February 21, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in St John at the Stafford County Annex. Motion carried 5-0-1. Orrin Feril outlined the process the public will need to follow to testify at the hearing. The public notice for the hearing has been published in the area newspapers as well.

Justin Gatz joined the meeting at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Orrin Feril presented the board with an updated FY2020 budget in preparation for discussion in the February board meeting. Fred Grunder recommended that the board take close consideration on the funding for the District activities in the coming years. The presentation to the public at the annual meeting will be very beneficial to gather input from the stakeholders on the proposed budget.

The upcoming District annual meeting will be on February 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in St John at the Stafford County Annex. The board members that are up for re-election were asked if they were going to be on the ballot again as incumbent. It was also noted that the Chief Engineer was invited to present information as well.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. The water use reports have been mailed out and all water users are encouraged to utilize the online reporting system. Earlier this week, Orrin attended the GMDA annual conference in Phoenix, AZ. The conference was well attended and there were several presentations from other states that showcased projects that are analogous to the proposed streamflow augmentation project. The GMDA board approved the 2019 National Priority Action List for the groundwater caucus of NWRA this week. These priorities were presented to the board and public in attendance. Finally,

the recent USFWS letter to the state representatives regarding the technical assistance to the augmentation project was discussed with the board.

The LEMA committee updated the board on the status of the proposed Rattlesnake Creek LEMA including recent memos from KDA–DWR regarding end gun removal water savings and streamflow augmentation as a remedy. Orrin Feril stated that the LEMA committee is working to evaluate the Chief Engineer’s concerns and the recent memos in order to put together a response.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA–DWR, updated the board on the outreach locations KDA is hosting to assist water users with using the online reporting system. These will be held at the Farm Service Agency offices in Larned and Greensburg. If the federal shutdown continues, KDA will announce alternative sites for these outreach sessions. To date, KDA has seen an increased response in online reporting in comparison to previous years.

Calvin Kissick provided an update on the KWA activities to the board. The KWA met in Wichita in December. At this meeting, the KWA heard updates on the farm bill and a vacancy in the Great Bend RAC was filled by Kendal Francis. The next meeting will be in Topeka where the KWA will be able to meet with state legislators.

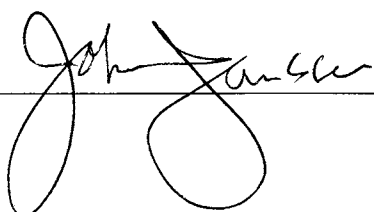
Berry Bortz provided a brief update on the Great Bend Prairie RAC activities. The CREP provisions requested by Central Kansas representatives were retained in the final Farm Bill. This could potentially expand the CREP into the Rattlesnake Creek area. As this program moves forward, there will be a need to provide state matching funds to finance it. The board discussed the benefits of locally driven cost share and ranking criteria.

Kent Moore, WaterPACK, announced their annual meeting will be February 11, 2019 in St John at the Odd Fellow’s Lodge. He hopes to have the economic analysis of irrigation to this region available for publication on the District’s website again soon. Richard Wenstrom highlighted a recent meeting between WaterPACK and KDA to review KDA’s technical perspective on the Quivira NWR impairment complaint.

In other business, the board discussed the benefits and drawbacks of securing flow meters to the pipes in the District. The District participates in a Groundwater Management District roundtable event and Legislative reception every year in Topeka. Mr. Feril requested which of the board were planning on attending the events in Topeka.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for February 21, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Attest by:  Dated 2-21-2019