

MINUTES – MAY 09, 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, May 09, 2019. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Kerry Froetschner, Tom Taylor, Phil Martin, Marlyn Spare, and Justin Gatz. Board member Jerry Cullop was not present. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand. Guests present were Calvin Kissick, Lee Wheeler, Rick Stimatze, and Jeff Lanterman.

The May regular board meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Darrell Wood.

Phil Martin moved, and Justin Gatz seconded to approve the April minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the May treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Justin Gatz moved, and John Janssen seconded to accept the May treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 7-0-1.

The District recently received an application to change the place of use for Water Right File No. 18876. Currently the authorized place of use for this water right is 96.55 acres in the SW quarter of 06-27S-16W in Kiowa County. In 2010, the applicant participated in the District's Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) which paid irrigators to remove the end gun and voluntarily reduce the authorized acreage on the water right. AWEP did not modify the authorized water appropriation on for the water right. Each applicant to AWEP signed & had notarized an affidavit that outlined special restrictions on the water right upon approval in the program. These restrictions were implemented by KDA-DWR in the resulting order which reduced the authorized acres to 96.55 acres from 153.95 acres. The applicant is requesting to increase the authorized acreage to 135 acres without complying with the terms of the affidavit. Therefore, the District believes the requested change does not meet K.A.R. 5-25-20 (b). Lee Wheeler and Rick Stimatze were present to discuss their intentions with the board. During these discussions, the following new information was discovered: 1) the resulting acreage of 96.55 was in error as instead of accounting for only the end gun acreage, it also removed the end tower from the center pivot system; 2) the applicant has no intentions of increasing the irrigated acreage to 135 acres, but rather restore the end tower to the system and irrigate approximately 114 acres. Fred Grunder moved, and Phil Martin seconded to direct District staff to approach NRCS and KDA-DWR to correct the error to restore the authorized acreage to 114 acres rather than pursue the change application as it is more in line with the applicant's intentions. Following discussion, the motion carried 7-0-1.

The District has been approached by other Kansas groundwater districts to consider contributing toward membership in the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) as the Kansas Groundwater Management Districts. Currently, the Kansas Association to represent Kansas as a state member of NWRA is Kansas Water Congress (KWC). The District is not a current member of KWC. The Groundwater Caucus for NWRA is comprised of the Groundwater Management District Association (GMDA). The District is currently a member of GMDA. The dues for membership in NWRA are \$13,000 annually. The potential costs and benefits of membership were discussed, and it was consensus of the board to request further information before taking action. District staff will gather more information for the board's consideration at the next board meeting.

Orrin Feril presented the proposed budget for 2020 in order to be prepared to provide legal publication in area newspapers properly. The potential projects and associated expenditures were

described to the board and public present. John Janssen moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to publish the following proposed 2020 budget in area newspapers in preparation for the budget hearing in July. Following discussion, the motion carried 6-1-1.

**BIG BEND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 5**

**PROPOSED 2020  
BUDGET**

EXPENDITURES

PERSONNEL SERVICES

SALARIES	\$	225,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		45,000
PAYROLL TAXES		22,500

ADMINISTRATION

TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	\$	20,000
FIELD EQUIPMENT		10,000
UTILITIES		12,000
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS		8,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES		5,000
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		5,000
BUILDING EXPENSE		3,000

OTHER EXPENSES

WATER MANAGEMENT	\$	1,000,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES		500,000
WEATHER STATION EXPENSE		15,000
INSURANCE		13,000
POSTAGE		2,000
OTHER		2,000
BUSINESS DINNERS		1,500
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS		500

TOTAL BUDGET \$ 1,889,500

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. The District is co-hosting the GMDA summer conference in Salt Lake City, UT in June. Orrin will be attending the meeting to help with running the conference and presenting to the group on the Quivira NWR impairment. Orrin recently attended a meeting on the “Control and Management of Tamarisk and Other Non-Native Phreatophytes”. This meeting was hosted by Kansas Forest Service at Quivira NWR headquarters. There is significant effort to control these invasive species in the state and the discussion regarding potential cost share opportunities was presented to each agency attending.

The LEMA committee updated the board on the status of the approved Quivira NWR LEMA. KDA-DWR is continuing to work through technical information from Balleau Groundwater that supports the Quivira NWR LEMA plan.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, stated that KDA-DWR is considering a change to regulations regarding well completion that would limit the distance that a well could be moved during perfection to close a loophole that is being exploited in other areas of the state. No action was taken by the board.

Calvin Kissick provided an update on the KWA activities to the board. The KWA met in Abilene and will meet in Goodland in July. At the Abilene meeting, the CKWBA status review was discussed with those in attendance. Those in attendance were also provided with an update on the Waters of the US. The Kansas Water Vision is under review and the RAC's goals are subject to change.

ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO MODIFY GOALS AS APPROPRIATE. JDD

John Janssen provided a brief report on behalf of Pat Janssen for WaterPACK. The WaterPACK technical review by Andy Keller is pending soon.

In other business Orrin Feril noted that Kansas Secretary of Agriculture has requested a meeting with the District board. This has been scheduled for May 22 at 10:00 am at the District office. This is an open meeting and will be advertised appropriately.

Kansas Farm Bureau has set up a meeting between the five GMD managers and board presidents in the coming weeks. This meeting is intended to assist in improving agency relationships to move forward.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for June 13, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Attest by:  Dated 