

MINUTES – OCTOBER 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, October 10, 2019. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Tom Taylor, Kerry Froetschner, and Justin Gatz. Board members not present were Fred Grunder, Jerry Cullop, and Phil Martin. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Richard Wenstrom, Jeff Lanterman, Keith Miller, and Leah Chadd.

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

A board review of a change application for Vested Right PN007 was added to the agenda as item 3a.

Justin Gatz moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the September minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

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

The District recently received an application to change the point of diversion and place of use for Vested Right File No. PN007. Currently the authorized place of use 15 acres in the NW quarter of 33-21S-16W in Pawnee County. The applicant is requesting to increase these acres to 63 acres in the NE quarter in order to raise industrial hemp. The proposed point of diversion meets all spacing distances to nearby water rights. The applicant will need to enter into a place of use monitoring agreement with the District in order to increase from 15 acres to 63 acres. This monitoring agreement will impose a 5-year allocation of 93.53 AF and further limited to 22 AF in any given year. Following a discussion, John Janssen moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to recommend approval of the application as presented on the condition that the applicant agree to and comply with the District's monitoring agreement. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. The Governor's Conference in Wichita is next month, and all board members were encouraged to attend. Orrin attended the public hearing hosted by KDA–DWR for the regulations recommended by the District board. There was no contrary testimony submitted and the hearing went smoothly. Devan Cooper has been hired as the District's administrative assistant earlier this month.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA–DWR, stated that the new meters at Quivira NWR have recently been installed and the Stafford field office has received the proper paperwork. The field office will be conducting site inspections to ensure their proper installation in accordance with existing regulations.

Keith Miller, Great Bend Prairie RAC, indicated that he has been asked to serve as the chair of the RAC, but has not received official notification from KWA.


Richard Wenstrom, WaterPACK, recounted a recent WaterPACK board meeting in which, there was considerable discussion about the recent notification letters from KDA–DWR to area water users in the Rattlesnake Creek region. These letters notify water users of KDA–DWR's intent to issue administrative orders to reduce water use in the region over the next three calendar years.

WaterPACK reaffirmed their support for the District's efforts to implement a remedy for the Quivira NWR impairment issue.

Earlier today, the Chief Engineer held a meeting with area crop consultants and agronomists to outline the intent to administer water rights in the Rattlesnake Creek region. Justin Gatz, along with approximately 70 others, was in attendance to listen to the Chief Engineer's plan. Justin provided an overview of the meeting to the board and answered several questions from the board. All are encouraged to attend the October 21, 2019 meetings in St John.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for November 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

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

Attest by:  Dated 11-14-19