

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 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, September 12, 2019. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Fred Grunder, Marlyn Spare, Tom Taylor, Kerry Froetschner, Justin Gatz, Jerry Cullop, and Phil Martin. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand. Guests present were Richard Wenstrom, Senator Mary Jo Taylor, Jeff Lanterman, Lane Letourneau, Kenny Titus, Keith Miller, Roger Stotts, Leah Chadd, Berry Bortz, Heidi Mehl, Richael Young, and Alexander Stejskal.

The September regular board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Darrell Wood.

Phil Martin moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the August minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Jerry Cullop joined the meeting at approximately 8:35 a.m.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the September treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Phil Martin moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to accept the September treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 6-0-1.

Justin Gatz, Heidi Mehl, and John Janssen joined the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Richael Young, Mammoth Trading, provided an overview of their Tapp H₂O product. Tapp H₂O is "the smarter and simpler way to collect and track groundwater data." It is a mobile application for android and apple devices to allow both water users and District staff to enter water meter readings and receive water usage reports with confidence. Mammoth Trading is looking to enter into an agreement with the District to provide this service to all water users within the District at no cost to the water user. Following thorough discussion, Orrin Feril stated he would investigate the actual cost to the District for this service and report back at the October board meeting with more information for the board's review.

Kenny Titus, KDA, requested to go through three sets of draft regulations with the District board. These regulations have not started the public regulatory process, but KDA wanted to reach out to the District for early comments and suggestions with the language. The topics addressed through these regulations are: 1) Due consideration for past voluntary water conservation, 2) Water Conservation Area (WCA) management plans, and 3) Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMA). Following an overview of the language and initial feedback, especially on the due consideration of past conservation, the board requested that language be revised and cleaned up before further consideration.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. An engagement letter and agreed upon procedure regarding an audit of the employee's leave records with VonFeldt, Bauer, and VonFeldt was presented to the board for consideration. Following a brief explanation of the need, John Janssen moved, and Justin Gatz seconded to approve the engagement letter and procedure as presented. The motion carried 8-0-1. The search for a new administrative assistant is on going and will hopefully be wrapped up within the next week. The upcoming Governor's Conference in Wichita was announced, and all board members were encouraged to attend. Orrin provided an update on the streamflow augmentation project and requested a subcommittee be formed to help evaluate the proposals. Marlyn Spare and Fred Grunder were

selected from the board to sit on this subcommittee. Richard Wenstrom was asked to help evaluate these proposals in an ex-officio capacity. All present were updated on the Quivira NWR impairment and quest for a suitable remedy. Following significant feedback and discussion with KDA staff, Fred Grunder moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to authorize GMD5's legal counsel to file a petition for review challenging the Chief Engineer's administrative orders once they have been issued and to file a subsequent petition or motion to delay the orders from going into effect pending the outcome of any review proceedings. Following brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA–DWR, stated that informational meeting for September 18 has been cancelled until further notice. Orrin Feril requested that information be shared with the District quickly so the information can be shared with the public effectively.

Orrin Feril and Keith Miller provided an update on the recent KWA meeting in Goodland. There are several notable appointments to the KWA that are making an impact on the KWA activities. At the Goodland meeting, the State Water Plan Fund was discussed thoroughly, and a subcommittee was formed to re-evaluate the state’s budgeting process.

Berry Bortz, Great Bend Prairie RAC, highlighted recent appointments and expansion of the RAC membership. There will be a series of public outreach meetings in the coming months to provide public input into the reworking of the RAC’s goals and action plans.

Richard Wenstrom, WaterPACK, followed up on a letter sent to the District regarding the importance of a formal agreement between the District and KDA–DWR regarding augmentation for WaterPACK’s funding campaign. Richard reiterated WaterPACK’s support for the District’s efforts in the Quivira NWR impairment issue.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for October 10, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Attest by:  Dated 10-10-2019