

MINUTES – JANUARY 09, 2020
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 09, 2020. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Phil Martin, Kerry Froetschner, Marlyn Spare, and Justin Gatz. Board members not present were Tom Taylor and Jerry Cullop. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Richard Wenstrom, Jeff Lanterman, Keith Miller, Leah Chadd, Ron Ashworth, and Vernon Hirt.

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

Phil Martin moved, and Fred Grunder seconded to approve the December minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the January treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Fred Grunder moved, and Phil Martin seconded to accept the January treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0-1.

Orrin Feril presented the audit engagement letter from VonFeldt, Bauer, & VonFeldt, Chartered for review by the board. Phil Martin moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to accept the engagement letter in order to conduct the District's financial audit. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Justin Gatz and John Janssen joined the meeting approximately 8:40 a.m.

Orrin Feril presented the board with an updated FY2021 budget in preparation for discussion in the February board meeting. 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 20, 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 incumbents.

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. Several legislative concepts from other GMD's were presented to the board for consideration. These concepts will likely be discussed further at the roundtable event in Topeka. Fred Grunder moved, and John Janssen seconded to state that the District agrees with some of the concepts but is concerned with amending the GMD act to accomplish the goal. Instead, the District recommends that GMD3 have further discussion with the Secretary of Agriculture and other agencies to address these concerns. Following discussion and clarification of the motion, the motion carried 5-1-1.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. The District office has been closed for the Christmas holiday which was a beneficial break to regroup in preparation for 2020. It was reported that preliminary water level measurements are mostly up for the year.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA–DWR, stated that the Chief Engineer will be retiring on February 28, 2020. The Stafford County flour mill has been searching for an additional source of water in order to accommodate their next expansion. This process is moving forward, and the District should be seeing something for consideration soon. Jeff also announced that KDA–DWR is intending to file

administrative orders on MDS water rights with 80% or greater impact to Zenith gage in 2020. Further questions and clarification from the board and public followed, but no action was taken.

Keith Miller, Great Bend Prairie RAC, stated that the RAC will be having a meeting soon to update the new committee members on the issues within the region. Following this meeting, the RAC will host a public meeting to gather information from the public on crafting revised goals for the RAC.


Richard Wenstrom, WaterPACK, announced the WaterPACK annual meeting will be on February 17 in St John at the Odd Fellow's lodge. Currently WaterPACK is working to form a new 501c(3) that would be utilized for funding conservation efforts and augmentation within the Rattlesnake Creek region. Further questions and clarification regarding the purpose and goals from the board followed. Justin Gatz moved, and John Janssen seconded to support the concept of the 501c(3) with WaterPACK. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Vernon Hirt joined the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m.

In other business, Ron Ashworth asked for an update on the proposed administrative action with the Rattlesnake Creek region by KDA-DWR. Jeff Lanterman stated there is no plan for broad administrative action within this area due to the current activities undertaken by the District and USFWS leadership. Vernon Hirt asked questions regarding the movement of water from within the Rattlesnake Creek region to areas further away.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for February 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Attest by:  _____ Dated 2-20-2020 _____