

MINUTES – APRIL 08, 2021  
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, Kansas on Thursday, April 08, 2021. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Craig Zwick, Tom Taylor, Kerry Froetschner. Board members Fred Grunder, Phil Martin, and Justin Gatz were absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril, and Devan Cooper. Guests present were Keith Miller, Mike Oldham, Jeff Lanterman, and Leah Chadd.

The April regular board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Darrell Wood.

Craig Zwick moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the March minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the April treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Craig Zwick moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to accept the April treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0-1.

The District's representation on the Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee will expire in June of this year. Currently, Orrin Feril represents the District as At Large Public. The board was asked if alternate representation was desired. John Janssen moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to have Orrin Feril continue representation on the Great Bend Prairie RAC. Motion carried 5-0-1.

The District's field truck is in need of replacement. Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand presented six new/used trucks from local dealerships within District boundaries. There was discussion regarding the options for each truck and possible additional discounts. Marlyn Spare moved, and John Janssen seconded to purchase the first truck on the list after pursuing any possible discounts including the "Land 'o Lakes" and trade-in options. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. Staff has been working through the annual water bank accounting to be able to finalize the annual report as required by statute. This is a tedious process that takes time. Recently Orrin attended the ACRES Initiative kickoff meeting. He provided a brief synopsis of that meeting to the board. Questions were asked and answered regarding the status of the Watershed planning project with NRCS. This project is just getting underway following the filing of the proper paperwork with NRCS.

Mike Oldham, USFWS, provided a status report of Quivira NWR following the recent wildfires near the refuge. Of the 4500 acres impacted, only 1100 were within the refuge boundaries. The USFWS is planning to rehabilitate a water control structure on Little Salt Marsh soon as well as approximately 11 miles of canal clean up. Current water supply at the refuge looks good. Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, noted that Governor Kelly recently signed the MYFA bill into law. Additionally, the K-14/K-96 bypass project is proceeding forward, and the water permit applications will be coming to the District for review soon. Orrin Feril read a note from Keadron Pearson, KWO, stating that the KWA will be holding their next meeting on April 26. Keith Miller, Great Bend Prairie RAC, stated that the updated action goals for the region are going to be presented at the KWA meeting.

In other business, Darrell Wood noted recent conversations with a water user near St John that is looking to transfer water out of the high impact area. John Janssen noted recent conversations with

Connie Owen, KWO Director, regarding the review of the CKWBA activities. Leah Chadd requested a status update on the Audubon litigation. Orrin Feril provided a brief update. No action was taken by the board.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for May 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Attest by: Mark Spore Dated 5-13-21