

MINUTES – DECEMBER 23, 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, December 23, 2021. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Craig Zwick, Phil Martin, and Justin Gatz. Board member Tom Taylor was absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril, John Hildebrand and Devan Cooper. Guest present was Jeff Lanterman. Guests present via Zoom video conferencing were Keadron Pearson, Earl Lewis, Jeff Crispin, and Holly Dickman.

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

John Janssen moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the November minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1.

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

The District received application to cover the net evaporation for 12.5 acres of gravel pits on the southeast side of Pratt. These gravel pits appear on topographic maps from 1968, prior to the establishment of the District. The proposed appropriation does not meet K.A.R. 5-25-4. Following a discussion, Phil Martin moved, and Justin Gatz seconded to recommend a waiver of K.A.R. 5-25-4 due to their existence prior to the establishment of the District and recommend approval of the application as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. Following the authorization by the board in November, Balleau GW has begun the process to update the district hydrologic model in the refined area around Walnut Creek. This work will be completed in mid-January. The Watershed Plan-EA is moving forward and will have the first scoping meeting on January 13, 2022, in St John. Public notices will be going out very soon. Meanwhile, Olsson is updating the initial feasibility assessment for streamflow augmentation to provide additional data for the Watershed Plan process.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, provided a quick update on activities in the Stafford field office. Field office staff are ramping up for the annual water level measurements. There is concern with the age of the steel measuring tapes and no access to replacements from manufacturers. The field office has a new employee to process change applications. Keadron Pearson, KWO, noted the new chair and vice chair appointments to the Great Bend Prairie RAC as well as the upcoming RAC meeting being scheduled in early February. The KWO is completing the annual report for the legislature as well as the state water plan.

John Janssen made the following motion at 9:40 a.m.: "I move that the board go into executive session for 15 minutes for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel exception under KOMA to conduct performance reviews, and the open meeting will resume here in the meeting room at 9:55 a.m." Justin Gatz seconded. Motion carried 7-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 9:55 a.m.

The board accepts the manager's recommendations for salary changes for District staff effective January 1, 2022, by consensus.

Darrell Wood recessed the regular board meeting at 10:00 a.m. and opened the budget hearing to consider the modified 2021 budget. Orrin Feril provided proof of publication for the hearing and provided copies of the proposed budget to all in attendance. Mr. Feril read the proposed budget noting any proposed changes from the adopted 2021 budget. Mr. Feril then asked for any comments and questions from the audience. With no comments from the audience, President Wood called for the hearing to close and reconvened the regular meeting at 10:05 a.m.

EXPENDITURES

PERSONNEL SERVICES

SALARIES	\$	225,000.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$	45,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$	22,500.00

ADMINISTRATION

TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	\$	20,000.00
FIELD EQUIPMENT	\$	10,000.00
UTILITIES	\$	12,000.00
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS	\$	8,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	5,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$	7,000.00
BUILDING EXPENSE	\$	3,000.00

OTHER EXPENSES

WATER MANAGEMENT	\$	2,300,000.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$	500,000.00
WEATHER STATION EXPENSE	\$	15,000.00
INSURANCE	\$	13,000.00
POSTAGE	\$	2,000.00
OTHER	\$	2,000.00
BUSINESS DINNERS	\$	1,500.00
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	\$	500.00

TOTAL BUDGET \$ 3,191,500.00

ASSESSMENT RATES

PER ACRE	\$	0.05
PER ACRE-FOOT	\$	2.00

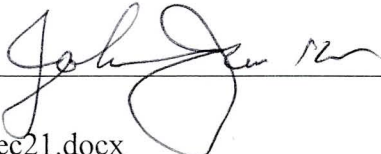
Craig Zwick moved, and John Janssen seconded to adopt the modified 2021 budget and Resolution 2021-3 as presented. Motion carried 6-1-1.

Craig Zwick made the following motion at 10:10 a.m.: "I move that the board go into executive session for 20 minutes for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel exception under KOMA to conduct performance reviews, and the open meeting will resume here in the meeting room at 10:30 a.m." Fred Grunder seconded. Motion carried 7-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 10:30 a.m.

In other business, Craig Zwick moved, and John Janssen seconded to increase the manager's salary to \$100,000 effective January 1, 2021. Motion carried 7-0-1.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for January 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in St John at the Annex building.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Attest by:  Dated 1-13-2022