

MINUTES – JULY 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, July 08, 2021. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Marlyn Spare, John Janssen, Craig Zwick, Phil Martin, and Tom Taylor. Board members Fred Grunder, Kerry Froetschner, and Justin Gatz were absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Devan Cooper. Guest present was Keadron Pearson. Guests present via Zoom video conferencing were Abe Lollar, Jeff Lanterman, Mike Oldham, Aaron Deters, and Earl Lewis.

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

A brief discussion regarding a Ducks Unlimited proposal to the USDA-NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant program was added to the agenda as item 5a.

Phil Martin moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the June minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the July treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Phil Martin moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to accept the July treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0-1.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. Devan is in the middle of the assessment process that will run through the middle of August. This is the primary funding source for the District annually. The CKWBA evaluation officially wrapped up recently and some changes are likely to be coming. As those develop, the board will be kept in the loop. The Request for Qualification ("RFQ") packets went out to prospective engineering firms recently for the Watershed plan process. These are due back in the office by July 30. Recently, the five groundwater management district managers met with the directors for KACD and KDA-DOC to improve program coordination between the agencies and to discuss possible conservation programs. Each GMD is being asked for a "wish list" of programs for their regions. These will be compared to see if a state-wide conservation program(s) might be developed in coordination with KACD and KDA-DOC. The board discussed several ideas in addition to water right purchases, water right transfers and irrigation technology improvements including cost shares for: moving powerlines, irrigation system efficiency evaluations, and tree cleanup.

Mike Oldham, USFWS, reported that the canal cleanup project is anticipated to be awarded by the end of July. Internally, USFWS is looking to hire an assistant manager of water management in August. Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, provided an update on the status of water right application number 50388. Keadron Pearson, KWO, stated that the KWA will be meeting on August 17 in Garden City. The Great Bend Prairie RAC will be holding their next meeting toward the end of July and will focus on budget recommendations for the KWA. Additionally, the draft state water plan update will be available soon for public comment.

Recently, the District was approached for a letter of support for a proposed Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) to evaluate Low Tech Process Based structures to address resource concerns in the Great Plains region. Abe Lollar and Aaron Deters provided additional details about the structures. Jeff Lanterman joined in the discussion regarding water right impacts and the need for water rights for these structures. Concerns were expressed regarding water availability for

downstream water users during water stressed times. Orrin Feril provided a draft letter of support for consideration by the board. Craig Zwick moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to approve the draft letter of support for the CIG proposal. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-1-1.

Darrell Wood recessed the regular board meeting at 8:00 p.m. and opened the budget hearing to consider the 2022 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. President Wood then asked for any comments and questions from the audience. Following discussion with the audience, President Wood called for the hearing to close and reconvened the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m.

EXPENDITURES

PERSONNEL SERVICES

SALARIES	\$	225,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		45,000
PAYROLL TAXES		22,500

ADMINISTRATION

TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	\$	20,000
FIELD EQUIPMENT		10,000
UTILITIES		12,000
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS		8,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES		5,000
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		5,000
BUILDING EXPENSE		3,000

OTHER EXPENSES

WATER MANAGEMENT	\$	1,000,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES		500,000
WEATHER STATION EXPENSE		15,000
INSURANCE		13,000
POSTAGE		2,000
OTHER		2,000
BUSINESS DINNERS		1,500
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS		550

TOTAL BUDGET \$ 1,889,550

ASSESSMENT RATES

PER ACRE	\$	0.05
PER ACRE-FOOT		2.00

John Janssen moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to adopt the proposed 2022 budget and Resolution 2021-2 as presented. Motion carried 4-1-1.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-2

WHEREAS the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 ("the District"), Stafford, Kansas, was established under the authority of K.S.A. 82a-1020 for the proper management of groundwater resources of the state; and

WHEREAS, the District is a body politic and corporate and has the authority to levy a water user charge and land assessment under K.S.A. 82a-1028 (h) to finance the operations of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors adopted a proposed budget at this year's annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has submitted the proposed budget for FY2022 to the eligible voters of the District at a budget hearing called for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, at least one (1) budget hearing notice was published in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation within the District at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the budget hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 hereby adopts the proposed FY2022 budget as submitted at the budget hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE land assessment is hereby set at five (\$0.05) cents per acre for eligible tracts of land as defined by K.S.A. 82a-1030 (a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE water users charge is hereby set at one (\$2.00) dollar for each acre-foot of groundwater as defined by K.S.A. 82a-1030 (a).

ADOPTED the 8th day of July, 2021 by the Board of Directors of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 at a regular meeting.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for August 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 8-12-21