

MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 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, November 12, 2021. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Tom Taylor, and Justin Gatz (Zoom). Board members Craig Zwick and Phil Martin were absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Devan Cooper. Guest present was Jim Schneider. Guests present via Zoom video conferencing were Keadron Pearson, Earl Lewis, Aaron Ball, Stacey Roach, Chris Beightel, Cameron Conant, Mike Oldham, Toby Dougherty, Jeff Crispin, Mike Younger, Alan Luttrell, Jerry Starkey, Matt Cramer, Russ Rambat, Kelvin Clay.

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

Darrell Wood added an executive session for the preliminary discussion regarding acquisition of real property as agenda item 8a.

Kerry Froetschner moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to approve the October minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Kerry Froetschner moved, and Fred Grunder seconded to approve the Special October minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the November treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Marlyn Spare moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to accept the November treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

John Janssen arrived at the meeting at approximately 9:15 a.m.

The District received application to change one of the points of diversion for vested right number PR-002. The city has been tracking the water quality in the south side of Pratt, specifically the nitrate concentrations in the water supply. The proposed change is to plug well 8 and drill a new well on the northwest side of town west of Pratt Community College. The total distance for the proposed change is approximately 14,000 feet which is well beyond the limitation required by K.A.R. 5-25-2a. Following a discussion with the applicant and KDA-DWR staff, Fred Grunder moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to recommend a waiver of K.A.R. 5-25-2a to protect public health and safety for the water supply of the City of Pratt and to recommend approval of the application as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Jim Schneider, Aaron Ball and Stacey Roach (Olsson) were present at the meeting to provide a thorough update to the board and public present regarding the Watershed Plan process. The board and public present were able to ask several questions regarding the process including the public involvement in the NRCS program. A stakeholder meeting will be held in January 2022 to provide an update to the public as well as gather concerns to be considered in the process. This meeting will be publicly noticed in advance.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. According to discussions with KDA-DWR staff, the Walnut Creek IGUCA will be reviewed in the coming months. In preparation for proper review of any model work from KDA-DWR, Orrin Feril recommended that BGW update the hydrologic conditions for the Walnut Creek region in the District's model. According to BGW, the estimated cost for this update will be \$8,000. Fred

Grunder moved, and John Janssen seconded to have BGW update the hydrologic conditions for the Walnut Creek region in the District's model in preparation for the Walnut Creek IGUCA review. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Orrin Feril noted that with the recent board action to purchase 640 acres in Stafford county, the District needs to amend the FY2021 budget. A proposed budget was presented to the board to account for the extra expenditure to purchase the 640 acres as well as an enhanced budget line for office equipment. Fred Grunder moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to amend District policy regarding approval of expenditures to increase the limit the manager can approve without prior board approval from \$1,500 to \$10,000. Motion carried 6-0-1. Following further discussion regarding the modified budget, John Janssen moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to publish the modified budget in area newspapers in preparation for the budget hearing on December 23. Motion carried 6-0-1.

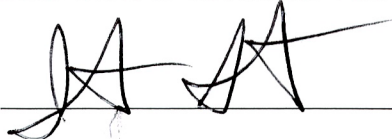
Mike Oldham, USFWS, updated the board on the tree removal project within Quivira NWR boundaries as well as a planned sediment removal project. USFWS is working to rehabilitate nine water control structures in the coming year. Cameron Conant, KDA-DWR, provided a quick update on activities in the Stafford field office. Field office staff are wrapping up the quarterly water level measurements in the region. The field office has a new employee to process change applications. Keadron Pearson, KWO, noted the upcoming Governor's conference next week as well as the next KWA meeting on December 1 both of which will be virtual.

John Janssen made the following motion at 10:15 a.m.: "I move that the board go into executive session for the preliminary discussion regarding acquisition of real property exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume here in the meeting room at 10:25 a.m." Tom Taylor seconded. Motion carried 6-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 10:25 a.m.

In other business, Marlyn Spare moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to approve the addendum to the contract to purchase 640 acres in Northern Stafford county to reduce the purchase price to \$2,089,500. Darrell Wood requested open discussion from all those in attendance including those on Zoom. Following discussion, the motion carried 6-0-1.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for December 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Attest by:  Dated 12-23-21