

MINUTES
2022 ANNUAL MEETING
BIG BEND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT #5
AND
CENTRAL KANSAS WATER BANK ASSOCIATION
February 17, 2022 – Stafford County Annex – St John

The annual meetings for the Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5 (District) and the Central Kansas Water Bank Association (Association) were held February 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stafford County Annex in St John, Kansas.

John Janssen called the Central Kansas Water Bank Association annual meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Darrell Wood called the District annual meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were approximately 37 eligible voters and 13 visitors in attendance for the meeting.

Orrin Feril presented the approved minutes from the 2021 annual meeting.

Curtis Tobias announced the Central Kansas Water Bank Association election of directors and presented the candidates for Position #3. Andrew Vosburgh is the incumbent for the position. Nominations were opened to the floor three times. Larry Preisser was nominated by Jeff Preisser for the open position. Curtis Tobias instructed that the ballots be cast and passed along to Association staff and board for counting.

Tom Taylor announced the District election of directors and presented candidates. Incumbent Fred Grunder was on the ballot for Pratt County. Incumbent Marlyn Spare was on the ballot for Stafford County. Incumbent Justin Gatz and Jeff Preisser were on the ballot for Reno County. Nominations were opened to the floor for all positions three times. Gary Hornbaker was nominated by Kent Lamb for the Reno County position. Kerry Froetschner moved, and Darrell Wood seconded that nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for the incumbents to fill the Stafford and Pratt County positions with the incumbents. By show of hands, the motion carried unanimously. Tom Taylor instructed that the ballots be cast for Reno County and passed along to District staff and board for counting.

John Janssen presented the financial report and proposed 2023 budget. The public present were encouraged to review these records in preparation for the July budget hearing to consider the budget for FY2023.

Orrin Feril provided a brief overview of the District and Association activity reports for 2021. A few questions were addressed from the floor regarding activities including but not limited to the Watershed Plan-EA, Walnut Creek IGUCA review, CIG project, . Recently, HB2686 was introduced in the Kansas legislature. This proposed bill significantly changes the structure of the water agencies, adds new fee for all water users, increases the reporting requirements for GMDs to the legislature and Chief Engineer, amends the process for GMD elections, and adds civil penalty authority for the Chief Engineer for stream obstructions. The bill was discussed thoroughly amongst all present. All were encouraged to read the bill and discuss their concerns with their state representatives.

Jim Schneider, Olsson, provided an overview of the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan-EA process and how the public can be involved in the process. Jim Schneider and Mallory Morton remained at the annex to address one on one questions and concerns.

Lee Wheeler, Lee Wheeler Engineering, gave an update on the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) progress. The project is showcasing water conservation through the implementation water technologies and providing intriguing in-field results.

Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer – Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources, provided an overview of issues throughout the region and addressed several questions from the audience. Mr. Lewis also provided additional insight into his perspective on HB2686.

Jeff Lanterman, Stafford field office water commissioner, presented an update on the activities of the Stafford field office for 2021.

Orrin Feril thanked everyone in attendance for their attention in the activities and encouraged everyone to stay involved in the water conversation in Central Kansas. With nothing further to discuss, Orrin Feril adjourned the joint annual meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Attest by  _____ Date 3-10-22 _____