

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2022
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, February 24, 2022. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Craig Zwick, and Gary Hornbaker. Board member Tom Taylor, Kerry Froetschner, and Phil Martin were absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Devan Cooper. Guests present were Jeff Lanterman, Justin Gatz and Aaron Koehn. Guests present via Zoom video conferencing were Sara McGuire, Jeff Crispin, Mike Oldham, Holly Dickman, Toby Dougherty, and Earl Lewis.

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

Following introductions, Marlyn Spare moved, and Fred Grunder seconded to approve the January minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the February treasurer’s report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Craig Zwick moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to accept the February treasurer’s report as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.

The board conducted an election of officers for the upcoming year. Following a brief discussion regarding the current officers, Marlyn Spare moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to nominate to re-elect Darrell Wood as President and Fred Grunder as Vice-President for another one-year term. Motion carried 4-0-1. Craig Zwick moved, and Fred Grunder seconded to nominate and elect John Janssen as Treasurer and Tom Taylor as Secretary. Motion carried 4-0-1. The District board officers are Darrell Wood as President, Fred Grunder as Vice-President, Tom Taylor as Secretary, and John Janssen as Treasurer.

John Janssen arrived to the meeting approximately 9:05 a.m.

Devan Cooper, Notary Public, administered the affirmation as required by K.S.A. 54-106 to all present board members. All board members raised their right hand and affirmed the following statement:

“I do solemnly affirm that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the board of directors of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District Number Five. So help me God.”

Aaron Koehn, VonFeldt, Bauer, & VonFeldt, Chartered, presented the audit report to the board for fiscal year 2021. A few questions were answered before Fred Grunder moved, and Gary Hornbaker seconded to accept the audit report as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Recent presentations from GMD4 in Topeka peaked Craig Zwick & Orrin Feril’s interest in possibly revisiting having Tapp H2O offered at a discounted rate for water users within the GMD5 region. There are concerns regarding potential costs for setup and annual subscription. It was recommended that Tapp H2O be able to make a public presentation or other public forum to determine public interest in having the service in this area. No action was taken by the board.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The Watershed Plan-EA and updated feasibility assessment are moving forward. The deep bedrock wells are

installed at three sites throughout the proposed wellfield region. Water quality samples have been taken and analyzed with positive results. Further well installation to gather additional data is coming later this month. The bulk of the time recently has been spent processing the implications of HB2686. Testimony was provided to the House Water Committee in opposition to the proposed bill. It is unknown how this bill will be amended when it is worked by the committee, but initial reports indicate there will be amendments coming.

Mike Oldham, USFWS, provided an update on the contractor work that cleaned 11.2 miles of ditches while leaving the sediment in the channels relatively undisturbed. In the coming months, additional work is being done to repair or replace nine water control structures on the refuge. Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, stated that the annual water use reports are due by March 1 (74% complete so far). Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, noted his perspective on HB2686, discussions with the Southwest irrigator's association, attendance to the GMD1 annual meeting, and a brief update on the Wichita ASR hearings. Orrin Feril noted that the Great Bend Prairie RAC will be meeting virtually on February 25.

In other business, Craig Zwick noted discussions with Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Kansas Agriculture Retailers Association regarding potential lobbyist activity provided that there isn't a conflict of interest. No action was taken by the board.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for March 10, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Attest by:  _____ Dated 3-10-22 _____