

MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 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 KSU Extension Office meeting room in St John, Kansas on Thursday, January 13, 2022. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Craig Zwick, Phil Martin, and Tom Taylor. Board member Justin Gatz was absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril, John Hildebrand and Devan Cooper. Guest present was Jeff Lanterman, Lisa Moore, Leah Chadd, Jim Schneider, Mallory Morton, Kyleen Kelly, Aaron Ball, Brian Dunnigan, Stacey Roach, Kent Moore, and Richard Wenstrom. Guests present via Zoom video conferencing were Keadron Pearson, Jeff Crispin, and Kent Askren, and Micah Schwalb.

The January regular board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Darrell Wood.

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

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

Orrin Feril presented the audit engagement letters from VonFeldt, Bauer, & VonFeldt, Chartered for review by the board. Kerry Froetschner moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to accept the engagement letter for VonFeldt, Bauer, & VonFeldt, Chartered to conduct the District's financial audit. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Orrin Feril presented an initial draft budget for FY2023 for board input. This draft budget will be presented at the February board meeting for further board input in preparation for public input at the annual meeting. The proposed FY2023 budget will be presented at the budget hearing that is held in July.

The annual meeting items were discussed by the board including any prospective speakers. A general discussion regarding items for presentation was held by the board. The board members that are up for re-election were asked if they planned to run again as incumbent. It is planned to have representatives from Olsson provide an update to the public on the Watershed Plan-EA project.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The District will be participating in the legislative retreat and board roundtable events in Topeka next month. Recently, the District received a letter from USFWS indicating the support for the planning and development of the Watershed Plan-EA process including the NEPA analysis. With the increased potential for legislative activity in Topeka this session, Orrin Feril suggested that the District enter into contract for a lobbyist to monitor activity and provide testimony on behalf of the District. An initial quotation for services with 1861 Consulting was provided to the board for consideration. If approved, these expenses would be shared with GMD2 for calendar year 2022. Following thorough discussion, Craig Zwick moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to decline the enter into contract with 1861 Consulting. Motion carried 7-0-1.

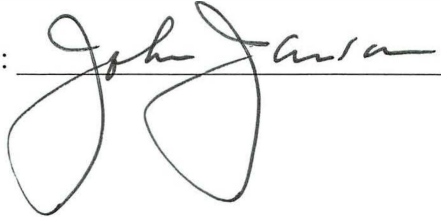
Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, stated that the annual water level measurements would be wrapping up soon with mixed results throughout the area. He also reminded all in attendance that water use

reports are due by March 1. Jeff noted that KDA–DWR has updated their website with information regarding the Walnut Creek IGUCA review. Orrin Feril read a written report from David Stroberg, KWA. Kent Moore, WaterPACK, noted that they are working on finalizing their plans for their annual meeting as well. ACRES Initiative will be having more meetings soon to keep that initiative moving forward.

In other business, Aaron Ball provided an update to the board and present public on the Watershed Plan-EA process.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for February 17, 2022, at TBD in St John at the Annex building.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 2-24-2022