

MINUTES – MARCH 10, 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, March 10, 2022. Board members present were Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Craig Zwick, Tom Taylor, Kerry Froetschner, Phil Martin, and Gary Hornbaker. Board member Darrell Wood was absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril, John Hildebrand, and Devan Cooper. Guest present was Jeff Lanterman. Guests present via zoom were Keadron Pearson, Mike Oldham, Toby Dougherty, Richard Rugan, and Jeff Crispin.

The March regular board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Fred Grunder.

Following introductions, Craig Zwick moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to approve the February minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Phil Martin moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the annual meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the March treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Kerry Froetschner moved, and Phil Martin seconded to accept the March treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1.

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

The District received two appropriation applications (50613 and 50708) that propose to utilize water right file number 18267 as offset. Orrin Feril provided background on the applications as well as pertinent compliance issues with K.A.R. 5-25-22. The applicant provided additional details to the discussion with the board. Following this discussion, Marlyn Spare moved, and Phil Martin seconded to have Balleau Groundwater conduct a hydrologic study showing the impacts on both the aquifer and pertinent surface waters in a similar method as was done for application number 50380. Following discussion, Marlyn Spare moved, and Phil Martin seconded to amend the previous motion to include a Theis assessment conducted by KDA-DWR staff. The amended motion carried 7-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided a brief legislative update to the board including substitute for House Bill 2686, Senate Bil 548, and Senate Bill 549. Concern was raised regarding the proposed language in SB 548 and SB 549. Following this background discussion, Phil Martin moved, and John Janssen seconded to present opposition testimony on SB 549 highlighting that there are better ways to address the issues locally versus statewide impacts due to each GMD's uniqueness. Motion carried 7-0-1. Marlyn Spare moved and Craig Zwick seconded to present opposition testimony on SB 548 highlighting that it is potentially detrimental to the economy if irrigation is singled out in regulation from other beneficial uses using the same local resource. Motion carried 7-0-1. Craig Zwick was asked to present the oral testimony in the upcoming hearing.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. Staff has been spending significant time entering CKWBA participants' water use into the internal water accounting. Through this process, several water use errors have been caught and are in the process of being corrected. The Watershed Plan-EA and updated feasibility assessment are moving forward. The deep bedrock wells and shallow observation wells are installed at three sites throughout the proposed wellfield region. Water quality samples have been taken and analyzed

with positive results. The test pumping wells will be installed soon to determine additional aquifer properties. Recently, the District has been approached to allow hunting leases on the land it purchased last year. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have Board President Darrell Wood appoint a subcommittee to consider hunting leases on District ground. The upcoming board appreciation dinner was also discussed.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, stated that the Walnut IGUCA tech committee has been reviewing the baseflow of the Walnut Creek. Additionally, to-date, approximately 90% of water users have submitted their water use reports online which accounts for approximately 94% of water rights. Keadron Pearson, KWO, noted that the Great Bend Prairie RAC has a vacancy on the committee and will be receiving a new regional planner.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for April 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Attest by:  \_\_\_\_\_ Dated 4-14-22 \_\_\_\_\_