

MINUTES – MAY 11, 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 Wednesday May 11, 2022. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Craig Zwick, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Phil Martin, and Gary Hornbaker. Board member Tom Taylor was absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand. Guests present were Jeff Lanterman, Richard Rugan, and Kent Lamb. Guest present via zoom was Mike Oldham.

The May regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Darrell Wood.

A review of two applications (50613 and 50708) was added to the agenda as item 5a.

Kerry Froetschner moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to approve the April minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

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

The District is represented on the Kansas Water Authority in coordination with GMD2 per K.S.A. 74-2622. The current representation expired at the beginning of the year. Several options were discussed for nominating names to serve in this role. Marlyn Spare moved, and John Janssen seconded to nominate David Stroberg to represent the central KS GMDs with Calvin Kissick and Craig Zwick as alternates. Motion carried 7-0.

Phil Martin arrived at the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

The District received a set of applications (22164 & 23484) in the April meeting that propose to move water within the Rattlesnake Creek region. The proposal is to reconfigure the places of use for these to file to more efficiently irrigate better ground along the Rattlesnake Creek in Southwest Stafford county. The applicant provided additional information to the board regarding the purpose for making these changes. Jeff Lanterman presented a stream depletion evaluation of the proposed changes. Following the presentation, the applicant suggested several revisions to the applications that potentially change how the water rights would be configured. John Janssen moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to table the discussion until the applicant has revised the applications in coordination with KDA-DWR. Motion carried 8-0.

The District received two appropriation applications (50613 and 50708) that propose to utilize water right file number 18267 as offset in the March meeting. Orrin Feril provided background on the applications as well as pertinent compliance issues with K.A.R. 5-25-22. Balleau Groundwater conducted a hydrologic study showing the impacts on both the aquifer and pertinent surface waters. The evaluation indicates minimal cumulative aquifer change at both the proposed locations and source location (~1 percent). The cumulative impact to the Arkansas River is a depletion of approximately 40AF/year versus a benefit of approximately 70AF/year for the Rattlesnake Creek. Following discussion, Kerry Froetschner moved, and John Janssen seconded to recommend approval of the applications in consideration of the evaluation and the fact that the applicant is willing to retire more senior water rights (18267-D2 & 18267-D3) as offset. Motion carried 8-0.

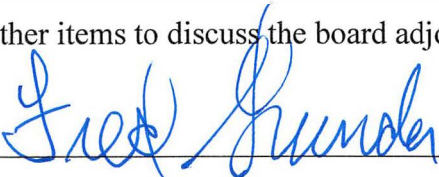
Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. Staff has sent out the annual account statements to CKWBA participants. Recently the District hosted Rep Lindsay Vaughn at the office for a discussion of the District's goals and objectives as well as current issues. This visit is in advance of a forthcoming legislative audit that will be held this summer. It was recommended that District staff spend time putting together videos and other promotional materials to tell the District's story. The budget hearing notices will be published in the area newspapers soon in preparation for July.

Mike Oldham, USFWS, highlighted that the contractor will be rehabilitating 12 water control structures over a few months starting in July. This work is planned to wrap up in October.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, stated that the water use reports have been reviewed and the water users that exceeded their annual appropriation will be getting letters soon.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for June 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 6.9.22