

MINUTES – OCTOBER 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 District Office in Stafford, Kansas on Thursday October 13, 2022. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Tom Taylor, and Phil Martin. Board members Fred Grunder, Craig Zwick, and Gary Hornbaker were not present. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Devan Cooper. Guest present was Jeff Lanterman. Guest present via zoom was Jeff Crispin.

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

John Janssen moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the September minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

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

The District received a request for position from the Attorney General's office regarding the interaction between savings accounts with the CKWBA and the multi-year flex accounts with KDA-DWR. KDA-DWR made a request from the AG's office for an opinion on how the statute intends for them to be operated. The board had an extensive discussion about how the two programs operate and how they've been operated over the past decade. Phil Martin moved, and Tom Taylor seconded to promote providing all available tools & programs to all water users so long as they don't result in an increase consumptive use over time. Motion carried 6-0.

Recently, KDA-DWR proposed a draft set of changes to the meter regulations as well as a new regulation regarding change applications. KDA is requesting comments and suggestions at this early stage before starting the formal regulatory process. Orrin Feril walked through the proposed language and provided opportunity for feedback and comment. A thorough discussion was held as the board went through the draft language.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The office is still processing CKWBA withdrawal requests from savings accounts, but the number of requests has dramatically declined from a month ago. A few months ago, the board discussed sending a directed mailing to landowners within the 60% or greater response zone to promote enrolling in CREP. This mail list is compiled and ready for use and the board discussed potential content in such a mailing.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, stated KDA-DWR had not received the Walnut Creek model work as noted in the previous board meeting. Orrin Feril corrected his previous statement about the model work based on a very recent conversation with Balleau GW. Priority projects in NM have pushed the Walnut Creek work back to November. The field office has been working to process MYFA applications in addition to the savings account withdrawal term permits. Headquarters has requested assistance from the District in processing the MYFA applications that utilize the GMD-specific calculation. KDA-DWR recently issued MDS administration orders to surface water right holders from the KS-CO Stateline along the Arkansas River to the Hutchinson gage.

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

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Attest by:  _____ Dated 11-10-22 _____