

MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2023  
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 April 13, 2023. Board members present were Tom Taylor, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Darrell Wood, Craig Zwick, Joe Schlessiger, and Gary Hornbaker. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Jeff Lanterman, and Mark Hess. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Crispin, Toby Dougherty, Kent Askren, and Bradley Eilts.

The April regular board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Tom Taylor.

Kerry Froetschner moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the March minutes as presented. Motion carried 9-0.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the April treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Darrell Wood moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to accept the April treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 9-0.

The District received an application do divert up to 15 AF for industrial use south of Larned. The District The District is closed to further new surface and groundwater appropriations except those that are exempt from the closure per K.A.R. 5-25-4 (b). The application does not meet the requirements of K.A.R. 5-25-15 (c) that requires applications within the Arkansas River basin to offset the water quantity within 3.5 miles of the proposed point of diversion. The application was recommended for denial and the applicant has requested further board review. Mark Hess discussed the plans for the water and explained the intended use would most likely be less than two acre-feet of water annually. Following discussion, the applicant stated he would likely reduce the application to two acre-feet of water and pursue getting an appropriate offset of water to meet the regulatory requirements. No further action was taken by the board.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The Association has sent the annual report to the Chief Engineer and will soon wrap up the annual statement to area water users. The legislature has completed work on a few water bills and has sent them to the Governor for consideration. The board reviewed and discussed the implications of these bills on the District activities. Recently, the Chief Engineer sent a letter to area water users updating them on the current status of the administration of water rights in the Rattlesnake Creek region. This letter has generated several calls to the board and office.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA–DWR, noted that change applications for 22164 & 23484 have been revised to reduce the rate and approved by the Chief Engineer.

In other business, the board discussed the additional implications of HB2279 regarding GMD lands being farmed by board members.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for May 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Attest by:  \_\_\_\_\_ Dated 6-22-23