

MINUTES – JULY 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 July 13, 2023. Board members present were Tom Taylor, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Craig Zwick, Kerry Froetschner, Darrell Wood, and Joe Schlessiger. Board members Fred Grunder and Gary Hornbaker were not present. District staff present was Orrin Feril. The guests present were David Stroberg and Pat Janssen. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Lanterman, Chris Smith, and Keadron Pearson.

The July regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tom Taylor.

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

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

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The District is caught up on MYFA applications that have been sent to the District for recommendation and sent back to KDA DWR. Recently the Audubon of Kansas has filed in Kansas Supreme Court against the Chief Engineer. This case was denied. As a result, the Audubon of Kansas has filed the same petition to the District Court in Shawnee county. There will be a ceremonial signing for HB2279 & HB2302 in the coming week near Moundridge. Mr. Feril provided a brief status update for the R9 Ranch transfer process as well as the Watershed Plan. The Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee would be meeting on tomorrow in Greensburg to discuss the proposed FY2025 budget for the State Water Plan.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA–DWR, stated that the field office is receiving approximately 5-10 MYFA applications per day for review. These applications are causing additional strain on the field office that is short a few key staff positions. David Stroberg, KWA, provided an update on the KWA activities over the past month. Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office, did not have an additional update beyond those previously provided. Pat Janssen, WaterPACK, provided their perspective on the R9 transfer process. The ACRES Initiative is ready for funding needs in the Rattlesnake Creek region. In the meantime, WaterPACK is working to bring additional grants to the region for water technology enhancements. These potential programs were highlighted in the June board meeting.

In other business, Orrin Feril noted that Chase Larson will be coming in August to present the water allocation monitoring application he has developed to the board.

Tom Taylor recessed the regular board meeting at 7:40 p.m. and opened the budget hearing at 8:00 p.m. to consider the 2024 budget. Orrin Feril provided proof of publication for the hearing and provided copies of the proposed budget to all in attendance. Mr. Feril read the proposed 2024 budget noting any proposed changes from the adopted 2023 budget. President Taylor then asked for any comments and questions from the audience including those attending via Zoom. Hearing no comments or concerns from the audience or board members, President Taylor called for the hearing to close and reconvened the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m.

John Janssen moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to adopt the proposed 2024 budget and Resolution 2023-2 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-2

WHEREAS the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 (“the District”), Stafford, Kansas, was established under the authority of K.S.A. 82a-1020 for the proper management of groundwater resources of the state; and

WHEREAS, the District is a body politic and corporate and has the authority to levy a water user charge and land assessment under K.S.A. 82a-1028 (h) to finance the operations of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors proposed the budget at this year's annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has submitted the proposed budget for FY2024 to the eligible voters of the District at a budget hearing called for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, at least one (1) budget hearing notice was published in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation within the District at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the budget hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 hereby adopts the proposed FY2024 budget as submitted at the budget hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE land assessment is hereby set at five (\$0.05) cents per acre for eligible tracts of land as defined by K.S.A. 82a-1030 (a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE water users charge is hereby set at one (\$2.00) dollar for each acre-foot of groundwater as defined by K.S.A. 82a-1030 (a).

ADOPTED the 13th day of July, 2023 by the Board of Directors of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 at a regular meeting.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for August 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Attest by: 

Dated 8-10-23