

MINUTES – JUNE 22, 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 June 22, 2023. Board members present were Tom Taylor, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Darrell Wood, Joe Schlessiger, and Gary Hornbaker. Board member Craig Zwick was not present. District staff present was Orrin Feril. The guests present were Cameron Conant and Jon McClure. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Crispin, Toby Dougherty, Aimee Davenport, and Keadron Pearson.

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

A brief executive session for attorney client consultation was added to the agenda as item 3a.

Kerry Froetschner moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the May minutes as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the June treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Darrell Wood moved, and Gary Hornbaker seconded to accept the June treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

Fred Grunder moved, and John Janssen seconded at 7:05 p.m. that the Board go into executive session for legal advice regarding on the status of the USFWS discussion with an attorney for the public body and District manager which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the attorney consultation exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the meeting room at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried 8-0. The board came out of executive session at 7:20 p.m.

John Janssen moved, and Darrell Wood seconded at 7:20 p.m. that the Board go into executive session for legal advice regarding on the status of the USFWS discussion with an attorney for the public body and District manager which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the attorney consultation exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the meeting room at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 8-0. The board came out of executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. John has been gathering several water samples regarding a water quality issue in Northern Pratt county. He is coordinating with other agencies on the proper path forward. There are several programs that are on the horizon including two applications in the Conservation Collaboration Agreements opportunity with NRCS and a potential Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Each of these programs could provide resources to improve water conservation in Central KS.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, provided a written request to discuss specific details regarding the District's alternative calculation method for the MYFA program. The discussion centered around the definition of an end gun. Following a thorough discussion, Joe Schlessiger moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to keep the definition of an end gun consistent with previous programs. Motion carried 8-0. The District will use the definition as a spray nozzle on the end of a center pivot system with an orifice size larger than the previous nozzle immediately upstream on the center pivot system. Cameron Conant provided an update on field office activities. Keadron Pearson, Kansas Water Office, stated the Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee would be meeting on July 14 in Greensburg.

In other business, the board requested an update on the status of the request for proposal packets for hunting and farming of District lands and the job description. At this point, the RFP packets are being reviewed by legal counsel. The job description is still being refined by the subcommittee and Craig Zwick is not present to provide a more updated status.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for July 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 7-13-23