

MINUTES – MAY 11, 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 May 11, 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 staffs present were Orrin Feril and Vanessa Marks. Guest present was David Stroberg. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Crispin, Toby Dougherty, Jeff Lanterman, and Chris Smith.

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

In error, the April minutes were not in the meeting materials. Marlyn Spare read the minutes from the minutes record book. Craig Zwick moved, and Gary Hornbaker seconded to approve the April minutes as read. Motion carried 9-0.

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

The current financial statement and proposed 2024 budget were discussed and reviewed by the board in preparation to send public notice for the budget hearing in July.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. Preparing for an extended vacation, District staff have been tasked with several while the manager is away. In an effort to comply with the new requirement to issue a request for proposal for farm leases, a draft RFP was discussed. Additionally, in an effort to stay consistent, there is an updated RFP packet for hunting leases. Marlyn Spare and Joe Schlessiger will assist with getting these RFP packets ready following legal review. It was requested that each board member consider potential Priority Areas of Concern for their respective counties. The water transfer panel is in preparation for the hearing that will be held in July.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA–DWR, noted that the MDS orders for the Medicine Lodge River are likely to be released soon. The field office staff are reviewing the overpumping list for 2022 now for quality control issues.

David Stroberg, KWA, provided a review of the April 18 meeting in NE Kansas which included a tour of WaterOne and review of budget line items for the State Water Plan. The next meeting will be in early June in Dodge City.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for June 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 6-22-23