

MINUTES – APRIL 09, 2024
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 09, 2024. Board members present were Tom Taylor, Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Fred Grunder, Craig Zwick, Gary Hornbaker, and Joe Schlessiger. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Vanessa Marks. The guests present were Jeff Lanterman and Brandon Bortz. Guests present via Zoom were Brownie Wilson, Jeff Crispin, Riley Vande Ven, Chris Smith, and Kent Askren.

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

A presentation by Brownie Wilson was added to the agenda as item 3a.

Kerry Froetschner moved, and Darrell Wood 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. John Janssen moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to accept the April treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 9-0.

Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey, water level and water use data to the board for consideration, specifically in the Edwards/Kiowa county region. This information was recently presented to the public in those respective counties. Brownie was asked to collect this information in the District's efforts to identify areas of concern per K.S.A. 82a-1044. The discussion amongst the board focused on the definition of reasonable raising and lowering of the water table in the region. Following this discussion, the board requested that Brownie Wilson narrow the scope of the Q-stable equation to the region indicating greater than 10 ft decline in the past 20 years. The board will consider this information in future meetings as it works to identify these areas.


Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. A brief update on the Watershed Plan-EIS as well as the Rattlesnake Creek working group was provided to those in attendance. The recent initiative to collect water samples and provide analysis by the District was described to the board and all were encouraged to spread the word and get their water analyzed.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, provided a draft map depicting areas that water could potentially be appropriated as offset through implementation of K.A.R. 5-25-22. Initial feedback was provided including a recommendation to utilize the streamflow nodes in the south and eastern streams of the District. Meanwhile the field office is conducting the tri-annual water level measurements throughout the region.

Vanessa Marks, CKWBA, stated that the Association is in the process of finalizing the annual statements for participants and finalizing charter revisions before submission to the Chief Engineer. Additional discussion was had regarding the potential leasing concept with the Rattlesnake Creek working group.

The board discussed the timing of the next board meeting as it relates to the next Rattlesnake Creek working group meeting. The next District board meeting is tentatively set for May 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 5-14-24