

MINUTES – AUGUST 08, 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 August 08, 2024. Board members present were Tom Taylor, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Gary Hornbaker, Darrell Wood, and Fred Grunder. Board members Joe Schlessiger, Craig Zwick, and Kerry Froetschner were not present. District staff present were Orrin Feril, John Hildebrand, and Vanessa Marks. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Lanterman, Jeff Crispin, Chris Smith, and Jon Quinday.

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

John Janssen moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to approve the July minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the August treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Darrell Wood moved, and John Janssen seconded to accept the August treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

The District has been seeking proposals for leasing all seven parcels owned by the District for hunting purposes. The District received just one bid for two parcels. The bidder's identity was kept anonymous during board discussion. Following discussion, Marlyn Spare moved, and Gary Hornbaker seconded to re-open the request for proposal period for an additional 60 days and increase the advertising effort. Motion carried 6-0.

The District has been seeking proposals for leasing three parcels owned by the District for agricultural purposes. The District received two bids for one parcel. The bidders' identities were kept anonymous during board discussion. Following discussion, Marlyn Spare moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to accept the bid from Bidder 1 for parcel RSC07 at \$50/ac. Motion carried 6-0. Marlyn Spare moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to re-open the request for proposal period for the remaining two parcels (RSC01 & RSC03) an additional 30 days. Motion carried 6-0.

The board continued its previous discussion regarding the proposed revised regulation regarding impairment investigations. Along with the proposed K.A.R. 5-4-1b regulation, KDA-DWR provided a supplement to describe why this revision is needed. A draft set of comments was provided to the board for consideration as well. Darrell Wood moved, and Marlyn Spare moved to submit comments to the Chief Engineer on the draft K.A.R. 5-4-1b regulation with discretion to work with legal counsel to finalize the letter prior to submission. Motion carried 6-0.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The working group effort in the Rattlesnake Creek has been fruitful and in the coming weeks, USFWS is anticipated to send a letter to the Chief Engineer confirming the intention to not require administration of water in 2025. A brief update on the Watershed Plan-EIS as well as the Rattlesnake Creek working group was provided to those in attendance. The water samples coming into the office are indicating elevated nitrates in areas. Currently, staff are verifying those sample results prior to finalizing results in the dataset.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, noted some nitrate concentration concerns around the City of Pratt. Additionally, KDA is working on procedures to streamline the process for K.A.R. 5-25-22 offset

applications. Vanessa Marks, CKWBA, provided an update on the CAMP project and future plans for the program in the coming years.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for September 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated: 10-10-24