

MINUTES – JUNE 27, 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 June 27, 2024. Board members present were Tom Taylor, Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Craig Zwick, Joe Schlessiger, and Gary Hornbaker. Board members Kerry Froetschner and Fred Grunder were not present. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Vanessa Marks. The guest present was Roger Stotts. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Lanterman, Jeff Crispin, and Toby Dougherty.

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

A preliminary discussion regarding proposed regulations K.A.R. 5-4-1b was added to the agenda as item 3a.

Craig Zwick moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the May minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Joe Schlessiger arrived at the meeting.

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 Marlyn Spare seconded to accept the June treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Recently, KDA–DWR proposed a revised regulation regarding impairment complaints. Along with the proposed K.A.R. 5-4-1b regulation, KDA–DWR provided a supplement to describe why this revision is needed. The board took the opportunity to review the provided documents and had a brief discussion. In the discussion, more questions were raised than could be answered. The board asked that Chief Engineer Lewis and Lane Letourneau attend the next board meeting to provide further context to the revisions and address questions for those in attendance. No further action was taken.

Orrin Feril provided the updated draft summary of the areas of concern identified by District staff and other entities. This draft reflects work put forward by the District for several decades and recent work the Kansas Geological Survey. This update is in follow up to the May board meeting discussion in which a new section was added to identify areas that are under consideration by the District prior to being elevated to an area of concern. Following discussion by the board, Joe Schlessiger moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the summary of the areas of concern and submit it to the Chief Engineer prior to July 1, 2024. Motion carried 7-0.

The District has three parcels that are coming available for farm lease. Per K.S.A. 82a-1045, the District must request proposals prior to entering into agreement for these parcels. A draft RFP packet that has been reviewed by legal counsel was discussed by the board. There were concerns about the timeframe for the proposal period and with the timing of the lease period. Marlyn Spare moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to revise the packet to reduce the timeframe for the proposals to be more inline with farming practices and to unify with existing farm leases that expire at the end of the calendar year. Following discussion, the motion was carried 6-0-1 with Gary Hornbaker abstaining.

