

MINUTES – MARCH 14, 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 March 14, 2024. Board members present were Tom Taylor, Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Fred Grunder, Craig Zwick, and Gary Hornbaker. Board member Joe Schlessiger was not present. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Vanessa Marks. The guests present were Leah Chadd and Shane Chadd. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Crispin, Keadron Pearson, Jon Quinday, and Toby Dougherty.

The March regular board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Tom Taylor.

Craig Zwick moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the February minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

John Janssen moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to approve the Annual meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Fred Grunder arrived at the meeting at 9:05 am.

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

The board conducted an election of officers for the upcoming year. Following a brief discussion regarding the current officers, Kerry Froetschner moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to maintain the current officers for the upcoming year. Motion carried 8-0. The District board officers are Tom Taylor as President, Fred Grunder as Vice-President, Marlyn Spare as Secretary, and John Janssen as Treasurer.

Vanessa Marks, Notary Public, administered the affirmation as required by K.S.A. 54-106 to all present board members. All board members raised their right hand and affirmed the following statement:

"I do solemnly affirm that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the board of directors of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District Number Five. So, help me God."

Orrin Feril provided an update on the legislative activity in Topeka. Following the legislative turnaround, only a few water-related bills were moved out of committee. HB 2634 had a hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on March 13. Supportive testimony was provided for this bill. HB 2678 does not have a hearing scheduled at this time.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. District staff have been receiving water use reports for the CKWBA accounts recently. There will be meetings soon regarding the identification of the areas of concern for the District per K.S.A. 82a-1044. The Rattlesnake Creek working group recently had another meeting and those present in the meeting provided an update to the group. Items of note include the planned administration of approximately

20 water rights subject to minimum desirable streamflow, a water banking lease concept, upcoming technical committee meeting, and pilot augmentation.

Keadon Pearson, KWO, stated that the Great Bend Prairie RAC will be meeting soon in Great Bend. The Ogallala Summit will be convening again next week in Liberal. Vanessa Marks, CKWBA, attended the WaterPACK meeting recently. In that meeting, a new concept was discussed to utilize the CKWBA to lease water for the working group. Additionally, the CKWBA submitted a revised charter to the Chief Engineer for review and approval.

Marlyn Spare moved, and Craig Zwick seconded at 10:45 a.m. that the Board go into executive session for legal consultation regarding the Rattlesnake Creek activities 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 11:15 a.m. Motion carried 8-0. The board came out of executive session at 11:15 a.m.

John Janssen moved, and Darrell Wood seconded at 11:15 a.m. that the Board go into executive session for legal consultation regarding the Rattlesnake Creek activities 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 11:30 a.m. Motion carried 8-0. The board came out of executive session at 11:30 a.m.

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 April 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Attest by: Marlyn Spare Dated 4-9-24