

MINUTES – MAY 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 May 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 Jeff Lanterman, Kevin Schultz, and David Stroberg. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Crispin, Reed Strate, Toby Dougherty, Lindsey Douglas, Vijay Ramasamy, Julie Lorenz, and Earl Lewis.

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

Craig Zwick moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to approve the April minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the May treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Gary Hornbaker moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to accept the May treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Fred Grunder and Earl Lewis joined the meeting.

Vijay Ramasamy, Julie Lorenz, Lindsey Douglas, and Earl Lewis provided the board with an overview of the Governor's effort to implement the state water plan, specifically regarding how state funds are expended to achieve meaningful change in the state's water resources. The state is looking to apply the same "long-range inclusive, nimble and well-financed approach to our water issues that the state has for transportation." The goal of the process is to provide a plan to Kansas legislators to demonstrate both the funding needs and to provide transparency on the funded projects. Overall, the plan will focus on funding both water quality and quantity projects statewide. The leadership team is hosting a series of "Local Consult" meetings in late June across the state. The board had a candid conversation with the leadership team and voiced concerns from the central part of the state.

Orrin Feril provided the initial 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 compiled by Brownie Wilson of the Kansas Geological Survey. Brownie presented water level and water use data in the Edwards/Kiowa county region to the board and public in April. Since April, the region was reduced to sections showing greater than 10 ft decline in the past 20 years. Brownie Wilson provided an updated Q-stable equation for this refined area. There was a thorough discussion of each of these areas under consideration in preparation for action on the draft summary of the areas of concern to be taken in the June board meeting.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The water quality lab is fully functional now and the District is actively seeking water samples from regional water users and private well owners. With this information, the District will be better equipped to identify water quality problem areas. A brief update on the Watershed Plan-EIS as well as the Rattlesnake Creek working group was provided to those in attendance.

Vanessa Marks, CKWBA, stated that the Association has a newly revised charter that enables movement of water through the deposit-lease program across the entire Association. This will

provide additional flexibility to area water users and give a better understanding of water value in the region. Additional discussion was had regarding the compensated deposit concept with the Rattlesnake Creek working group. Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, provided a brief update on the R9 ranch water transfer. Additionally, the field office has new staff working on new applications and field staff. David Stroberg, KWA, provided a brief update on recent water authority meetings and upcoming strategic plan implementation meetings. Of note, the Kansas Geological Survey is holding the next field tour in NE Kansas in mid-June.

The next District board meeting is tentatively set for June 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 6-27-24