

MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2025  
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 13, 2025. The board members present were Tom Taylor, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Kerry Froetschner, Joe Schlessiger, and Craig Zwick. The board members Darrell Wood and Gary Hornbaker were not present. The District staffs present were Orrin Feril, John Hildebrand, and Vanessa Marks. The guests present via Zoom were Jeff Crispin and Kent Askren.

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

A discussion regarding the Irrigation Technology Initiative was added to the agenda as item 6a.

Marlyn Spare moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to approve the February minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Craig Zwick moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the annual meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

John Janssen arrived at the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

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

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 6-1. 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."*

The District has been working with the other groundwater management districts and the division of conservation of the Kansas department of agriculture to get logistics for the Irrigation Technology Initiative finalized. Over the past several weeks, legal counsel has been reviewing the program agreement between the District and KDA-DOC and has provided several suggested revisions. The board reviewed the redline version of the agreement and the consensus of the board was to finalize the revisions with KDA-DOC in preparation for the April board meeting.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. District staff has been busy receiving and entering water use reports for the CKWBA. Recently, the City of St John and KDA-DWR have been discussing water quality issues around well #6 on the west side

of town. The city will be conducting additional water testing to the north of the municipal well to determine possibilities for moving the well to a different location. The current status of the Watershed Plan-EIS was provided for all those present at the meeting. The board appreciation dinner has been scheduled for March 29 at Club d'Est in Pratt.

Vanessa Marks, CKWBA, provided an update on the CAMP project. So far there have been eight contracts signed and two deposit intents that were determined to be ineligible. The board had a discussion on the potential impacts of the CKWBA deposit/lease program on the District's priority areas of concern. No action was taken by the board.

The next District board meeting is tentatively set for April 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Attest by: Marlyn E. Agnew Dated: 5-9-25