

MINUTES – OCTOBER 09, 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 October 09, 2025. The board members present were Tom Taylor, Marlyn Spare, Kent Moore, Kerry Froetschner, Craig Zwick, and Joe Schlessiger. The board members not present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, and Gary Hornbaker. The District staff present was Orrin Feril. The guest present was Chris Smith (Zoom).

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

A review of an agreement with Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association was added to the agenda as item 6a. A brief review of proposed revisions to K.A.R. 5-16-1, 5-16-3, 5-16-4, 5-16-6, 5-16-7, 5-5-3, 5-5-9 and 5-25-21 was added to the agenda as item 6b.

Craig Zwick moved, and Kent Moore seconded to approve the September minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the October treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Marlyn Spare moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to accept the October treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 6-0.


Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The District has scheduled outreach meetings in each county to solicit input from the public regarding the crafting of the action plans for the areas of concern. A postcard was sent to each eligible voter outlining the meeting dates. The Kansas Geological Survey will be present at these meetings to assist with hydrology questions. District staff has been collecting several water quality samples from irrigation wells. Additionally, the quarterly water level measurements have been collected, and the results are still being analyzed.

For the past few years, the District has had an agreement with the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA) for legislative monitoring and lobbyist services through the legislative session. The District has the option to enter into another agreement with KARA for the same services for the 2026 legislative session. The board was presented a copy of this agreement for consideration. Kent Moore moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to enter into the agreement with KARA for lobbyist services for legislative session 2026 for \$24,000. Motion carried 6-0.

Earlier in the day, KDA-DWR provided a set of revised regulations for review by the District. Since the proposed revisions were just received, they have not been reviewed thoroughly by District staff. They were provided to the board for their review in advance of the November meeting. No action was taken by the board.

The next District board meeting is tentatively set for November 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated: 11/20/2025