

MINUTES – JUNE 25, 2026
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 25, 2026. The board members present were Tom Taylor, Kent Moore, Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, Gary Hornbaker, Joe Schlessiger, Marlyn Spare, and Craig Zwick. Board member Kerry Froetschner was not present at the meeting. The District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Vanessa Marks. The guests present were Keith McNickle, Jim Schneider (Zoom), Jeff Lanterman (Zoom), and Chris Smith (Zoom).

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

Orrin Feril added Resolution 2026-4, Resolution 2026-5 and a discussion regarding sponsorship of the governor's conference on water were added to the agenda as items 8a, 8b and 8c respectively.

Darrell Wood moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to approve the May minutes as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

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

The District has been working on the draft action plan document for the past several months. The latest draft of the action plan document has been provided to the public in outreach meetings and on the District's website for the past several months. Multiple newsletters have highlighted the action plan and soliciting public input.

The latest draft of the document was presented to the board for discussion and review. Each area of concern was discussed, primarily focusing on the draft actions that would be taken for each region to reasonably address the identified issues. Following thorough discussion, Darrell Wood moved, and Joe Schlessiger seconded to approve the 2026 action plan as amended allowing for minor grammatical or formatting revisions in preparation for submission to the Chief Engineer on or before the July 1 deadline. Motion carried 8-0.

The Rattlesnake Creek watershed plan record of decision is now finalized thus marking a transition point from the planning phase to the design/implementation phase. Recently, Olsson representatives and District legal counsel have been working through a master service agreement for the project. Additionally, the scope of work for year one of the project design and implementation. These agreements were presented to the board for consideration. Orrin Feril addressed questions and noted several revisions to ensure the District is protected throughout the course of the project. The final item that is being negotiated are the Errors and Omissions coverage in the agreement. Following discussion, Kent Moore moved, and Fred Grunder seconded to approve the master service agreement and year one scope of work conditioned on the continued negotiation of the Errors and Omissions coverage stays within \$2-5 million per occurrence and \$3-5 million in aggregate. Motion carried 7-1.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The weather stations can now be reached by phone by calling a centralized phone number for current conditions. Recently, the District manager had a 10-day vacation, which was much appreciated. Over the

course of the past few weeks, the final agreements for the contingently accepted offer with Tom Hammond from the March board meeting have been finalized.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, did not have a report. Vanessa Marks, CKWBA, noted the Association is currently conducting their routine inspections for all Deposit and Lease contracts to ensure compliance with the conditions of their contracts.

Now that the purchase agreements are executed between Tom Hammond and the District, those agreements were presented to the board for review and adoption by resolution. Kent Moore moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-4 and designate Orrin Feril for signatory for closing. Motion carried 8-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4

RESOLVED, that the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5, a body politic and corporate organized and existing under the K.S.A. 82a-1020 et seq. and the laws of the State of Kansas ("GMD5") hereby authorizes the sale of that certain parcels of real estate together with all improvements thereon all as more fully contemplated by that Contract of Sale by and between GMD5 and Tom Hammond, (the "Contract") attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof as if more fully set forth herein;

RESOLVED, that the terms of the Contract attached hereto as Exhibit A, and any written amendments, are hereby approved and ratified; and

RESOLVED, that the GMD5 Manager, Orrin Feril, is authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary or reasonably required to complete the transaction contemplated by this Resolution and the Contract and any amendments thereto.

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned hereby certifies that he is the duly appointed, qualified and acting Secretary of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5, a body politic and corporate organized and existing under the K.S.A. 82a-1020 et seq. and the laws of the State of Kansas ("GMD5") and hereby further certifies for and on behalf of GMD5 and not in his individual capacity that:

1. Above is a true, correct and complete copy of the resolution of the "GMD5," authorizing the execution, delivery and performance of the Contract of Sale by and between GMD5 and Tom Hammond, (the "Contract") attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. The name and title and signature of the officer authorized to act on behalf of GMD5 is:

Name	Title	Signature
Orrin Feril	Manager	_____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Secretary's Certificate as of the date first set forth above

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5, a body politic and corporate organized and existing under the K.S.A. 82a-1020 et seq. and the laws of the State of Kansas

Secretary

Craig Zwick moved, and Gary Hornbaker seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-5 and designate Orrin Feril for signatory for closing. Motion carried 8-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-5

RESOLVED, that the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5, a body politic and corporate organized and existing under the K.S.A. 82a-1020 et seq. and the laws of the State of Kansas ("GMD5") hereby authorizes the purchase of that certain parcel of real estate together with all improvements thereon all as more fully contemplated by that Contract of Sale by and between GMD5 and Tom Hammond, (the "Contract") attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof as if more fully set forth herein;

RESOLVED, that the terms of the Contract attached hereto as Exhibit A, and any written amendments, are hereby approved and ratified; and

RESOLVED, that the GMD5 Manager, Orrin Feril, is authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary or reasonably required to complete the transaction contemplated by this Resolution and the Contract and any amendments thereto.

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned hereby certifies that he is the duly appointed, qualified and acting Secretary of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5, a body politic and corporate organized and existing under the K.S.A. 82a-1020 et seq. and the laws of the State of Kansas ("GMD5") and hereby further certifies for and on behalf of GMD5 and not in his individual capacity that:

1. Above is a true, correct and complete copy of the resolution of the "GMD5," authorizing the execution, delivery and performance of the Contract of Sale by and between GMD5 and Tom Hammond, (the "Contract") attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. The name and title and signature of the officer authorized to act on behalf of GMD5 is:

Name	Title	Signature
Orrin Feril	Manager	_____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Secretary's Certificate as of the date first set forth above

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Secretary

The upcoming Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas will take place on November 9 & 10 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan. Recently, the GMD managers have been considering the value of providing sponsorship for this conference collectively to promote the activities of the GMDs in Kansas water policy. An overview of the sponsorship options was provided to the board for consideration. Darrell Wood moved, and Craig Zwick seconded to approve up to \$300 to provide collective gold level sponsorship to the conference with the other four groundwater management districts. Motion carried 8-0.

In other business, the board discussed the current process the District uses for sealing meters to the diversion pipe and potential for modifying that same process going forward. Marlyn Spare moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to table the discussion. Motion carried 8-0.

The next District board meeting is tentatively set for July 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attest by: Marlyn Spare Dated: 7-9-26