

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

FEBRUARY 2010

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

2010 ANNUAL MEETING

February 18, 2010 is the date set for this year's annual meeting. As in years past, the meeting will be held at the Ida Long Goodman Library in St. John. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. shortly after the annual meeting for the Central Kansas Water Bank. The Board opted to not have a guest speaker at the meeting this year. There will be, however, updates on various projects and programs of the District. It was previously thought that the District wide hydrologic model being developed would be completed and a formal report presented but it has been delayed due to continued discussions with the Division of Water Resources on various components of the model. We will give an update on the model, but there will not be a final product and presentation from our consultants. There will also be an election of directors, a 2009 financial statement, and review of the 2010 budget.

CHANGES TO RULES AND REGULATIONS: The District is proposing to amend K.A.R. 5-25-15 - Exemptions for up to 15 acre-feet of groundwater. The amendments being proposed will require offsets for the exemption in the Arkansas River, Pawnee River, Buckner Creek Basins, Rattlesnake Creek, and the Walnut Creek Basin. That means a person wanting up to 15 acre feet in one of these basins must move it from an existing water right. The regulation also sets spacing for one of these exemptions to one-mile in the entire District. As one might recall, the District, as with other agencies, is trying to purchase and retire water rights in these basins. Allowing additional quantities to be appropriated defeats the purpose of these programs. In essence, this regulation allows smaller amounts of water to be permanently moved without increasing the demand on the aquifer in these basins.

There will be a public hearing on this regulation Wednesday, April 7, 2010 in Topeka. However, individuals may also come to the District office and participate by teleconference that same day. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. The District is considering changes to other regulations but they are not in a form that could go to hearing at this time.

The **Division of Water Resources** is also revising a number of their regulations as well as developing a new regulation. The hearing for the following regulations will also be April 7, 2010, same time, same place.

K.A.R. 5-4-1 Distribution of water between users when a prior right is being impaired - is an existing regulation with clarification on the procedures for filing and resulting investigations on an impairment claim.

K.A.R. 5-4-1a Distribution of water between users when a prior right is being impaired due to a regional lowering of the water table - this is a new regulation addressing impairment procedures when it is determined to be a regional lowering of the aquifer.

K.A.R. 5-7-1 Due and sufficient cause for nonuse – an existing regulation that adds an additional reason for non-use for wells located in closed areas. There would now be eleven acceptable reasons for non-use. However, the well must be maintained in all cases.

**ANNUAL MEETINGS
SCHEDULED...**

Thursday, Feb 18, 2010

Central Kansas

Water Bank 6:30 p.m.

Election of Directors

Annual Report

Big Bend GMD #5

7:00 p.m.

Ida Long

Goodman Memorial

Library, St. John

406 N Monroe

DON'T FORGET

Water Use Reports
are due in Topeka
by March 1st.

If you need help
completing the report, please
call our office for assistance.

GMD # 5 WEATHER STATIONS

1 GREENSBURG	(620) 723-2193
2 LEWIS	(620) 324-5866
3 ROZEL	(620) 527-4531
4 CULLISON	(620) 895-6505
5 MACKSVILLE	(620) 348-2238
6 RADIUM	(620) 285-2796
7 GREAT BEND	(620) 793-5798
8 STERLING	(620) 278-2632
9 CAIRO	(620) 672-3359
10 STAFFORD	(620) 234-5667

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phillip Martin, Barton County
Kevin Schultz, Director at Large
Darrell Wood, Edwards County
John Janssen, Kiowa County
Kraig Froetschner, Pawnee County
Vernon Hirt, Pratt County
Ed Shultz, Reno County
Curtis Tobias, Rice County
Kent Lamb, Stafford County

DISTRICT STAFF

Sharon Falk, Manager
Orrin Feril, Data Mgr/GIS
Juan Uribe, Conservation Specialist
Jenny Kisner, Office Manager

Visit our web site:
www.gmd5.org

Big Bend Groundwater Management

District No. 5

125 S. Main St.
Stafford, Kansas 67578-0007

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
P A I D
PERMIT NO 20
STAFFORD KS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**AG DEPARTMENT ADOPTS
NEW INTENSIVE
GROUNDWATER USE
CONTROL AREA (IGUCA)
REGULATIONS**

David Barfield, Chief Engineer-Division of Water Resources announced on September 18, 2009, the adoption of two new regulations addressing 1) the hearing process in establishing a new IGUCA and, 2) an established review process on all existing IGUCA's. The first regulation sets a process using an independent hearing officer to determine if an IGUCA is warranted. If it is determined that the IGUCA is necessary then the chief engineer holds the second hearing to determine what corrective controls should be implemented. The second regulation requires a review of an IGUCA within seven years of the order establishing an IGUCA and then at least every ten years thereafter on existing IGUCA's.

NOMINATING PETITION

We, the undersigned three eligible voters within the Big Bend Groundwater Management District # 5

hereby nominate _____ as candidate for Board Position
representing _____ County

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Important terms and conditions of the elected position shall be:

- a. 3-year term running 3 consecutive annual meeting dates.
- b. representation shall be for all eligible voters within the county.

I understand the above stated conditions of the board position for which I am being nominated and I accept said nomination.

Candidate's Signature: _____

Date: _____

PETITIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE NOT LATER THAN 1:00 P.M. ON THE DAY OF THE ANNUAL MEETING IN ORDER TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT.

DIRECTORS ELECTION - Candidates for this annual election include three incumbents. Vernon Hirt - Pratt County, Ed Shultz - Reno County and Kent Lamb - Stafford County. All are seeking reelection in 2010. Anyone else interested in one of these positions should file using the above petition. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the annual meeting.

Verified Claims: Anyone wishing to verify to the District a lesser amount of water used in 2009 must do so by April 1, 2010. Assessments are based on the authorized amount of a water right unless otherwise verified. The District will except the following as verified claims: metered values, enrollment in CRP with an inactive status, or verified claims showing that the well has not been installed. Verified claims can be obtained at your local FSA office or the District office.