

# JUNE 2010

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### Officers Elected for 2010

- Darrell Wood—President
- Phillip Martin—Vice President
- John Janssen—Treasurer
- Curtis Tobias—Secretary

### 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  
Fred Grunder, 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](http://www.gmd5.org)

# GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

## Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

Ph: 620-234-5352 Fax: 620-234-5718

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### ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

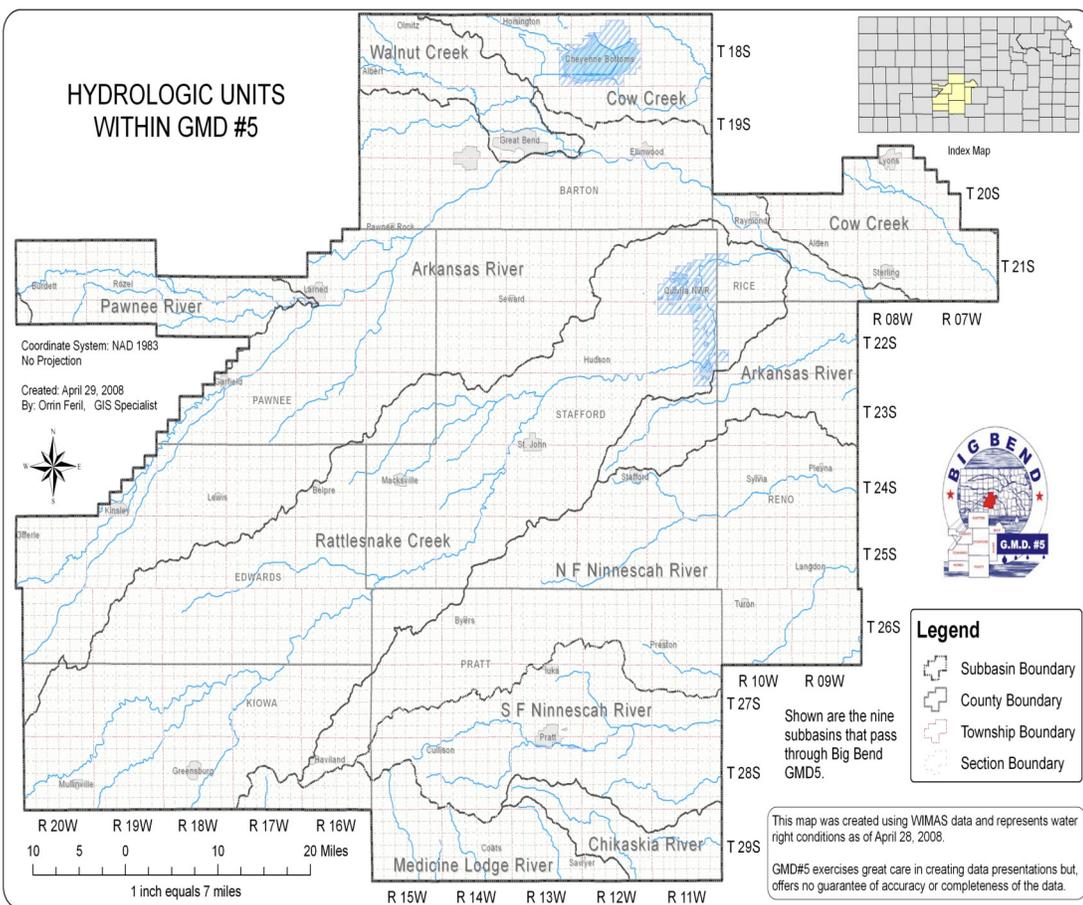
Fred Grunder was elected to represent Pratt County at the annual meeting. Mr. Grunder replaces Vernon Hirt who served on the board for twelve years and as President for nine. We welcome Mr. Grunder to the board and we send thanks to Vernon for sharing years of wisdom with all of us.

The board was also asked at the annual meeting to address the potential of proxy voting at annual meetings. Some members are questioning the language in the statutes relating to this method of voting. A detailed policy will probably be formulated and the by-laws will be changed and approved at an annual meeting if necessary. Talk to your county board member if you have concerns about the voting procedures. The board has been reviewing specific information relating to the subject and will start a full review of the issue later in the fall to be prepared for the next annual meeting in February.

### 15-ACRE FOOT REGULATION AMENDED

A public hearing was held on the proposed changes recommended by the Board of Directors on K.A.R. 5-25-15 in April and the rule became effective May 21, 2010. This regulation outlines the process in obtaining a water right for 15 acre-feet or less in GMD #5. Significant changes were made regarding spacing limitations and offset requirements. The regulation limits the number of wells approved under this regulation to one every mile while maintaining spacing requirements to other wells. Offsets are required in the Arkansas, Rattlesnake, Pawnee, and Wet Walnut Basins (see map below). So if an application would be filed within one of these basins, a specific amount of water would have to be reduced from an existing water right in order for the new application to be approved. The rule allows the offset to be up to 3.5 miles from the proposed well location of the application.

This regulation was amended to address the concerns of the District members in basins where the District is buying water rights. The concerns and questions were about why was District buying water rights and then authorizing more water use through the fifteen acre-feet permits. As always, please call us if you have questions about this regulation.



# Big Bend Groundwater Management

## District No. 5

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

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### 2010 CHANGES TO KANSAS WATER LAW

The Kansas Water Appropriation Act's abandonment laws were amended this year changing how water rights are viewed in closed areas. GMD #5 is currently closed by rule and regulation for new water rights other than small or short term uses, so this is important to the water users in this area. The changes address the "use it or lose it" concept many people now hold in these closed areas. The new law reads in part ....., *a groundwater right, which has as its local supply an aquifer area that has been closed to new appropriations by rule, regulations or order of the chief engineer and where means of diversion are available to put water to a beneficial use within a reasonable time, shall be deemed to have due and sufficient cause for nonuse and shall not be deemed abandoned.* It is our understanding the chief engineer will develop rules and regulations to address what a reasonable amount of time might be to bring water back into use.

### HEARING TO BE HELD ON 2011 BUDGET

The public hearing to consider the 2011 budget for the District will be held July 8, 2011. The hearing will be held at the District office in Stafford beginning at 8:00 p.m.

The Board has proposed a \$1,000,000 budget that includes funding for groundwater modeling and other hydrologic studies. The Groundwater model is now complete but funding is needed to maintain the model, run scenarios and develop programs based on the model results.

Following the hearing the board will decide on the final budget and the assessment rates to fund the budget. Currently, the rates are at \$0.05/ acre land assessment and \$0.67 / acre foot water use charge.

### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2011

SALARIES	\$ 180,000
ADMINISTRATION	
A) OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 3,000
B) OFFICE SUPPLIES	4,000
C) PRINTING & PUBLICATION	11,000
D) TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	12,000
E) BUILDING EXPENSE	2,000
F) UTILITIES	6,000
OTHER EXPENSES	
INSURANCE	\$ 11,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES	100,000
OTHER	4,000
PAYROLL TAX	13,000
CONSERVATION PROGRAMS	15,000
WATER MANAGEMENT	625,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	14,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 1,000,000