

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

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www.gmd5.org

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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

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DISTRICT STAFF

Wes Essmiller, Manager
Orrin Feril, Data Mgr/GIS
Juan Uribe, Conservation Specialist
Jenny Kisner, Office Manager

Visit our web site:
www.gmd5.org

Changing of the Guard

On Aug 30th, manager Sharon Falk ended her 30 year career at Big Bend GMD #5. She started in 1980 as an assistant manager and attained the manager position in 1988. She has spent her time addressing key issues in the District including; the Rattlesnake Creek Partnership, the Walnut Creek and Pawnee Buckner IGUCA's, establishing the network of weather stations as well as many other endeavors. Mrs. Falk's knowledge and experience will be duly missed by the staff and the individuals in the District. A retirement party is tentatively planned in her honor for November 17, 2010 at the District office in Stafford. Please check our website at a later date for final arrangements.

Replacing Mrs. Falk is Wes Essmiller of Great Bend. Mr. Essmiller is a native of the area and has returned to his roots in agriculture to further his career. He graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture and has spent the last three years working on a Masters of Landscape Architecture at Kansas State. Mr. Essmiller started at the District on August 2nd training under Mrs. Falk. On September 1st, he took over as the manager and is looking forward to his time at the position. "I feel that water is the life blood of our area and is a natural resource that should not be taken lightly" says Mr. Essmiller. "I also believe that this position will allow me to pursue new and valuable practices to help the District become more sustainable in its utilization of the resource." Please feel free to contact Mr. Essmiller at any time by stopping at the District office or by telephone at (620) 234-5352.

EQIP Sign Up

The application deadline for the EQIP program from NRCS has been set and is November 15, 2010. This deadline will be here before you know it so be sure to contact your local NRCS agent for more details. The EQIP program has several different programs which producers may qualify for. Currently there are two separate water conservation programs available for the area, The Quick Response Areas (QRA) and the general area. The QRA's are located in and along the Rattlesnake Creek, Arkansas River, Pawnee Buckner area and the Walnut Creek. These programs offer 5 and 10 year water right retirements that greatly benefit the local aquifers. The EQIP program accepts applications year round so make an effort to at least speak to NRCS about your options.

Water Bank Review

The seven year review of the Central Kansas Water Bank Association is currently underway. There is a committee of individuals from several different backgrounds participating in the review. These are; Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau, Sharon Falk, CKWB Representative, Dr. Bill Golden, KSU Economist, Dr. Danny Rogers, KSU Water Research, Dr. James Koelliker, KSU Water Research, Dr. John Peck, Lawyer, Dr. Marios Sophocleous, Kansas Geological Survey, Susan Stover, Kansas Water Office, Byron Warta, Lower Ark BAC, Richard Wenstrom, Water Bank user, Justin Vosburgh, Water Bank user, and John Janssen, CKWB Representative. These individuals will look into all aspects of the bank and present any recommendations to the Division of Water Resources and other Government entities.

Big Bend Groundwater Management

District No. 5

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Stafford, Kansas 67578-0007

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Regulations in Process for GMD 5 AWEP and Check Valves

Authored by DWR staff:

On September 20, 2010, Chief Engineer David Barfield and representatives of Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 addressed the Kansas Legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations regarding proposed rule changes related to a water conservation program and well equipment criteria in the district.

The first proposed change relates to Kansas Administrative Regulation (K.A.R.) 5-3-23, which establishes the maximum reasonable annual quantity approvable for irrigation use associated with an application to change (reduce) the authorized place of use. The proposed changes in this regulation are narrowly focused on facilitating GMD 5's program to provide an incentive to remove end guns from center pivots within the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin in GMD 5 under their recently approved Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) sponsors AWEP and, through that program, enters into partnership agreements with organizations that want to promote groundwater and surface water conservation or to improve water quality on agricultural lands.

The GMD 5 program uses federal AWEP and matching district funds to end guns from center pivot irrigation systems and correspondingly reduce the irrigated acreage on qualifying farmland. End guns are considered the least efficient component of these irrigation systems. In areas where there is not enough water to meet crop demands, removing end guns would likely result in applying more water with greater efficiency to the crops under the pivot. But this would not save water. However, in an area like Rattlesnake Creek, where there is enough water to satisfy crop needs, removing the end guns, and reducing the associated irrigated area, will reduce water use. The second proposed regulatory amendment, in K.A.R. 5-25-5, will make the district's well equipment criteria more consistent with statewide rules by removing superfluous check valve requirements.

The legislative committee posed a number of questions about the proposed changes, particularly with regard to the AWEP rule. Per standard procedure the committee will send a letter to the agency noting any comments.