

## 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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# GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

## *Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5*

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**May 2011**

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ..... Senate Bill 214 and Voting Issues**

**Senate Bill 214** was entered into this year's legislation by Senator Ruth Teichman of Stafford. This bill updates the definition of a person within the GMD Act. It is being put in place to help clarify some of the problems the district has had in the past with voting by different entities. The bill will give more leeway in the definition and clarify business in the future. The bill is in the Senate right now and has already passed the House of Representatives. The outlook is good that it will pass the Senate and move on for the governor to sign.

When this bill becomes law, the rules within the district will change a little. LLC's and other entities which were left out of the voting last year will be able to vote as long as they fill out their Certificates of Incumbency and send them to the district with the appropriate paperwork. Remember to check our website for the Certificates and don't forget, they will need to be renewed each year. If you have any questions please feel free to call.

## **KANSAS OVERPUMP POLICY**

With the onslaught of the drought over much of the area, it is appropriate to bring up the issue of over pumping a water right. Irrigation started early this year and looks to be needed until the elusive rain finds its way here.

As most, if not all of you know there are allocations assigned to each and every water right. If a water right is pumped over this allocation the State has the right to assess fines as well as reduce the allocation. Below is a list of the offenses and the penalties associated with them.

**1st offense:** The state regulatory agency - Division of Water Resources (DWR) - will send out a notice of noncompliance, stating that your authorized quantity was exceeded. This notice is permanently placed in the action trail of the water right.

**2nd offense:** DWR can issue a fine up to \$500 and reduce your water right the following year by the same amount you overpumped.

**3rd offense:** DWR can issue a fine up to \$500 a day for each day you overpumped, and reduce the right the following year by twice the amount overpumped.

**4th offense:** Could result in a one year suspension of the water right, which means you will not be able to use that authorization at all the following year.

**5th offense:** The water right could be revoked.

As you can see, if this is a recurring problem the penalty can become very severe. These offenses are now on the record from this point forward and don't have to occur in back to back years. The district is doing its part to help if you have questions about your water allocation or feel there is a problem with your meter. Feel free to give us a call and we can guide you on what to do next.

## **KSU Study: Walnut Creek IGUCA Conserves Water and Maintains Economy**

A report released April 21<sup>st</sup> by Kansas State University indicates that farmers within the Walnut Creek intensive groundwater use control area (IGUCA) in central Kansas were able to reduce water use and maintain profit margins comparable with producers outside the IGUCA. They did this by switching to higher-value crops and adopting more efficient irrigation technologies and practices.

The report further hypothesizes that IGUCA provisions facilitated producer adjustments to maintain profitability by bringing certainty in allocations and providing flexibility via its five-year allocation periods and allowing movement of allocations between water users.

The report, titled "Impact Analysis of the Walnut Creek Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area" was written by Bill Golden, research assistant professor, and John Leatherman, professor, in the Department of Agricultural Economics at K-State.

They examined economic factors over the time period from 1985 through 2005. The IGUCA was established in 1992. The authors compared revenues within the IGUCA and a similar area in the region where water use restrictions were not imposed.

*Courtesy of DWR Currents*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Highest Drought Intensity Edges into Southwest Kansas

AS of May 3, the U.S. Drought Monitor shows the lack of moisture in the southwest portion of Morton County has intensified to exceptional drought, the highest intensity on their scale. One percent of the state is experiencing extreme drought, another 17 percent of Kansas is **experiencing** severe drought, 44 percent is designated as moderate drought, and 28 percent of the state is abnormally dry. Only 10 percent of Kansas along the eastern border is deemed to have normal moisture at this time. Conditions have been progressively worsening since last fall. This is part of a climate cycle called La Niña, in which cooler ocean surface temperatures in the Pacific tend to cause warmer and drier than normal weather in the Central Plains.

According to Drought Monitor records, the last time Kansas experienced drought to this extent was in the summer and fall of 2006.

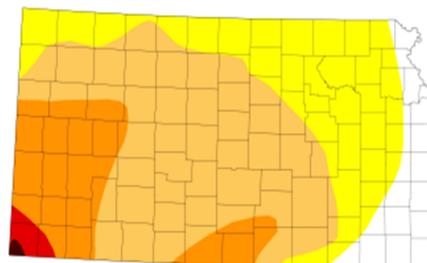
The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center outlook forecasts normal precipitation chances for Kansas next week (May 11 to 15).

According to the Climate Prediction Center's latest update, the La Niña system is weakening and ocean surface temperatures are expected to return to normal by June 2011.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Kansas

May 3, 2011  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	10.39	89.61	61.48	17.90	1.41	0.18
Last Week (04/26/2011 map)	10.39	89.61	45.51	17.92	1.42	0.00
3 Months Ago (02/01/2011 map)	17.50	82.50	43.85	3.48	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	17.82	82.18	43.85	3.48	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	83.23	16.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (04/27/2010 map)	88.26	11.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

## WRCP UPDATE

The *Water Right Conservation Program* was reintroduced this year in legislation; it has been tweaked just a little from last time. The most significant change to the program is that it is being reinstated with a fee based system to help cover the cost of enrollment through DWR. We will know more when it is written into law.