

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

September 2012

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

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DON'T FORGET

Multi-Year Flex Account
applications are due in
Topeka by October 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

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DISTRICT STAFF

Orrin Feril, Manager
Chris Sanders, Conservation Spec.
Jenny Newell, Office Manager

Phone: 620-234-5352
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www.gmd5.org

Multi-Year Flex Account Deadline is Soon!

Governor Brownback signed SB272, the revised water right Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) program, on March 5, 2012. This **5-year term permit** allows a water user to exceed their annual authorized quantity of water in any year of the 5-yr term while limited to a set allocation for the term permit. This is a voluntary program and may not be suitable for every water user. The absolute deadline for filing for this MYFA permit is **October 1**. Since the announcement of this program this spring, there has been a lot of activity and speculation about how the program works and the stipulations for enrollment. The District is determined, with the help of DWR, to give accurate and consistent information to water users. GMD staff has put together a flow chart (on back page) to help water users decide if the MYFA program fits their farming practices.

Important note for Drought Term Permits:

DWR recently issued this statement:

"Because of the prolonged drought, we are committed not to increase or decrease enforcement activity. To avoid a fine or suspension of water use in the event of a drought term being overpumped, the producer must cease pumping and enroll in a MYFA to continue pumping for the remainder of 2012. If the producer chooses not to enroll in a MYFA after overpumping has occurred, the fine will be \$500 and a suspension of the amount overpumped, which reduces the use in 2013. If producers have exceeded their authorized quantities in previous years, the fines and penalties could be significantly greater." -DWR FAQ

For more information or to ask questions, please call our office (620-234-5352) or DWR-Stafford Field Office (620-234-5311).

Rattlesnake Creek 12-year Review

The District, along with partners, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Water PACK, and the Division of Water Resources-KDA, are currently reviewing the Rattlesnake Creek Management Program as part of the 12-year review of the Partnership. This is the final review for the program. At this point in time, we are all reviewing the original goals and the various programs to determine the successfulness of each objective. Issues currently being discussed are 1) basinwide and priority area water use 2) conservation program objectives and water savings 3) strategies to fulfill the needs of the partners without sacrificing local economies.

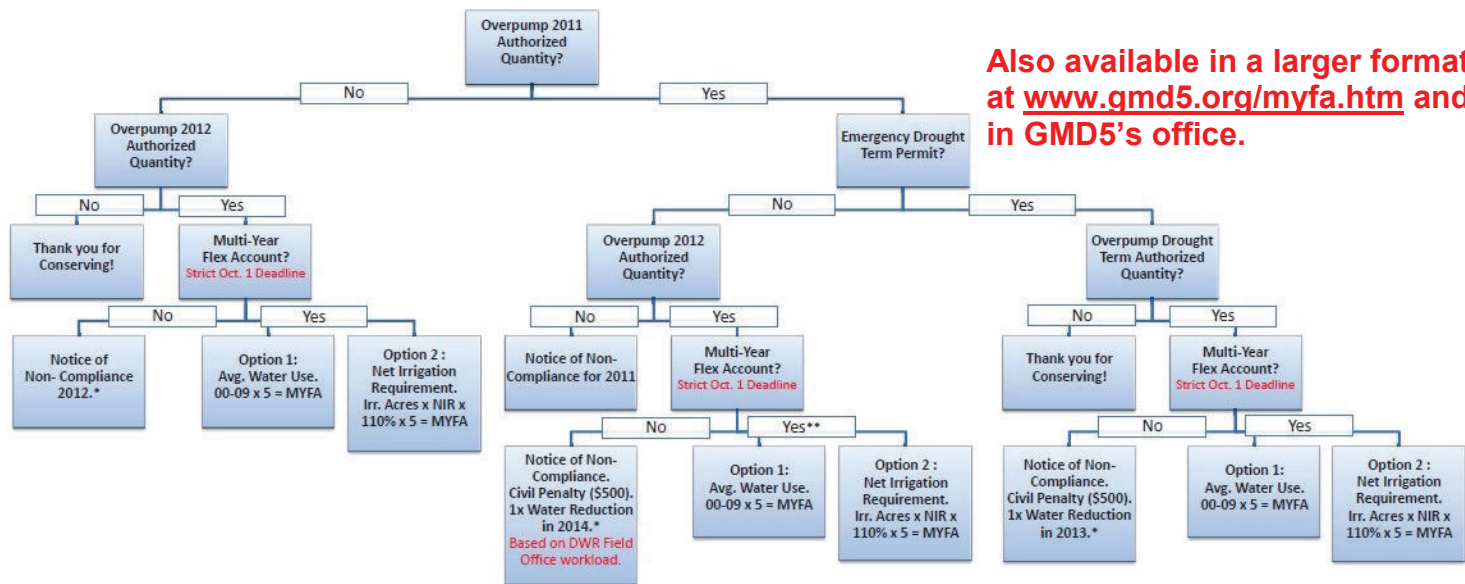
We are all confident that the groundwater model developed by Balleau Groundwater Inc. will help answer several of these questions and give us a better picture of what is happening in this subbasin. As more information is available, we will keep you informed.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

District Staff Changes

Chris Sanders, Conservation Specialist, joined the GMD5 staff on July 9th. Chris is a Missouri native and Kansas State University Graduate. At Kansas State, Chris obtained a Master’s degree in landscape architecture. The focus of his graduate work was water conservation and watershed management. His research group, in conjunction with bio-ag engineering students, conducted a watershed analysis of Wildcat Creek watershed in Riley County, Kansas. This was the largest use of the EPA’s WARSSS watershed analysis model to date. In addition to the watershed analysis Chris developed stormwater management strategies for the city of Manhattan, Kansas. These strategies explored various ways to reduce stormwater runoff, increase biodiversity, and conserve fresh water. Chris looks forward to the opportunity to pursue his professional career at GMD5 and hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the conservation issues faced by the District.

Orrin Feril has recently been named the manager for GMD5 after Wes Essmiller submitted his resignation at the August board meeting. Orrin has been with the District for 6 years and has been involved in many of the programs in the District. “I look forward to working closely with the area water users to utilize our valuable resources in ways that will be sustainable for future generations.”



Also available in a larger format at www.gmd5.org/myfa.htm and in GMD5's office.

* Based on clean over pumping record, otherwise see local DWR Field Office or GMD.
 **Based on DWR Field Office workload, Notice of Non-Compliance possible for 2011 over pumps.

Do we have your correct mailing address?
 For changes, please notify our office at 125 S. Main St., Stafford, Kansas 67578 or call 620-234-5352.