

# GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

May 2013

## Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

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### When is the last time you tested your water quality?

The Kansas Geological Survey recently published guidelines for Baseline Groundwater Quality Sampling (PIC 34). With the recent acceleration of horizontal drilling and hydrologic fracturing, water quality testing is recommended to establish baseline water quality for your well to establish pre-existing conditions of the groundwater. Contact the District for more information.

### 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

Darrell Wood, Edwards County (Pres.)  
Fred Grunder, Pratt County (V-Pres.)  
John Janssen, Kiowa County (Treas.)  
Curtis Tobias, Rice County (Sec.)  
Phillip Martin, Barton County  
Bob Standish, Pawnee County  
Justin Gatz, Reno County  
Kent Lamb, Stafford County  
Tom Taylor, Director at Large

### DISTRICT STAFF

Orrin Feril, Manager  
John Hildebrand, Conservation Spec.  
Jenny Newell, Office Manager

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[www.gmd5.org](http://www.gmd5.org)

## Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin

On April 8, the Chief Engineer for the Division of Water Resources (DWR) received a formal impairment claim for Water Right File No. 7571 by junior water users in the subbasin. The GMD5 board has met with the Chief Engineer and with the chief of water resources division for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) regarding the process going forward. There are many rumors regarding the subbasin's status and the upcoming impairment investigation. The Chief Engineer and staff have just started the investigation and at this point, any presumption to the outcome is premature. Based upon discussion with the parties involved, we all desire to find a resolution to the issues without litigation. The District is dedicated to this Partnership and to finding an economically stable and sustainable resolution to the issues in this subbasin.

## Central Kansas Water Bank Association

As of March 12, 2013, the Central Kansas Water Bank Association (Bank) is now a chartered not-for-profit organization with the State of Kansas. The Chief Engineer finalized the review and approval of the charter for use within its boundaries. The Bank allows water to be deposited from one location and leased to another within the same hydrologic unit. This process has been thoroughly revised and reworked to be more user friendly. In addition, the Bank also allows for a portion of unused water to be saved for use in future years. The Bank is a valuable tool for our area water users to conserve and use their water flexibly.

## Drought Concerns

Our area has seen a decent amount of precipitation in the recent months. In fact at the time of this mailing, we at the District office have a coating of ice on the ground. There has been speculation that this recent moisture is the beginning of the end of the drought that has gripped our region for the past two years. In the past three months our District has received 2.4 inches of precipitation on average. We are still a long way from our average precipitation total of 24 inches. While the recent precipitation is a nice relief, we cannot let ourselves become complacent and not be prepared for, what some climatologists predict, another dry summer.

## Overpumping Consequences

There has been an increased focus placed on the issue of overpumping the annual appropriation for your water right. The KDA has recently modified the matrix for overpumping your water right: 1<sup>st</sup> offense is a Notice of Non-Compliance (NONC) issued; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense yields a \$1000 fine and a reduction in the next year's appropriation equal to 2 times the amount overpumped; 3<sup>rd</sup> offense is a \$1000 per day fine and a 1-year suspension; 4<sup>th</sup> offense will result in the water right being revoked. Additionally, the NONC's must be recorded at the County Register of Deeds. Fortunately, there is an opportunity to have the NONC's removed from



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

(cont.)

the water right record. If the water use is maintained within the appropriation limits for 5 years following each violation, the NONC will be removed from the record. However if another NONC is issued within that 5-year period, the time to remove the NONC is 10-years. The period increases to 15 years if another NONC is received within the 10-year period. Contact the KDA or GMD5 for more information.

**District Staff Changes**

John Hildebrand, Conservation Specialist, joined the GMD5 staff on April 15th. John is originally from Stafford and a Kansas State University graduate. While at Kansas State, John earned Bachelor's degrees in Agricultural Technology Management and Agricultural Economics. John brings to GMD5 a lifelong interest in agriculture with first-hand experience in farm machinery and cropping practices. John is eager to utilize his agricultural background to serve GMD5 members.

**Hearing to be held on 2014 Budget:**

The public hearing to consider the 2014 budget for the District will be held July 11, 2013. 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 2014**

<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>		
SALARIES	\$	180,000
PAYROLL TAXES		15,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		20,000
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
BUILDING EXPENSES	\$	2,000
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		3,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES		4,000
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS		9,000
TRAVEL & CONFERENCES		12,000
UTILITIES		8,000
COMPUTER UPGRADES		6,000
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
INSURANCE	\$	11,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES		100,000
OTHER		1,100
WEATHER STATIONS		15,000
WATER MANAGEMENT		610,000
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS		1,800
BUSINESS DINNERS		1,100
POSTAGE		1,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

**Annual Meeting Recap**

The District's annual meeting was finally held on March 14th in St John. There were approximately 100 in attendance for discussion on the activities of the District and for the election of three board member positions. Here are the election results: Fred Grunder - Pratt County, Kent Lamb - Stafford County and Justin Gatz - Reno County. All were elected to three-year terms. At the April board meeting, the District board officers were appointed. Darrell Wood was re-elected as President. Fred Grunder was elected to Vice-President. John Janssen and Curtis Tobias were re-elected to Treasurer & Secretary respectively. The Board of Directors for Big Bend GMD5 serve to represent the interests of each county of the District.

**Do we have your correct mailing address?**  
 Let us know at 125 S. Main St., Stafford, Kansas 67578 or call 620-234-5352.