

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

November 2014

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

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UPCOMING DATES

GMD5 Board Meeting
November 20 at 7:00pm

NRCS EQIP Sign-up
November 21

District Office Closed
November 27

District Office Closed
December 25 - January 1

CKWBA Savings Account
December 31

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
Tom Taylor, Director at Large
Darrell Wood, Edwards County
John Janssen, Kiowa County
Bob Standish, Pawnee County
Fred Grunder, Pratt County
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Curtis Tobias, Rice County
Kent Lamb, Stafford County

DISTRICT STAFF

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

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www.gmd5.org

50-year Vision for the Future of Kansas Water

The Kansas Water Office and Department of Agriculture's Water Vision Team has released the Second Draft of the 50-year Vision for the Future of Kansas Water. We encourage every stakeholder to read this document thoroughly as it will serve as guidance for the State as policies and programs are developed that can have a significant impact in our region.

The draft can be found on Kansas Water Office's website at www.kwo.org/50_Year_Vision/50_Year_Vision.htm.

Central Kansas Water Bank Association

Do you have water remaining in your water appropriation following the irrigation season? If so, it may be possible to save a portion of the unused water for use in future years. The Central Kansas Water Bank Association (Bank) allows water users to create Savings Accounts that allow a water user to save that water for use in future years. The water that is placed in these accounts is non-transferrable however. If a water user opens the account prior to December 31, 2014, a portion of the unused water from 2014 may be preserved. This deadline is approaching quickly.

If you have questions about how any part of the Bank programs work, please contact the District office or consult the Bank's website at http://www.gmd5.org/Water_Bank/index.htm.

Meters ... Keep them in Compliance!

Regulations adopted by the District require accurate water flowmeters to be installed on every non-domestic well. It is the responsibility of the water right owner to maintain the water flowmeter in compliance whenever diversion of water occurs. If at any time the water flowmeter fails to function properly, the water right owner is to initiate action to repair or replace the meter within 30 days per K.A.R. 5-1-1 *et. seq.* Following the repair or replacement of the water flowmeter, a Water Flowmeter Repair/ Replacement Report must be filed with the Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR).

In some cases, water flowmeters are sealed to the measurement chamber with sash chain and a plastic padlock seal. This chain and seal are present to help preserve the integrity of the meter throughout the year. Tampering or removal of these seals will likely result in penalties levied against the water right owner. If a water user needs to repair or replace a water flowmeter that has been sealed, authorization must be obtained from the KDA-DWR prior to breaking the seal. Further information can be obtained at the District's meter page www.gmd5.org/meters.htm.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Online Water Use Reporting

Annual water use reporting is a requirement for every water right or permit to appropriate in the state. The state has been sending forms to the water use correspondents for several decades. These reports are required to be returned to the Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Water Resources (KDA–DWR) by March 1 every year. This information helps water right owners and state officials keep track of the most precious resource in the state. These reports will be sent to water use correspondents in the coming months.

There is a new tool that has been developed by KDA–DWR to allow water users to submit water use reports electronically. The process was successfully tested this past spring with irrigation and municipal water right owners. This coming spring, KDA–DWR will be opening this tool up to water right owners of all beneficial uses (industrial, recreation, stockwater, etc.). With this tool, water use correspondents can file their water use reports from the comfort of their home. The Stafford field office and the District office are available to answer any questions regarding water use reporting or to assist water right owners with the new reporting method.

District Proposes New Regulations

In June 2012, in the midst of one of the worst droughts in the recent history, KDA–DWR amended K.A.R. 5-9-3 to allow up to 4,000,000 gallons of water to be permitted at the discretion of the Chief Engineer under a temporary permit. The previous limit, set in December 1990 was 1,000,000 gallons. In April 2013, Governor Sam Brownback signed K.S.A. 82a-743 to provide a mechanism for limited transfers of up to 4,000,000 gallons of water from existing water rights. The District believes the hydrologic system in the region is very close to sustainable. As such, in June 2013, the District proposed a new regulation to implement this new statute in our area. The proposed regulation would require an offset of water from existing water rights within a 2-mile radius for any temporary permit requesting over 1,000,000 gallons up to 4,000,000 gallons of water. This regulation has been submitted to KDA–DWR for review.

Kansas Statute 82a-736 provides water users with a flexibility tool called the Multi-Year Flex Account. Included in this statute is an option for the local Groundwater Management District to promote their own calculation method for the allocation within these accounts. In October, the District proposed a new regulation to establish another method for water users within our District. The proposed regulation would allow the allocation for the 5-year account to be 450% of the water user's certified appropriation. This regulation has also been submitted to KDA–DWR for review.

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