

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

December 2016

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

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UPCOMING DATES

District Office Closed
December 25—January 1

District Board Meeting
January 19—10:00 am

Water Use Reports Due
March 1

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
Justin Gatz, Reno County
Curtis Tobias, Rice County
Kent Lamb, Stafford County

DISTRICT STAFF

Orrin Feril, Manager
John Hildebrand, Conservation Spec.
Regan Harris, Administrative Assistant

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Quivira NWR / Rattlesnake Creek Impairment

In July, the Chief Engineer for KDA–DWR filed the final report on the impairment investigation in the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin (<http://agriculture.ks.gov/quivira>). In that report, the Chief Engineer found that the USFWS’ water right is being impaired 3,000-5,000 acre-feet per year on a regular basis. Furthermore, the report states that “groundwater reductions and/or augmentation will be needed to increase available streamflow at the Refuge.” The District’s hydrologic model has been utilized to evaluate the effect of augmentation on the subbasin into the future. In September, the District submitted a conceptual augmentation proposal to USFWS for review. The USFWS declined this initial proposal, but did not close the door to further remedy discussions. KDA–DWR has stated that there will be no administrative actions in 2017. The Chief Engineer has met with the District board to work through several issues needed to come to a resolution that will be beneficial for all parties involved. There will be meetings in the near future to provide further details to area stakeholders. These meetings have not yet been scheduled.

Online Water Use Reporting

Each year, every water user is required to submit a report to the Chief Engineer indicating the total water usage for the previous year. These reports are mailed in the first week of the year directly from Manhattan to the owner or water use correspondent. The water use reports are due back to KDA-DWR offices by March 1. In the past couple years, KDA–DWR and groundwater management district offices have been promoting a new system to report water usage online. If you are interested in participating, contact the Stafford Field Office or our District office for assistance and details.

Central Kansas Water Bank Association

The Central Kansas Water Bank Association allows water users to create Savings Accounts that allow preservation of water for use in future years. Once an account is established, the water in the account accumulates upon submission of annual water use reports to the CKWBA. The amount of water that can be preserved in a savings account for use in future years is 25% of unused water annually. The water that is placed in these accounts is non-transferrable. The deadline to create a new account for 2016 was December 1. In 2016, nearly 400 new accounts were opened to bring the total to 1,311 active accounts.

The water bank has another program that allows water to be deposited from one location and leased to another within the same hydrologic unit through the Deposit program. This program uses the actual water use for the ten years between 1987 and 1996 as the maximum amount of water bankable for use at another location. The deposit program does have a term limitation of five years. Following the expiration of that term, the full water right is available to be used by the original water user or be re-deposited into CKWBA. The deadline for deposit in this program is April 1. If you have questions about how any part of CKWBA programs work, please contact the office or consult CKWBA’s website at www.ckwba.org. If you are a participant in the CKWBA, a copy of your water use report is due to the CKWBA office by March 1 annually.

Certificates of Incumbency

Certificates of Incumbency must be filed with the District office in order for a representative from a Corporation, LLC, Municipality, Estate, Trustee or a Tenant to vote at the annual meeting. These forms are available on our website at www.gmd5.org and must be notarized. Please feel free to stop by the office with any questions.

Director Elections

Candidates for this annual election include two incumbents; Darrell Wood—Edwards County and Phil Martin—Barton County. After several years of service, Curtis Tobias has decided he will not seek re-election this year so the Rice County position will be open for new representation. District board positions are three-year terms. Anyone interested in one of these positions should file using the petition below. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held on February 16, 2017 in St John at 7:00 pm. More details will be available in future newsletters.

NOMINATING PETITION

We, the undersigned three eligible voters within the Big Bend Groundwater Management District # 5 hereby nominate _____ as candidate for Board Position representing _____ County or District at Large.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Important terms and conditions of the elected position shall be:

- a. 3-year term running 3 consecutive annual meeting dates.
- b. representation shall be for all eligible voters within the county.

I understand the above stated conditions of the board position for which I am being nominated and I accept said nomination.

Candidate's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Petitions must be received in the District office no later than 1:00 PM on the day of the annual meeting in order to be placed on the ballot.

Verified Claims

Anyone wishing to verify to the District a lesser amount of water used in 2016 must do so by April 1, 2017. Assessments are based on the authorized water appropriation of a water right unless otherwise verified. The District will accept the following as verified claims: a) metered values, b) enrollment in CRP with an inactive status, or c) verified claims showing that the well has not been installed. Verified claims can be obtained on our web page or at the District office. Please contact our office if you have questions.