

ANNUAL MEETING
SCHEDULED

Thursday, Feb 21, 2019
7:00 pm

Stafford County Annex
310 W 3rd St
St. John, KS

Election of Directors
Agency Reports
Annual Report

UPCOMING
DATES

District Office Closed
December 25—January 1

District Board Meeting
January 10 at 10:00am

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
Kerry Froetschner, Pawnee County
Fred Grunder, Pratt County
Justin Gatz, Reno County
Jerry Cullop, Rice County
Kent Lamb, Stafford County

DISTRICT STAFF

Orrin Feril, Manager
John Hildebrand, Conservation Spec.
Michaela Kirmer, Admin. Assistant

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GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

December 2018

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

Rattlesnake Creek / Quivira NWR LEMA

At the December board meeting, the board of directors unanimously approved the Local Enhanced Management Area (“LEMA”) plan in the Rattlesnake Creek region be submitted to the Chief Engineer for review in preparation for public hearings. The Rattlesnake Creek / Quivira NWR LEMA has three primary goals: 1) to address the US Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) impairment complaint on Water Right File No. 7571; 2) to reduce water use in the LEMA area to a degree that will temper the growth of future streamflow losses; and 3) to restore the useful supply to diversion points of the Rattlesnake Creek region.

Since the Chief Engineer filed the final impairment report on the impairment investigation in 2016, the District has been working to provide a sustainable and reasonable remedy for all stakeholders in the region. This started with two augmentation proposals to the USFWS that were declined. In follow up, the District shifted focus to KDA–DWR to work on a remedy that is based on Kansas state water laws. Throughout 2017 and 2018, the District has been working to put together such a solution. Based on the most up-to-date science available to the District’s expert hydrogeologists, the Rattlesnake Creek / Quivira NWR LEMA plan is a remedy that provides a reliable water supply to Quivira NWR while maintaining the local economy. The LEMA plan includes end gun removal, irrigation technology enhancements, streamflow augmentation, and water bank incentives. The District has been working to get these tools in place, but due to issues outside the District’s control, these have been delayed up to this point. As such, it will not be possible to have this LEMA plan in place for 2019. As a result, the District has crafted the LEMA plan to be initiated on January 1, 2020.

To clarify the path forward, the Rattlesnake Creek / Quivira NWR LEMA plan has been submitted to the Chief Engineer for KDA–DWR for review in accordance with K.S.A. 82a-1041. This does not mean that the process is complete. Following the Chief Engineer’s review and acceptance, the Chief Engineer shall conduct a set of public hearings to review the LEMA plan in further detail. Public notification of these public hearings will be completed when appropriate.

The District encourages all interested parties to stay engaged throughout this process. The District will continue to update the website with new information at <https://gmd5.org/proposed-rsc-lemma>.

Important Water Use Report Changes

Starting with the 2018 water use report, KDA is imposing a **\$20 per water right filing fee** for all paper water use reports. This filing fee is required in order to submit the water use report using paper. Failure to submit the accompanying filing fee, the water use report will be considered incomplete until the filing fee is received by KDA–DWR. This new filing fee can be avoided if the water use report is filed online at www.kswaterusereport.org. The online reporting is user-friendly and the District has a tutorial on the website at <https://gmd5.org/online-reporting>. If you need assistance, contact the Stafford Field Office or our District office for details.

In addition to the Stafford field office and the District's office, KDA-DWR is setting up outreach locations to assist water users with filing the water use report online. These locations are as follows:

Pawnee County FSA Office
324 Main St, Larned KS 67550
January 23, 2019 (10:00 am—3:00 pm)

Kiowa County FSA Office
122 E Illinois Ave, Greensburg, KS 67054
January 24, 2019 (10:00 am—3:00 pm)

2019 Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on February 21, 2019 at the Stafford County Annex located at 310 W. 3rd in St. John (just east of the Courthouse). The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. There will also be an election of directors, a review of the 2018 financial statement, 2020 proposed budget and updates on the various projects and programs of the District. Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR) personnel will also be present to update those in attendance of their activities for the past year. The Central Kansas Water Bank Association will also have their annual meeting on the same evening.

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 2018 must do so by April 1, 2019. 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.

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