

**ANNUAL MEETING  
SCHEDULED**

*Thursday, Feb 17, 2022  
7:00 pm*

**Stafford County Annex  
210 E. Third Ave  
St John, KS**

**Election of Directors  
Agency Reports  
Annual Report**

**UPCOMING  
DATES**

District Board Meeting  
February 17

DWR Water Use Report  
March 1

CKWBA Water Use Report  
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
11	HUDSON	(620) 458-3021
12	TROUSDALE	(620) 995-3219

**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  
Craig Zwick, Rice County  
Marlyn Spare, Stafford County

**DISTRICT STAFF**

Orrin Feril, Manager  
John Hildebrand, Conservation Specialist  
Devan Cooper, Administrative Assistant

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<https://gmd5.org>

Twitter: @bigbendgmd5

Facebook: @bigbendgmd5

# GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

**January 2022**

## **Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5**

### **Watershed Plan—Environmental Assessment**

In 2020, Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 was awarded funding from NRCS to prepare a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Watershed Plan-EA) for Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Improvement. The District selected and entered into contract with Olsson of Overland Park, KS to conduct the Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS Watershed Program provides eligible local sponsors with cost share assistance to undertake a wide range of watershed-scale improvements, including projects to improve agricultural water supply and fish and wildlife habitat. NRCS requires the preparation of a Watershed Plan of the proposed improvement as the first step in the Watershed Act project development process. <https://gmd5.org/watershed-plan>

The Watershed Plan funded through this new grant will include the required federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, public engagement, and comment regarding the proposed project. Only after a Watershed Plan with its associated NEPA compliance and public process is completed and approved by NRCS may the project sponsor seek NRCS funding for design and construction of the project.

The District's request for Watershed Act assistance for the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan-EA is supported by key members of the Kansas Congressional delegation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Water Office.

For over twenty years, the District has partnered with local, state and federal stakeholders to harmonize the water supply needs of agricultural producers served by the District and those of the Refuge. The Refuge consists of 7,000 acres of wetlands providing critical habitat for over 300 species of birds on the Central Flyway. Agriculture is the prime economic driver in the region, which includes 4,578 farms producing \$1.89 billion in crop and livestock sales annually.

### **Walnut Creek IGUCA Review**

The Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Water Resources (KDA—DWR) has begun the formal review of the Walnut Creek IGUCA in Barton, Rush and Ness counties. Initially, KDA—DWR planned to have a draft report by December 31, 2021. The District has begun updating the District's hydrologic model to better represent the hydrologic conditions in and around the IGUCA area. As a result, KDA—DWR has delayed the initial draft report to allow the District to complete the hydrologic model update. Additional updates on this process can be found on KDA—DWR's website: <https://bit.ly/WalnutIGUCA>

### **Immediate Job Opening**

The District currently has an opening for another Conservation Specialist. A degree in agriculture is preferred but not required. Salary and full benefits are commensurate with experience. A competitive candidate must have strong project management skills, field and data management skills, ability to work independently as well as part of a team, and the ability to clearly communicate with other District staff and project partners. Additional information can be found on the District's website: <https://gmd5.org/employment>

## Annual Meeting Scheduled

This year's annual meeting will be held on February 17, 2022 at the Stafford County Annex located at 210 E Third Ave 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 (Stafford County, Pratt County, Reno County), a review of the 2021 financial statement, 2023 proposed budget and updates on the various projects and programs of the District. The Central Kansas Water Bank Association will be updating those in attendance of their activities for the past year as well.

### 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.

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 before 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 2021 must do so by April 1, 2022. Annual 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 claim forms can be obtained on our web page or at the District office. Please contact our office if you have questions.