

**ANNUAL MEETING  
SCHEDULED**

*Thursday, Feb 16, 2023  
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 16

KDA–DWR Water Use  
Report Deadline  
March 1

CKWBA Water Use  
Deadline 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  
Gary Hornbaker, 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 2023**

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

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

Approximately two years ago, the District received funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to complete a Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). An environmental assessment is a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for projects that receive federal funding. The general purpose of the Plan-EA is to study environmental impacts and options that may address the impairment of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) senior water right for Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). In August of 2021, the District hired Olsson to complete the Plan-EA. Since then, Olsson, in collaboration with the District, has completed a required initial public and agency meeting, completed ongoing cooperation with state and federal agencies, drafted 75 percent of the Plan-EA document, completed field work to inform a wellfield alternative, and coordinated directly with USFWS to address the impairment claim. Anyone wishing to provide additional comments is welcome to do so here: <https://gmd5.org/watershed-plan>

### **Water Use Reports Due**

The time has come to file your water use report for the 2022 water use year. Filing the annual water use report online ([www.kswaterusereport.org](http://www.kswaterusereport.org)) is quick, free, and user-friendly. To utilize the online system, reference the PIN and PERSON ID found on the water use report form mailed to you by KDA–DWR earlier this month. If you would like assistance with filing this report, drop by our office. All District staff are trained in using this system and we can assist you.

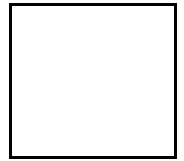
If you are a participant in the Central Kansas Water Bank Association, you are required to submit a copy of your completed water use report by the same deadline (March 1). The CKWBA does not receive a copy of your report automatically from KDA–DWR. <https://ckwba.org/water-use-reports>

### **Kansas Attorney General**

Recently, the Chief Counsel for Kansas Department of Agriculture requested an opinion from the Kansas Attorney General's (AG) office. Specifically, this request pertained to K.S.A. 82a-736 and the eligibility for water users applying for multiyear flex accounts. The AG concluded that water rights with a savings account contract are ineligible to apply for a multiyear flex account with KDA–DWR. The District voiced its concern to the AG prior to this opinion but had little effect. The District is in discussions with KDA–DWR to determine the impact of this AG opinion going forward. <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/ag-opinions>

### **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 16, 2023 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 (Barton County, Edwards County, Rice County), a review of the 2022 financial statement, 2024 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 2022 must do so by April 1, 2023. 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.