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UPCOMING DATES

WaterPACK Public Meeting
Stafford County Annex
June 6 @ 1:00 pm

District Board Meeting
June 13 @ 7:00 pm

Local Consult Meeting
Wichita
June 25 @ 9:00 am

FY2025 Budget Hearing
July 11 @ 8:00 pm

DISTRICT 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

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Tom Taylor, Director at Large
Darrell Wood, Edwards County
John Janssen, Kiowa County
Kerry Froetschner, Pawnee County
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Gary Hornbaker, Reno County
Craig Zwick, Rice County
Marlyn Spare, Stafford County

DISTRICT STAFF

Orrin Feril, District Manager
John Hildebrand, Conservation Specialist
Vanessa Marks, Conservation Specialist
Fay Reed, Administrative Assistant

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GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

June 2024

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

Rattlesnake Creek Working Group Public Meeting

Earlier this year, KDA-DWR convened several stakeholder groups to put together short term projects to provide “measurable progress” toward addressing the impairment at Quivira NWR. The Rattlesnake Creek working group includes: KDA-DWR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Governor's Office, NRCS-KS, Kansas' Congressional Delegation, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Corn, Central Kansas Water Bank Association, Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5, Audubon of Kansas, Kansas Water Users Association, WaterPACK, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, and The Nature Conservancy.

This group has met five times since January. In these meetings, the various groups have rehashed the same issues and concerns the region has been wrestling with for several decades. Currently, there are 2-3 pilot projects being drafted by the group, including streamflow augmentation, water bank deposit compensation, and a water conservation area. Details for these projects will be outlined in at a public meeting, hosted by WaterPACK, in St John on June 6. Meeting details can be found on the District's website: <https://gmd5.org/events>.

Kansas Water Plan Implementation Meeting

The Kansas Governor's office is seeking stakeholder input for the implementation of the State Water Plan, specifically regarding how state funds are expended to achieve meaningful change in the state's water resources. The state is looking to apply the same “long-range inclusive, nimble and well-financed approach to our water issues that the state has for transportation.” The Governor's leadership team met with the District's board of directors to outline this process and seek their input in the process. This meeting was very candid and productive on both sides. The goal of the process is to provide a plan to Kansas legislators to demonstrate both the funding needs and to provide transparency on the funded projects. Overall, the plan will focus on funding both water quality and quantity projects statewide. The leadership team is hosting a series of “Local Consult” meetings in late June across the state. The meeting focused on the needs for this region will be held in Wichita on June 25. RSVP is required for this meeting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WaterLC>.

Watershed Plan-EIS Update

As water users in this region are aware, the District and its consultant, Olsson, have been working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to complete a Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan Environmental Impact Statement (Plan-EIS). The draft Plan-EIS includes, but is not limited to an economic impact assessment coordinated with NRCS and Abt Associates Inc., a biological assessment coordinated with USFWS staff and a technical feasibility coordinated with USFWS, KGS, KDA-DWR and Balleau GW. The Plan-EIS will be a more durable and comprehensive document that, when completed, will provide additional advantages to the District and the region, in the coming phases of the proposed project.

Currently, the draft Plan-EIS is being evaluated by the National Water Management Center of the USDA-NRCS. Following this evaluation and corresponding appropriate revisions to the draft, the Plan-EIS will proceed to administrative review by NRCS staff in Washington D.C. Following this evaluation and respective revisions, the draft

Plan-EIS will be made available for thorough public and interagency review and comment. In this portion of the process, Olsson, NRCS-KS, and the District will hold a public meeting to layout the plan objectives, evaluations, and collect input from the public. When the draft Plan-EIS is ready for public review, it will be posted to <https://gmd5.org/watershed-plan>.

MDS Administration

The District has been made aware of plans by KDA–DWR to administer up to twelve groundwater rights along Rattlesnake Creek in calendar year 2025 in accordance with K.S.A. 82a-703b and K.S.A. 82a-703c. These landowners recently received notification of this intention to allow time to make preparations for next calendar year. It is the understanding of the District this action is one piece of the measurable progress KDA–DWR is implementing for the Rattlesnake Creek working group project. Additional details on this administration and process can be found at <https://www.agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/water-appropriation/minimum-desirable-streamflow>.

Water Quality

The District is in the process of collecting additional water quality data from across the region to better understand the condition of the local aquifer. This is where **you** can help. We encourage all water users, public and private, to collect samples. Stop by the District office for sample bottles to collect your own water samples. Additionally, the District is offering free chloride and/or nitrate analysis in our District laboratory. If you are interested in a more comprehensive water analysis, you can contact our office for a list of KDHE -certified labs in the area. If you choose to have your water samples tested at a certified lab, or have done so in the past, we request that the sample results be made available to our office. The District will collect and use the sample data to help determine a path forward to address water quality concerns in this region.

Budget Hearing

You are hereby notified that on the 11th day of July 2024, at 8:00 p.m., in the conference room of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5, 125 S Main, Stafford, Stafford County, Kansas, a public hearing will be held, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1030(b), for the purpose of submitting the proposed 2025 fiscal budget to the eligible voters of the District. Following the hearing, the District Board of Directors shall, by resolution, adopt either the proposed budget or a modified budget and determine the amount of land and water assessment rate needed to support the adopted 2025 fiscal budget. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Proposed Budget for 2025	
PERSONNEL SERVICES	
SALARIES	\$ 280,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	56,000
PAYROLL TAXES	28,000
ADMINISTRATION	
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS	\$ 20,000
TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	18,000
UTILITIES	15,000
FIELD EQUIPMENT	10,000
BUILDING EXPENSES	10,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES	5,000
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	5,000
OTHER EXPENSES	
WATER MANAGEMENT	\$ 1,000,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES	500,000
WEATHER STATION EXPENSE	19,000
INSURANCE	16,000
POSTAGE	2,000
OTHER	2,000
BUSINESS DINNERS	1,500
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	750
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 1,988,250

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