

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### Public Meetings

HB 2302 Grant Opportunity

### Irrigation Technology Initiative

Water Quality Testing

### A Lasting Legacy

## UPCOMING DATES

Office Closed  
September 1

District Board Meeting  
September 10 @ 7:00 pm

Public Meetings  
October 20—9am—Pratt  
October 20—1pm—Greensburg  
October 21—9am—Larned  
October 21—1pm—Great Bend  
October 22—9am—Kinsley  
October 22—1pm—St John

### 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

Joe Schlessiger, 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, District Manager  
John Hildebrand, Conservation Specialist  
Vanessa Marks, Conservation Specialist  
Fay Reed, Administrative Assistant

Phone: 620-234-5352

Fax: 620-234-5718

<https://gmd5.org>

Twitter: @bigbendgmd5

Facebook: @bigbendgmd5

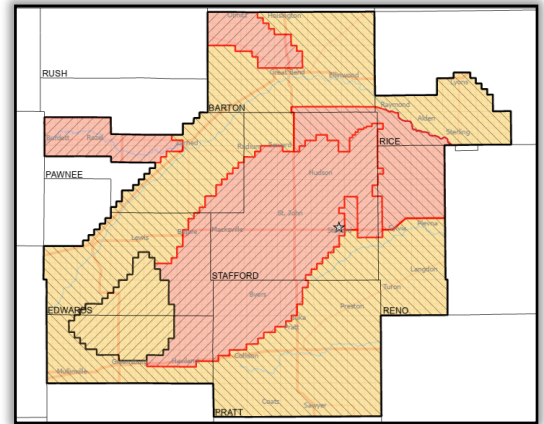
# GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

September 2025

## Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

### Public Meetings Scheduled

K.S.A. 82a-1044 outlines a process for each Groundwater Management District to identify and set reasonable boundaries for areas of concern within each of their respective boundaries. These areas can represent areas with water quantity concerns and/or concerns about water quality. In 2024, the District identified the areas of concern (red) and supplemental areas under consideration (yellow) throughout the District. Detailed maps and area descriptions are available on the District's website (<https://gmd5.org/annual-report>). The District is required to submit an action plan on or before July 2026 to the Chief Engineer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Water Resources.



In the month of October, the District will be holding several meetings throughout the District to gather input and feedback the development of the action plans for each of the areas of concern within the District. YOUR input is critical for this to be successful. Dates/times/locations are listed on the left with more locations being scheduled. Check our calendar for updates. (<https://gmd5.org/events>)

### HB 2302 Grant Opportunity

Recently, the Kansas Water Office announced the opening of its two grant programs - the Technical Assistance Fund Grants and Water Projects Fund Grants. The grant programs provide funding for up-front technical assistance and on-the-ground actions needed to address water quantity and quality issues around the state.

The Technical Assistance Fund Grants seek to provide funding for planning, engineering, managing and other technical assistance that may be necessary in the development of plans for water infrastructure projects, and processing grant and loan applications for such water infrastructure projects.

The Water Projects Fund Grants provide funding for construction, repair, maintenance or replacement of water-related infrastructures and any related construction costs, matching moneys for grant or loan applications for water-related infrastructure projects, and application of the funds to outstanding loan balances from certain funds.

Eligible applicants include municipalities and special districts related to water organized under the Laws of Kansas. The applications are open through September 30, 2025. (<https://www.kwo.ks.gov/news-events/grant-programs>)

### Irrigation Technology Initiative

The District still has funds available through the Irrigation Technology Initiative (ITI), which includes two parts: system evaluation and cost share.

1. System Evaluation – Funding is available to complete evaluations that help

producers better understand their irrigation system's efficiency. These evaluations identify issues that may be reducing performance. To get started, simply scan the QR code and complete the onboarding steps. Once submitted, eligible water users may receive compensation.

2. Cost Share – Based on the results of the evaluation, irrigators can apply for cost share to make recommended improvements. The program provides up to \$3,500 per system and up to \$7,000 per entity, ensuring more producers can benefit.

The ITI is open to any irrigator within District boundaries and is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding is made possible in part by the State of Kansas Water Plan Fund and is limited, so don't wait to apply. If interested, check: <https://gmd5.org/irrigation-technology>.



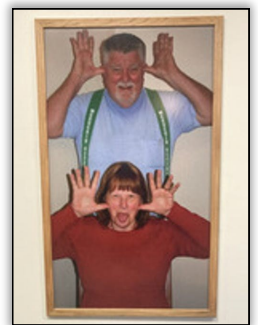
## **Water Quality Testing**

The District has been monitoring water quality for decades, historically focusing on chloride concentrations in the eastern half of the District. Over the past year, we have expanded the scope of this effort. Our water quality lab has been upgraded to provide high-accuracy analysis of both chloride and nitrate concentrations (note: the lab is not KDHE-certified). We encourage all interested water users to participate by having their wells sampled and analyzed. The District will provide bottles, instructions, and analysis at no cost. Results will be sent directly to you, with a copy retained in our office for reference.

Over time, this information is being compiled into a regional water quality database to identify areas of concern. If you already have water quality results in your records, we encourage you to share them with the District. The additional data will help complete our database quickly and ensure broader coverage across the region. Further information regarding water quality can be found: <https://gmd5.org/water-quality%2Flevels>.

## **A Lasting Legacy**

Elected to the District's Board of Directors in 1994, John Janssen dedicated his service to central Kansas with an honest, common-sense approach to water conservation and management. He played a key role in establishing several District programs, most notably the Central Kansas Water Bank Association. John's lasting contributions to water management in this region will not be forgotten. John passed away at his home in Greensburg on August 17, 2025. Our thoughts and prayers are with John's family and friends. John will be deeply missed and forever remembered.



***“Water is the driving force of all nature.” - Leonardo Da Vinci***

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