

IN THIS ISSUE:

*District Action Plan
Development*

Weather Stations

*Budget Hearings
Scheduled*

*Water Flowmeter
Maintenance*


Newsletter Update

UPCOMING DATES

District Board Meeting
June 25 @ 7:00 pm

District Board Meeting
July 09 @ 7:00 pm

Budget Hearing
July 09 @ 8:00 pm



**Check Current
Weather Conditions Online**

Temperature Rainfall Wind Speed

**(620) 234-5048
Weather.GMD5.org**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Schlessiger, Barton County
Kent Moore, Director at Large
Darrell Wood, Edwards County
Tom Taylor, 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

June 2026

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

District Action Plan Development

The Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 is advancing its District Action Plan to proactively address critical water resource challenges in the region, as required by Kansas law (K.S.A. 82a-1044).

The Board of Directors has identified several Priority Areas of Concern, including:

- o Pawnee Valley IGUCA
- o Walnut Creek IGUCA
- o Rattlesnake Creek region
- o Estimated usable aquifer lifetime
- o Mineral Intrusion zone

These areas highlight long-term issues such as declining water levels, reduced streamflow, and water quality concerns. The District is also evaluating supplemental areas for potential future action, including portions of Edwards and Kiowa counties and district-wide nitrate monitoring.

The District is currently revising its draft Action Plan and is actively seeking stakeholder feedback. Although public outreach meetings have concluded, the draft document remains available for review on the District's website: <https://gmd5.org/district-action-plan>.

All water users and interested parties are encouraged to submit comments through the online survey. Your input will help shape practical, balanced solutions that support both agricultural sustainability and environmental health in Central Kansas.

The Board will consider final revisions to the draft Action Plan at its next meeting on June 25 at 7:00 p.m. You may provide comments at the meeting or submit them in advance using the QR code.

Your voice matters in shaping the future of water management in our region.



Weather Stations

The Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 has operated a network of weather stations across the District for several decades. These stations provide essential real-time data, including precipitation, wind speed and direction, grass-reference evapotranspiration (ET), and other key weather parameters. Producers rely on this information daily for irrigation scheduling, crop spraying decisions, and general farm management.

To ensure reliable and continued access, the District has upgraded its communications hardware and launched a new online weather portal. The portal automatically updates every 20 minutes and is available at: <https://weather.gmd5.org>.

Users can also call the weather stations weather station hotline: **(620) 234-5048** to access information from any station in the network.

In addition to current conditions, the portal provides access to complete historical data from every station. If you need assistance accessing the data or have any questions, please contact our office.

Budget Hearings Scheduled

You are hereby notified that on the 9th day of July 2026, 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, public hearings will be held, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1030(b), for the purpose of submitting the revised 2026 fiscal budget and proposed 2027 fiscal budget to the eligible voters of the District. Following the hearings, the District Board of Directors shall, by resolution, adopt either the proposed budgets or modified budgets and determine the amount of land and water assessment rate needed to support the adopted 2026 fiscal budget and adopted 2027 fiscal budget. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

REVISED 2026 BUDGET	
EXPENDITURES	
PERSONNEL SERVICES	
SALARIES	\$ 310,000.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 62,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 31,000.00
ADMINISTRATION	
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS	\$ 15,000.00
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	\$ 20,000.00
UTILITIES	\$ 15,000.00
FIELD EQUIPMENT	\$ 10,000.00
BUILDING EXPENSE	\$ 15,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 5,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 10,000.00
OTHER EXPENSES	
WATER MANAGEMENT	\$ 1,000,000.00
WATERSHED PLAN	\$ 4,200,000.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$ 500,000.00
CONSERVATION PROGRAMS	\$ 400,000.00
WEATHER STATION EXPENSE	\$ 22,000.00
INSURANCE	\$ 20,000.00
POSTAGE	\$ 4,000.00
OTHER	\$ 2,000.00
BUSINESS DINNERS	\$ 2,000.00
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	\$ 750.00
TOTAL BUDGET \$ 6,643,750.00	

PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET	
EXPENDITURES	
PERSONNEL SERVICES	
SALARIES	\$ 400,000.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 80,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 40,000.00
ADMINISTRATION	
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	\$ 20,000.00
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS	\$ 15,000.00
UTILITIES	\$ 15,000.00
FIELD EQUIPMENT	\$ 15,000.00
BUILDING EXPENSE	\$ 15,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 10,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 5,000.00
OTHER EXPENSES	
WATERSHED PLAN	\$ 4,200,000.00
WATER MANAGEMENT	\$ 1,000,000.00
CONSERVATION PROGRAMS	\$ 700,000.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$ 500,000.00
INSURANCE	\$ 23,000.00
WEATHER STATION EXPENSE	\$ 22,000.00
POSTAGE	\$ 6,000.00
OTHER	\$ 2,000.00
BUSINESS DINNERS	\$ 2,000.00
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	\$ 750.00
TOTAL BUDGET \$ 7,070,750.00	

Water Flowmeter Maintenance

The Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 encourages all water users to maintain thorough and accurate water flowmeter records throughout the year. Proper maintenance and documentation should be an ongoing practice, not just a task completed at the end of the calendar year. If a flowmeter is malfunctioning, timely repairs are essential to ensure accurate reporting.

To help water users, the District provides several programs and tools to assist with tracking water usage and verifying flowmeter accuracy. These resources, along with best management practices and guidance, are available on our dedicated page: <https://gmd5.org/flowmeter-requirements>. One of the newest tools is the *Flowmeter Calculator*, which provides up-to-date feedback on water usage throughout the irrigation season.

Newsletter Update

The District is committed to providing open and transparent information to all water users in the region. As water policies and programs continue to evolve, we are actively enhancing our website with additional resources and tools to better serve you.

However, due to rising postage costs, we will soon be transitioning to a new online format. During this transition period, we will continue sending the newsletter in its current paper format to ensure you receive uninterrupted updates and summaries of District activities and current events. We will begin compiling our digital mailing list soon. If you would like to be included in that list, contact our office at gmd5@gmd5.org.

Do we have your correct mailing address?

Let us know at 125 S. Main St., Stafford, Kansas 67578 or call 620-234-5352.