

MINUTES – MAY 15, 2015  
BIG BEND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT #5  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The monthly board meeting of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5 was held at the District office in Stafford on Thursday May 15, 2015. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Curtis Tobias, Tom Taylor, Kent Lamb, Phillip Martin, Justin Gatz, and Bob Standish. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Jane Wenstrom, Cameron Conant, Galen Deutsch, Allen Deutsch, Mike Oldham and Ray Flickner.

The May regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Four items were added to the agenda by Manager Feril. The item added were 5a) Review of the proposed 2016 budget; 5b) May 2015 KWA sponsorship; 5c) 2015 Governor's Conference sponsorship; and 12a) Executive Session for Attorney-Client privileged information.

Phil Martin moved and Bob Standish seconded to accept the April minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Tom Taylor arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Bob Standish moved and Justin Gatz seconded to accept the May treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 8-0-1.

An application to change the place of use for Water Right File No. 6856 was presented to the board for review. Manager Feril gave an overview and allowed the applicant, Galen Deutsch, to provide additional details regarding the requested change. The change is in line with all applicable rules and regulations, but does require a Place of Use Monitoring agreement with the District in order to be approved. Following extensive discussion regarding the applicant's current and future plans for the acres, Justin Gatz moved and Phil Martin seconded to recommend approval of the application as presented provided the applicant enter into a monitoring agreement with the District. Motion carried 8-0-1.

An application to change the place of use for Water Right File No. 28361 was presented to the board for review. Manager Feril gave an overview of the application. The change is in line with all applicable rules and regulations, but does require a Place of Use Monitoring agreement with the District in order to be approved. Following discussion, Justin Gatz moved and Curtis Tobias seconded to recommend approval of the application as presented provided the applicant enter into a monitoring agreement with the District. Motion carried 8-0-1.

Manager Feril requested further review of the proposed 2016 budget as presented to the public at the annual meeting. The recent changes by the board regarding the health benefits for District staff have eliminated the need for the proposed budget changes. The current adopted budget for 2015, the proposed 2016 budget and the revised 2016 budget were presented to the board and public present for review. Following discussion, Tom Taylor moved and Justin Gatz seconded to publish the revised 2016 budget and present it at the budget hearing in July. Following discussion, the motion carried 8-0-1.

EXPENDITURES		
PERSONNEL SERVICES		
SALARIES	\$	180,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		23,000
PAYROLL TAXES		15,000
ADMINISTRATION		
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	\$	12,000
UTILITIES		8,000
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS		6,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES		4,500
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		4,000
BUILDING EXPENSE		4,000
FIELD EQUIPMENT		3,000
OTHER EXPENSES		
WATER MANAGEMENT	\$	610,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES		100,000
WEATHER STATION EXPENSE		15,000
INSURANCE		11,000
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS		1,500
BUSINESS DINNERS		1,000
OTHER		1,000
POSTAGE		1,000
TOTAL BUDGET		\$ 1,000,000

The District has been approached by the Kansas Water Office to help sponsor the social event in the evening of the Kansas Water Authority meeting in Greensburg. Manager Feril provided details of the projected costs for this event. Fred Grunder moved and Bob Standish seconded to not provide sponsorship for this event. Motion carried 8-0-1.

In addition, the District has been approached to be a sponsor for the upcoming Governor's Water Conference in Manhattan in November. The District has been a sponsor in conjunction with the other four Districts for the past two years. Following a discussion on the benefits and purpose of this sponsorship, Curtis Tobias moved and John Janssen seconded to continue sponsorship this year. Motion failed 2-4-3.

Manager Feril gave a brief update to the Board regarding the legislative activity in Topeka. The legislature is wrapping up their work this session. Many of the water bills have been combined with other bills and have passed out of the legislature to the Governor for signature. No action was taken by the board.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. District staff has been performing many ultrasonic meter tests recently with mixed results for compliance to the applicable rules and regulations. As a result, this has generated more work for staff to ensure that these meters are brought back into compliance. Office staff is preparing to work on the annual assessments for the District. Upcoming holidays and vacation leave for the manager was also mentioned.

Cameron Conant, representing KDA-DWR, stated there was no additional report from the agency this month.

Mike Oldham, representing USFWS, gave an update on the conditions at Quivira NWR. With the recent rainfall events, all of the management areas are full. Mr. Oldham stated, "The birds are happy." The USFWS has been working with KDA-DWR staff to provide additional details regarding their monthly water use requirements for management of the refuge.

Ray Flickner provided a report on the activities of the Kansas Water Authority. The KWA will meet next week in Greensburg to review the goals the Regional Leadership teams have compiled.

Jane Wenstrom stated that Water Pack did not have a report this month.

Cameron Conant, Jane Wenstrom, Galen Deutsch, Allen Deutsch and Mike Oldham excused themselves from the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

John Janssen moved and Bob Standish seconded to go into executive session at 8:15 p.m. for 15 minutes for the purpose of consultation with an attorney for the body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. Executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the parties involved. Motion carried 8-0-1. The board came out of executive session at 8:30 p.m.

John Janssen moved and Bob Standish seconded to approve the letter in response to recent correspondence from Mr. Traster as presented. Motion carried 8-0-1.

Kent Lamb moved and John Janssen seconded to request information regarding base flow vs. runoff during the perfection period for Cheyenne Bottoms' water right with a monetary cap of \$4000. Motion carried 8-0-1.

It is the consensus of the board that due to the scheduling conflict with the GMDA conference and the likely conflict with wheat harvest, the June meeting will be cancelled and any business of the board be handled in the July meeting.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 8:41 p.m.