

MINUTES – AUGUST 13, 2020
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, August 13, 2020. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Kerry Froetschner, Craig Zwick, Justin Gatz (Zoom), Tom Taylor, and Marlyn Spare. Phil Martin was not present. District staffs present were Orrin Feril, Devan Cooper, and John Hildebrand (Zoom). Guests present were David Stroberg, Matthew Hough. Additional guests present via Zoom conferencing were Kent Moore, Greg Graff, Abe Loller, Jeff Lanterman, Jeff Crispin, and Micah Schwalb.

The August regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Darrell Wood and introductions were conducted to assist with maintaining a record of those in attendance.

John Janssen moved, and Fred Grunder seconded to approve the July minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Craig Zwick moved, and John Janssen seconded to approve the Special July minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Tom Taylor moved, and John Janssen seconded to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 7-0-1.

Recently, the District has received an application for new appropriation (App# 50388) in Barton county. The applicant (Wetlands America Trust) is requesting to divert surface water for habitat restoration on highly erodible croplands that frequently adds extra sediment into Cheyenne Bottoms. The estimation of 90 acre-feet is based on the need to fill the wetlands to a capacity as designed by USDA-NRCS through the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program. Matthew Hough (Ducks Unlimited), provided additional background and answered several questions from the board. Following the discussion, Tom Taylor moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to recommend a waiver of K.A.R. 5-25-4 on the condition that the proposed wetlands are not increased beyond the proposed wetland capacities & the applicant's enrollment in the USDA-NRCS WRE program and to recommend approval of this application as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few months and upcoming months. Devan has completed the assessment process and the certified amounts assessed to each parcel have been sent to each county within the District. Since the special board meeting in July, the District and the USFWS have signed the agreement memorandum and it is posted to the District's website. The District has been working with NRCS-KS to finalize a Watershed Act proposal for funding the design and implementation of the augmentation project. The hydrologic profiling work being conducted in connection with the augmentation project has been delayed due to COVID-19. Meanwhile, the District has been talking to area landowners to obtain easements for land access. Following discussion, John Janssen moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to offer up to \$1,000 per site for access to conduct the hydrologic profiling work. Motion carried 7-0-1.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR Stafford field office, provided an update on the activities in their office. Its anticipated that the state offices will continue to work from home for the foreseeable future.

David Stroberg, KWA representative, stated that the KWA held their last meeting via web conferencing on July 30. The majority of the discussion in the meeting focused on water issues in eastern Kansas. The next web conference will be held on August 24.

Kent Moore, WaterPACK, expressed concerns with recent conversations with the District regarding the ACRES Initiative. Kent provided an update on this initiative's status. Currently, WaterPACK is identifying individuals to serve on the board of directors to guide the decisions of the group. Following this discussion, Marlyn Spare moved, and John Janssen seconded to have Tom Taylor serve as a board member for the ACRES Initiative. Motion carried 7-0-1.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for September 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Attest by:   Dated 9-10-2020