

MINUTES – JUNE 10, 2021
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, Kansas on Thursday, June 10, 2021. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Fred Grunder, Phil Martin, Kerry Froetschner, and Justin Gatz (Zoom). Board members Craig Zwick and Tom Taylor were absent. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Devan Cooper. Guest present was David Stroberg. Guests present via Zoom video conferencing were Walter Malone, Rus Copine, Mike Oldham, Keadron Pearson, and Connie Owen.

The June regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Darrell Wood.

John Janssen moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the May minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Phil Martin joined the meeting.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the June treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Marlyn Spare moved, and John Janssen seconded to accept the June treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 6-0-1.


The District recently received an application for Water Right file number 50472 for recreation use in Reno county. The applicant is requesting a surface water right to account for the water that is impounded behind the dam annually. The total surface area of the impoundment is approximately 19.7 acres which equates to 20.10 AF of water storage plus 49.25 AF of evaporation annually. A total of 69.35 AF is requested for the water right permit. The dam does not require a water structures permit as it was in place prior to 1929. This water body shows up on plat maps dating back to 1902. The District is closed to new surface and groundwater appropriations per K.A.R. 5-25-4(a). Fred Grunder moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to recommend a waiver of K.A.R. 5-25-4(a) to recommend approval of the application as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The CKWBA annual statements were sent to participants recently. The next step in the Watershed planning is to get a Request for Qualification ("RFQ") sent to contractors. This RFQ document is being reviewed by NRCS-KS currently. The CKWBA has 456 AF available for lease in the Arkansas River subbasin. Sealed bids can be submitted to the CKWBA office by end of business June 15.

Dave Stroberg, KWA, provided an overview of the recent KWA meeting. The majority of the discussion in the KWA meeting focused on the water marketing program in Eastern Kansas. Keadron Pearson, Great Bend Prairie RAC, stated that the RAC will be holding their next meeting toward the end of July and will focus on budget recommendations for the KWA. Keadron Pearson and Connie Owen, KWO, provided a state water plan update.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for July 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. the District office with the FY2022 budget hearing beginning at 8:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 7-8-2021