

MINUTES – OCTOBER 10, 2024  
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 October 10, 2024. The board members present were Tom Taylor, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Gary Hornbaker, Darrell Wood, Joe Schlessiger, and Craig Zwick. Board members Fred Grunder and Kerry Froetschner were not present. The District staff present was Orrin Feril. The guest present was Pat Janssen. Guests present via Zoom were Jeff Lanterman, Jeff Crispin, and Chris Smith.

The October regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tom Taylor.

Darrell Wood moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to approve the August and September minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the October treasurer's report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Craig Zwick moved, and Gary Hornbaker seconded to accept the October treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

The District has been seeking proposals for leasing two parcels owned by the District for agricultural purposes (RFP 202409001). The District received two bids and the bidders' identities were kept anonymous during board discussion. Following discussion, Marlyn Spare moved, and Joe Schlessiger seconded to accept the bid from Bidder 1 for parcel RSC01 at \$71/ac for a total of \$4,669.67. Motion carried 7-0. Craig Zwick moved, and Marlyn Spare seconded to re-open the request for proposal period for the remaining parcel (RSC03) in conjunction with the remaining time left on RFP 202409002 for hunting purposes. Motion carried 7-0.

For the past few years, the District has had an agreement with the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA) for legislative monitoring and lobbyist services through the legislative session. The District has the option to enter into another agreement with KARA for the same services for the 2025 legislative session. The board was presented a copy of this agreement for consideration. Darrell Wood moved, and Gary Hornbaker seconded to enter into the agreement with KARA for lobbyist services for legislative session 2025 for \$23,500. Motion carried 7-0.

The Kansas interagency team has been holding their second round of consult meetings across the state to present updated information on the Strategic Implementation of the Kansas Water Plan. Additionally, the team has opened up the on-demand webinar that individuals can participate when it is convenient for them. The board discussed the concepts and approaches the interagency team are using for this process. In an effort to provide meaningful comments on the process to aid in crafting the next round of state water policy, specifically with regard to how those programs may be funded, the board considered a draft comment letter. Consensus of the board was to allow the manager to have discretion with the final wording and consult with the board president prior to submission before the deadline.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The Governor's Water Conference is approaching quickly, and the board was encouraged to attend. Recently, the District received a complaint on Rattlesnake Creek that the streamflow dramatically dropped with no reasonable explanation. District staff did a regional assessment from aerial imagery and discovered several large ponds that have been developed along Rattlesnake Creek. Following this assessment, field investigations were conducted to determine if the ponds were natural depressions

filling with runoff water or something else. Based on the investigation reports, most of these ponds (>5 acres in size) were being supplied by stock watering wells. Further consultation with KDA-DWR staff regarding permitting requirements and domestic stock watering thresholds indicated that these ponds were not authorized. The District contacted each landowner/tenant to inform them of the issue. Furthermore, KDA-DWR issued cease and desist orders to these landowners. The board had a discussion regarding these thresholds and how these matters are handled. Pat Janssen requested to have a brief discussion about how some change applications for water right file number 30812 have been handled by KDA-DWR.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR, provided an update on KDA's pilot augmentation project on Rattlesnake Creek, noting elevated chloride concentrations initially. KDA-DWR is pursuing alternative locations for the project currently.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for November 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the District office.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Attest by: Marlyn E. Janssen Dated: 11-21-24