

MINUTES – JANUARY 09, 2025
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 January 09, 2025. The board members present were Tom Taylor, John Janssen, Marlyn Spare, Darrell Wood, Gary Hornbaker, Kerry Froetschner, Joe Schlessiger, and Craig Zwick. The board member Fred Grunder was not present. The District staffs present were Orrin Feril and Vanessa Marks. The guests present via Zoom were Jason Norquest, Jeff Crispin, Jeff Lanterman, Chris Smith, and Toby Dougherty.

The January regular board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Tom Taylor.

John Janssen moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the December minutes as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

Orrin Feril provided the board and public with the January treasurer’s report and highlighted the unique items for further board review. Craig Zwick moved, and John Janssen seconded to accept the January treasurer’s report as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

Throughout the month of December, the District sent out a request for proposals to farm lands owned by the District. The District received several bids, and an anonymized summary was presented to the board for consideration. Following a review, Joe Schlessiger moved, and John Janssen seconded to accept the bid from Bidder 1 for parcels RSC02, RSC04, RSC05, and RSC06 and Bidder 5 for parcel RSC03. Motion carried 8-0.

In accordance with K.S.A. 82a-1043, the District staff has completed the annual report for review by the board. Following discussion and review by the board, Craig Zwick moved, and Kerry Froetschner seconded to approve the 2024 annual report and authorizing the manager to make any pertinent grammatical revisions prior to submission to the legislature. Motion carried 8-0.

Orrin Feril presented an initial draft budget for FY2026 for board input. This draft budget will be presented at the February board meeting for further board input in preparation for public input at the annual meeting. The proposed FY2026 budget will be presented at the budget hearing that is held in July.

The annual meeting is coming up and the speakers are being lined up for the meeting. The annual meeting will be held on February 20 in St John at the Stafford County Annex building. The board discussed the location for the District board meeting prior to the annual meeting. The incumbent board members were confirmed for the ballot at the annual meeting.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The board was reminded to get their water use reports submitted to KDA–DWR as soon as possible and to submit a copy of those reports to the CKWBA. District staff have been completing the annual water level measurements and will be compiling the annual maps for presentation at the annual meeting. The board was provided with a brief update on the Watershed Plan-EIS. The management program was sent back to the District with suggested revisions. Balleau GW and legal counsel were brought in to provide insight into these suggested revisions.

Jeff Lanterman, KDA–DWR, provided an update on KDA’s pilot augmentation project on Rattlesnake Creek, noting the direct response seen at the Zenith gage following initiation of the

project. Questions were addressed by Jeff Lanterman regarding the monitoring of water quality in the project. A brief discussion was had between the board and Jeff Lanterman regarding the status of the offset application process. Vanessa Marks, CKWBA, provided an update on the CAMP project. At this point, the MOA between CKWBA, KDA and Kansas Corn has been signed by CKWBA. The CAMP contracts are updated and need review at a forthcoming board meeting.

In other business, Craig Zwick moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to hold the next board meeting at the Stafford County Annex building prior to the annual meeting with discretion to the manager in the final scheduling. Motion carried 8-0. The board appreciation dinner is coming soon and other restaurants in the District were considered.

The next District board meeting is tentatively set for February 20, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at the Stafford County Annex.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Attest by:  Dated: 2-20-25