MINUTES – MAY 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 Friday May 9, 2025. The board members present were Tom Taylor (Zoom), Darrell Wood, Craig Zwick, Kerry Froetschner, Gary Hornbaker, John Janssen, and Fred Grunder. The board member Joe Schlessiger was not present. The District staff present was Orrin Feril. The guests present via Zoom were Jeff Crispin, Aaron Ball and Jim Schneider.

MES MARYN SPACE

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

A brief discussion regarding the proposed FY2026 budget was added to the agenda as item 4a.

Craig Zwick moved, and Darrell Wood seconded to approve the April minutes as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

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

The draft Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan-EIS document is in the public review and comment phase until June 2, 2025. The District's consultant (Olsson), NRCS-KS, and the District held a public meeting on May 8 in St John with good attendance. Orrin Feril, Aaron Ball, and Jim Schneider provided an overview of the meeting and addressed questions and concerns from the board. Orrin Feril encouraged the board and public to submit comments as part of the process.

Tom Taylor, Darrell Wood and John Janssen left the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm.

Now that the draft Watershed Plan-EIS is public, the District has a rough idea of potential expenditures in FY2026. As such, the proposed budget that will be presented at the July budget hearing has been amended to account for these expenditures. The board had no concern about this new expenditure being included in the proposed budget that will be published in area newspapers within the next few weeks.

Orrin Feril discussed staff activities for the past few weeks and upcoming months. The District will host the KGMDA meeting next week to accommodate discussion amongst water agencies on pertinent water policy issues across the state. The ITI project is now active, and the District has begun to get interest from water users about the program. The next meeting for the Rattlesnake Creek working group will be next week and the District will be providing an update on the Watershed Plan-EIS process in that meeting.

In other business, some of the board members have received calls from area water users about District staff driving across crops while conducting random meter inspections. This is not in accordance with District procedures and will be corrected.

The next District board meeting is tentatively set for June 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Attest by: Marlyn E Spare Dated: 6-12-25