

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

August 2019

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

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UPCOMING DATES

WaterPACK / ILS
Water Tech Farm Field Day
August 23 at 10:30am

Kansas Ag Summit
August 29

District Board Meeting
September 12 at TBA

GMD # 5 WEATHER STATIONS

1	GREENSBURG	(620) 723-2193
2	LEWIS	(620) 324-5866
3	ROZEL	(620) 527-4531
4	CULLISON	(620) 895-6505
5	MACKSVILLE	(620) 348-2238
6	RADIUM	(620) 285-2796
7	GREAT BEND	(620) 793-5798
8	STERLING	(620) 278-2632
9	CAIRO	(620) 672-3359
10	STAFFORD	(620) 234-5667

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DISTRICT STAFF

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<https://gmd5.org>

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Quivira NWR LEMA

For nearly three decades, the District has actively strived to assist in providing sustainable water resources for Quivira National Wildlife Refuge ("Refuge"). Throughout this time, the District has focused significant financial and technical resources toward investigating the surface/groundwater relationship in and around the Rattlesnake Creek region. The District continues to be an advocate for utilizing the most accurate science available to guide decision-making in the region.

In 2008, the District, along with the Rattlesnake Partnership, contracted with Balleau Groundwater Inc. ("BGW") to develop a high-resolution hydrologic model of the District. The model has been the primary tool utilized by KDA-DWR and other stakeholders to evaluate the effects of groundwater pumping and surface drainage throughout the District. It is the most comprehensive and scientific tool available to determine the proper course of action for long-term sustainability of water resources throughout this region.

In February, the District approved the Quivira NWR Local Enhanced Management Area ("LEMA") plan to be submitted to the Chief Engineer for review in preparation for public hearings. The LEMA committee spent countless hours reviewing all options and tools to provide a long-term sustainable remedy for the Quivira NWR impairment. BGW provided critical technical oversight and fully supports all concepts outlined in the LEMA plan.

Upon submission to the Chief Engineer, KDA-DWR staff requested direct technical discussions with BGW to properly evaluate the LEMA plan. At the same time, WaterPACK contracted with Keller-Bliesner to conduct a peer review of the BGW technical work. In May, Keller-Bliesner supplied a peer review report supporting the basis for the LEMA plan and providing some additional recommendations for consideration. KDA-DWR provided their technical review at the end of May. In that review, KDA-DWR agreed with the District's technical work but disagreed in the interpretation of the model simulations. This was disappointing news, but the District continued to work with KDA-DWR to identify the interpretation differences in an effort to come to a resolution. Despite the District's best efforts, KDA-DWR issued a formal rejection of the Quivira NWR LEMA plan on July 30, 2019. KDA-DWR stated that the LEMA plan was "not acceptable for further consideration." Additionally in this July letter, the Chief Engineer outlined his intention to directly administer the basin by administrative orders on September 1, 2019. These documents and reports can all be found on the District's website at <https://gmd5.org/proposed-rsc-lemma>.

Weather Station Upgrades

GMD 5 is pleased to announce that the District's ten weather stations have been upgraded with new wind monitoring sensors. In June and July, John replaced the original R.M. Young 3002 two-piece wind sentry units with new R.M. Young 5103-5 one-piece wind monitors.

Wind Speed/Direction has become one of the most relied upon measurements on our network. These monitors are a valuable tool in drift control and wildfire prevention as well as providing data for ET calculations used for irrigation scheduling. We also hope to capture high speed wind events more accurately with

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



these units. This was a significant investment in our network to provide more accurate weather data to our District. While replacing the wind speed/direction sensors, the rain gauges were recalibrated within $\pm 2\%$ as well. District staff works hard to maintain these stations to provide meaningful data for area water users and researchers.

Employment Opportunity

The District has an immediate opening for the full-time position of Administrative Assistant. An associate’s degree in Business, Office Administration or work experience in related field is preferred but not required. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience.

A competitive applicant will be able to perform a wide range of administrative and office support activities to facilitate the efficient operation of the District. This individual is responsible for providing administrative support to staff and assuming

bookkeeping, reservation, and reception.

Field assignments and overnight stays may be required for meetings and training purposes. Proficiency with Intuit QuickBooks Pro, Microsoft Office, and Adobe Acrobat software are preferred. Additional details can be found on the District’s website at: <https://gmd5.org/employment>.

District Budget Approved

The public hearing to consider the FY2020 budget for the District was held on July 11, 2019 at the District office in Stafford. The Board proposed a \$1,889,500 budget that includes funding for groundwater modeling and other hydrologic studies. There are several ongoing projects throughout the District that require extensive study using the District’s groundwater model. Following the hearing, the board set the final budget and the assessment rates by formal resolution 2019-3. The adopted budget and assessment rates are shown to the right.

EXPENDITURES		
PERSONNEL SERVICES		
SALARIES	\$	225,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		45,000
PAYROLL TAXES		22,500
ADMINISTRATION		
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	\$	20,000
FIELD EQUIPMENT		10,000
UTILITIES		12,000
PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS		8,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES		5,000
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		5,000
BUILDING EXPENSE		3,000
OTHER EXPENSES		
WATER MANAGEMENT	\$	1,000,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES		500,000
WEATHER STATION EXPENSE		15,000
INSURANCE		13,000
POSTAGE		2,000
OTHER		2,000
BUSINESS DINNERS		1,500
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS		500
TOTAL BUDGET	\$	1,889,500
ASSESSMENT RATES		
PER ACRE	\$	0.05
PER ACRE-FOOT		2.00

**Do we have your correct mailing address?
Let us know at 125 S. Main St., Stafford, Kansas 67578 or call 620-234-5352.**