

**ANNUAL MEETING
SCHEDULED**

*Thursday, Feb 18, 2021
7:00 pm*

**Stafford County Annex
210 E. Third Ave
St John, KS**

**Election of Directors
Agency Reports
Annual Report**

**UPCOMING
DATES**

**District Board Meeting
January 14**

**DWR Water Use Report
March 1**

**CKWBA Water Use Report
March 1**

**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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phillip Martin, Barton County
Tom Taylor, Director at Large
Darrell Wood, Edwards County
John Janssen, Kiowa County
Kerry Froetschner, Pawnee County
Fred Grunder, Pratt County
Justin Gatz, Reno County
Craig Zwick, Rice County
Marlyn Spare, Stafford County

DISTRICT STAFF

Orrin Feril, Manager
John Hildebrand, Conservation Spec.
Devan Cooper, Administrative Assistant

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Facebook: @bigbendgmd5

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

January 2021

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

Quivira NWR Resolution

For the past year, the District has been working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("Service") leadership to determine a reasonable and sustainable solution to the hydrologic needs for the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge ("Refuge"). In July, the District and Service entered into a memorandum of agreement that outlined the basis for a solution. Additional evaluation and work is still being conducted.

On November 24, 2020, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") announced the award of a Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act ("Watershed Act") grant to the District. The \$725,000 NRCS grant will fund the preparation of a Watershed Plan to evaluate the Rattlesnake Creek streamflow augmentation project to supplement water supplies to the Refuge.

NRCS provides Watershed Act funding to project sponsors to plan, design and construct projects that address a wide range of natural resource concerns at the watershed scale, including fish and wildlife habitat improvements. NRCS requires the preparation of a Watershed Plan of the proposed improvement as the first step in the Watershed Act project development process.

The Watershed Plan funded through this new grant will include the required federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, public engagement, and comment regarding the proposed augmentation project. Only after a Watershed Plan with its associated NEPA compliance and public process is completed and approved by NRCS may the project sponsor seek NRCS funding for design and construction of the project.

The District's request for Watershed Act assistance for the Rattlesnake Creek streamflow augmentation project is supported by key members of the Kansas Congressional delegation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Water Office.

For over twenty years, the District has partnered with local, state and federal stakeholders to harmonize the water supply needs of agricultural producers served by the District and those of the Refuge. The Refuge consists of 7,000 acres of wetlands providing critical habitat for over 300 species of birds on the Central Flyway. Agriculture is the prime economic driver in the region, which includes 4,578 farms producing \$1.89 billion in crop and livestock sales annually.

These long standing and ongoing efforts to balance area water supply demands include several cooperative efforts, including with USDA, and have resulted in different proposals to address concerns.

The District's proposed streamflow augmentation project is the consensus element among these different proposals and is specifically authorized by Kansas law (K.S.A. 82a-706b(a)(2)). The project would construct a wellfield south of the Refuge designed to deliver a supplemental water supply to the Rattlesnake Creek stream channel immediately upstream of the Refuge, augmenting water flows into the Refuge.

Annual Meeting Scheduled

This year's annual meeting will be held on February 18, 2021 at the Stafford County Annex located at 210 E Third Ave in St. John (just east of the Courthouse). The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. There will also be an election of directors (Kiowa County, Pawnee County, At-Large), a review of the 2020 financial statement, 2022 proposed budget and updates on the various projects and programs of the District. The Central Kansas Water Bank Association will be updating those in attendance of their activities for the past year.

The meeting location and attendance limitations will be in accordance with local health department requirements for the COVID-19 pandemic. Further updates will be provided via the District's website and social media pages.

NOMINATING PETITION

We, the undersigned three eligible voters within the Big Bend Groundwater Management District # 5 hereby nominate _____ as candidate for Board Position representing _____ County or District at Large.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Important terms and conditions of the elected position shall be:

- a. 3-year term running 3 consecutive annual meeting dates.
- b. representation shall be for all eligible voters within the county.

I understand the above stated conditions of the board position for which I am being nominated and I accept said nomination.

Candidate's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Petitions must be received in the District office no later than 1:00 PM on the day of the annual meeting in order to be placed on the ballot.

Verified Claims

Anyone wishing to verify to the District a lesser amount of water used in 2020 must do so by April 1, 2021. Assessments are based on the authorized water appropriation of a water right unless otherwise verified. The District will accept the following as verified claims: a) metered values, b) enrollment in CRP with an inactive status, or c) verified claims showing that the well has not been installed. Verified claims can be obtained on our web page or at the District office. Please contact our office if you have questions.