

MINUTES
2015 ANNUAL MEETING
BIG BEND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT #5
AND
CENTRAL KANSAS WATER BANK ASSOCIATION
February 19, 2015 – Stafford County Annex – St. John

The annual meetings for the Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5 (District) and the Central Kansas Water Bank Association (Association) were held February 19, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Stafford County Annex in St. John, Kansas.

Association Chairman, John Janssen called the Association meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and introduced the Association board of directors. There were approximately 28 eligible voters and 10 visitors in attendance for the meeting.

Association Secretary/Treasurer Curtis Tobias read the minutes from the 2014 annual meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the 2014 annual meeting minutes as presented. With no corrections or additions, the minutes were approved unanimously by raise of hands.

Association Secretary/Treasurer Curtis Tobias announced the election of directors and presented the candidates for Position #1 - John Janssen and for Position #2 - Greg Ebert. Nominations were opened to the floor. With no nominations being made, a motion was made and seconded that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for all three candidates. By a show of hands the motion carried unanimously.

Association Chairman John Janssen adjourned the Association meeting at 7:15 p.m.

District President Darrell Wood called the District meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and introduced the board of directors, staff and state agency personnel present.

District Vice-President Fred Grunder announced the election of directors and presented candidates. Incumbent John Janssen was on the ballot for Kiowa County, Incumbent Bob Standish was on the ballot for Pawnee County, and Incumbent Tom Taylor was on the ballot for District At Large. Nominations were opened to the floor. With no nominations being made, a motion was made and seconded that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for all three candidates. By a show of hands the motion carried unanimously.

District Manager Orrin Feril introduced the speakers for the evening. Susan Metzger, newly appointed Assistant Secretary for Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), gave a brief update on some of the activities in the state. Lane Letourneau, Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR), gave an update on the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas and encouraged everyone to be involved with the Regional Goal Setting process. Additionally, Mr. Letourneau gave an update on a few of the legislative bills that have been introduced in this session. Aron Flanders, Partners Program of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Scott Marsh, State Weeds Specialist for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, provided an update on the Tamarisk Coalition's activities and urged all in attendance to work together to combat the invasive woody species' (Russian Olive and Salt Cedar) that are impacting the grazing lands of Kansas. Mr. Marsh gave a presentation on some of the methods being utilized to control the spread of these woody species including biological control methods. Mr. Flanders provided a summary of the recent efforts to acquire federal cost shares for the removal of these invasive species.

District Treasurer John Janssen presented the proposed 2016 budget to the public for review. Mr. Janssen told the audience that a hearing would be held in July on the 2016 proposed budget. Following discussion from the floor, it was moved and seconded to review the proposed budget at the upcoming budget hearing in July. By show of hands, the motion passed unanimously.

District Manager, Orrin Feril gave a presentation on District and Association activities for the past year. The hydrologic conditions of the District were presented to the audience via a series of maps. The first showed the current drought conditions of the state and then the 2014 water level change map showed how the drought is continuing in this region so producers should plan accordingly. Additionally, Mr. Feril presented the proposed amendments the Association board made to the Association charter. Each of these amendments were discussed with the audience and the rationale behind them. Questions were then taken and answered from the floor.

Jeff Lanterman, Water Commissioner, gave a presentation on the Division of Water Resources activities for the past year and answered questions from the floor.

After further questions and comments from the audience, the District annual meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.