

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2015
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 on Thursday September 10, 2015. Board members present were Darrell Wood, Fred Grunder, John Janssen, Tom Taylor, Kent Lamb, Phillip Martin, and Justin Gatz. Board members Bob Standish and Curtis Tobias were not present. District staffs present were Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand. Guests present were Jackie McClaskey, David Barfield, Lane Letourneau, Robert Large, Cameron Conant, Vernon Hirt, and David Stroberg.

The September regular board meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

A review of a printer bid was added to the agenda.

Fred Grunder moved and John Janssen seconded to accept the August minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Justin Gatz moved and John Janssen seconded to accept the September treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0-1.

Secretary McClaskey and Lane Letourneau presented the newly established Water Conservation Area program to the board. A discussion regarding the ways in which this program could be implemented and possible impacts to current water rights was held. No action was taken by the board.

Phil Martin arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Lane Letourneau next presented an overview of the KDA–DWR 2015 regulatory changes. These regulations have not yet been drafted, but KDA–DWR requested feedback from the District board regarding the topics proposed. No action was taken by the board.

Chief Engineer Barfield provided the board with an update on several ongoing projects across the District. In 2013, the District proposed regulations to require an offset of water for Temporary permits in excess of 1 million gallons. Mr. Barfield stated his concerns with this proposal and a thorough discussion on the topic followed. In 2014, the District proposed regulations to provide area producers an additional calculation method for the Multi-Year Flex Account program. Mr. Barfield noted this regulation is in the final stages of internal review before it goes to public hearing. In 2015, the Central Kansas Water Bank Association submitted a revised charter for approval. Mr. Barfield and the board discussed the possible implications of these revisions thoroughly. In 2013, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service requested an impairment investigation in the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin. Mr. Barfield stated this investigation is still ongoing and the investigation report is being compiled. In 2015, the District requested a formal review of the Walnut Creek Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA) to be initiated on or before January 01, 2016 and completed before the next water allocation period which begins in January 2017. Mr. Barfield noted that there are two IGUCA reviews that are being finalized in the Equus Beds GMD2 area. Following the completion of these reviews, the Walnut Creek IGUCA will be reviewed. No further action was taken by the board.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. The annual assessments are now complete and the District staff is reviewing the procedure to make the process more efficient. Mr. Feril noted the Kansas Water Authority recently established the Regional Advisory Committees and approved the goals for each region. It will be important to stay engaged in this process in the future. The upcoming Governor's Conference was briefly discussed and all board members were encouraged to attend.

Manager Feril presented a quotation for a new color laserjet printer for the office. Kent Lamb moved and Fred Grunder seconded to approve the bid from Hewlett-Packard for \$1600. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Cameron Conant, representing KDA-DWR, provided an update on the activities of the Stafford field office. KDA-DWR has calculated the water use for the 500 plus Multi-Year Flex Accounts and provided correspondence to several of these accounts regarding the limited amount of water remaining in the allocations.

The next board meeting was tentatively set for October 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss, the board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.