

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
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 Friday September 14, 2017. Board members present were Darrell Wood, John Janssen, Fred Grunder, Bob Standish, Phillip Martin, Tom Taylor, and Jerry Cullop. Board member Kent Lamb and Justin Gatz were not present. District staff present was Orrin Feril. Guests present were Calvin Kissick, Jeff Lanterman, Justin Vosburgh, Berry Bortz, Pat Janssen, Richard Wenstrom, and Stan Kaiser.

The September regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Darrell Wood.

Agenda item 4 was removed at the request of the applicant. A discussion regarding the groundwater management district assessment revisions proposed in the legislature this session as agenda item 4.

Phil Martin moved and Bob Standish seconded to approve the August minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Fred Grunder arrived to the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Bob Standish moved and John Janssen seconded to accept the September treasurer's report as presented. Following discussion, the motion carried 6-0-1.

In the recent legislative session GMD2 introduced SB194 to amend K.S.A. 82a-1030 (Groundwater Management District Act) to increase the annual assessment caps and would also allow each GMD board to decide if verified claims would be accepted annually. Currently the assessment caps are set at \$0.05 per acre and \$1.00 per acre-foot. The proposed language would increase these assessment caps to \$0.10 per acre and \$1.50 per acre-foot. Recently the City of Wichita proposed an alternative to SB194 language that would increase the acre-foot assessment to \$2.00 but would maintain the per acre assessment cap at \$0.05. Following a thorough discussion amongst the board and the public present, Fred Grunder moved and John Janssen seconded to support the City of Wichita's proposal as presented at the meeting. Motion carried 4-2-1.

The District recently received a letter of support request from the Kansas Forestry Service for a grant proposal to remove non-native phreatophytes along the Arkansas River and Rattlesnake Creek. The proposal also plans to restore "appropriate native grass, cottonwood, or willow" along the corridor. Following a review of the proposal and discussion amongst the board, John Janssen moved and Bob Standish seconded to support the removal phreatophytes and replanting with native grasses. Motion carried 6-0-1.

The HVAC system at the District office was recently evaluated by Seider's Heating & Air. It was noted that the HVAC system is past its prime and is in need of replacement. The board was presented with comparable bids and options for replacement of the HVAC system from area contractors. Following discussion, the board took no action.

Manager Feril discussed staff activities for the past month and upcoming months. Mr. Feril noted the upcoming Governor's Conference in Manhattan and encouraged each of the board to

consider attending the conference in November. There is an issue with the sidewalk in front of the District office that is being resolved by the City of Stafford prior to Octoberfest. John Janssen moved and Fred Grunder seconded to send a letter to the City of Stafford to encourage the resolution of the issue to reduce the risk of injury to the public. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Darrell Wood and the other members of the Rattlesnake Creek LEMA subcommittee provided a progress report to the board and noted a recent meeting with KDA. A few of the points the subcommittee is working on are the measurable goals and reasonableness of the boundary. Richard Wenstrom requested on behalf of WaterPACK that these items be determined quickly in order to promote the LEMA and hold public meetings. No further action was taken by the board.


Jeff Lanterman, representing KDA-DWR, noted that the field office will be closed September 20 & 21 for a fall staff meeting. Additionally, KDA-DWR is planning to post the recent letter from the Audubon of Kansas regarding the Rattlesnake Creek impairment remedy to the website. It was the consensus of the board that this should not happen as the comment period for the impairment report is finalized and the information in the letter will potentially hinder the progress the District is having in getting a remedy in place.

Calvin Kissick, representing KWA, noted the recent meeting in Pittsburg. The KWA has approved the priority projects for FY2019 totaling approximately \$7.5M. The majority of these projects are focused on surface water issues, but there are some projects that can benefit groundwater projects in Central/Western Kansas. The next meeting will be on October 10 in McPherson.

Berry Bortz, chairman of the Great Bend Prairie RAC, provided an update to the board. Some of the GBP RAC's goals are being broadened to be statewide goals rather than focused only within the RAC area. Additionally, there will be a state of the resource document that will be coming out from KWO in preparation for the Governor's Conference. No action was taken by the board.

The next District board meeting was tentatively set for October 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

With no further items to discuss the board adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest by:  Dated 10-18-17