

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

November 2015

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

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UPCOMING DATES

WTAP Enrollment
November 15

CKWBA Savings Account
December 1

District Office Closed
December 25 - January 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

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DISTRICT STAFF

Orrin Feril, Manager
John Hildebrand, Conservation Spec.
Jenny Newell, Office Manager

Phone: 620-234-5352
Fax: 620-234-5718
www.gmd5.org

Central Kansas Water Bank Association

The Chief Engineer for the Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Water Resources (KDA–DWR) has approved the proposed changes to the Central Kansas Water Bank Association's (Association) charter. These changes are significant and affect both existing and new participants in the Association programs. These changes pertain only to the Savings Account program and are as follows:

1. **DEADLINE TO ENROLL.** The deadline to open a new savings account has now been moved to **December 1**.
2. **SAVINGS ACCOUNT CALCULATION METHOD.** The amount of water that can be preserved in a savings account for use in future years has changed. The method has been simplified to be 25% of unused water annually can be preserved into each account. This applies to all new savings accounts. If an existing savings account would like to utilize this calculation method, the contract for each existing savings account would require an amendment.

In addition to these charter provisions being changed, the Association board has adopted a more complete water flowmeter compliance policy as follows:

The Association programs provide additional flexibility in the diversion of water within its boundaries. Maintaining an accurate record of water diverted throughout the Association is critical. To this end, the Association shall require water flowmeters to be in full compliance with the current water flowmeter requirements in accordance with K.A.R. 5-1-4 through 5-1-12 in order to fully participate in all Association programs.

Any existing contracts approved prior to the effective date of this policy shall be required to verify compliance with this water flowmeter compliance in order to utilize water through Association programs. Water flowmeters that fail to meet these requirements, but have passed flowmeter accuracy tests by certified personnel will be allowed to put water into the Association.

Upon notice of non-compliance with K.A.R. 5-1-9, the water user will be allowed no more than 30 days to repair or replace the flowmeter to come back into compliance. Extensions beyond the 30 days shall only be by written permission of the Association, Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5, or Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources.

Association participants are encouraged to maintain alternate records of diversion in the event of flowmeter non-compliance to verify the quantity of water diverted throughout any time period. Failure to maintain a record of water diversions for a calendar year shall result in the forfeiture of the ability to put water into the Association for that year.

Index Well

The District, along with the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS), is pleased to announce the District's Index Well in Edwards County is online. The Index well program is a study to improve our understanding of the hydrologic changes the local aquifer undergoes throughout the year. The Index Well reports hourly measurements to the website every 4 hours to provide near-real time data for further analysis. The Index Well program is looking to expand and put more data online in the future. If you want further details or are interested in working with the District and KGS on installing an Index Well in your area, please contact our office.

Regulatory Hearing

Kansas Statute 82a-736 provides water users with a flexibility tool called the Multi-Year Flex Account. Included in this statute is an option for the local Groundwater Management District to promote their own calculation method for the allocation within these accounts. In October 2014, the District proposed a new regulation to establish another method for water users within our District. The proposed regulation would allow the allocation for the 5-year account to be 450% of the water user's certified appropriation. This regulation has been reviewed by the Chief Engineer of KDA-DWR. A regulatory hearing will be held on January 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The Stafford field office for KDA-DWR will be a remote location for this hearing to allow further input and participation from the public.

Website Updates

The District (www.gmd5.org) and the Association (www.ckwba.org) are interested in redesigning their websites to be more user friendly and informative. We would like your input into what features you would like to have made available. These websites are for the public's use and should be designed for that purpose. For updates on our activities, follow us on Twitter! @GMD5 and @CKWBA

Regional Advisory Committee

The Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) recently met in St John to discuss the implementation of the five regional goals for the Governor's vision for the future of water in Kansas. This 13 member committee is comprised of individuals with varying backgrounds. There will be more meetings in the coming months. Get involved in the water conversation! Check out <http://www.kwo.org/Regional-Advisory-Committees.html> for more information.

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