

**ANNUAL MEETING
SCHEDULED**

*Thursday, Feb 18, 2016
7:00 pm*

**Stafford County Annex
310 W 3rd St
St. John, KS**

Election of Directors

Agency Reports

Annual Report

**UPCOMING
DATES**

Water PACK Annual Meeting
February 15

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
Bob Standish, Pawnee County
Fred Grunder, Pratt County
Justin Gatz, Reno County
Curtis Tobias, Rice County
Kent Lamb, Stafford County

DISTRICT STAFF

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

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

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

January 2016

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

2016 Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on February 18, 2016 at the Stafford County Annex located at 310 W. 3rd 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, a review of the 2015 financial statement, 2017 proposed budget and updates on the various projects and programs of the District. Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR) personnel will be present to update those in attendance of their activities for the past year. The Central Kansas Water Bank Association will also have their annual meeting on the same evening.

Certificates of Incumbency

Certificates of Incumbency must be filed with the District office in order for a representative from a Corporation, LLC, Municipality, Estate, Trustee or a Tenant to vote at the annual meeting. These forms are available on our website at www.gmd5.org as well as in the office and must be notarized. Please feel free to call or stop by the office if you have any questions.

Central Kansas Water Bank Association

The Central Kansas Water Bank Association (CKWBA) has developed two programs to allow area producers to better manage their water use. First, with the Savings Account program, a producer can preserve a portion of their unused water annually for use in the future. Alternatively, with the Deposit-Lease program, a producer can allow another producer to temporarily lease their water for use many miles away. The CKWBA staff are trained and ready to help with your water concerns. Come in to our office to see what CKWBA can do for you.

Cities of Hays & Russell / R9 Ranch

In June 2015, the Cities of Hays and Russell (Cities) filed thirty (30) applications to change the water rights for the R9 Ranch south of Kinsley in Western Edwards County. The Kansas Water Transfer Act (K.S.A. 82a-1501 et seq.) allows for the transfer of 2000 Acre-Feet (AF) or more per year beyond a 35-mile radius from the original source of water. Last week the Cities filed the application to transfer approximately 7,500 AF from the R9 Ranch area to the Cities through the Water Transfer Act. The District will be providing comments when appropriate per the Water Transfer Act provisions.

Quivira NWR / Rattlesnake Creek Impairment

As noted in previous newsletters, KDA-DWR is conducting their impairment investigation in the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin. On December 2, 2015, the Chief Engineer for KDA-DWR filed the initial report on this investigation (<http://dwr.kda.ks.gov/impairment/RSC.Quivira/>). Every water user in the District is encouraged to read this report in order to provide feedback to both the District and KDA-DWR on this issue. The deadline for submitting comments to KDA-DWR has been extended to April 15, 2016. Stay tuned for more details in coming months.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.
(Circle one)

- 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 2015 must do so by April 1, 2016. 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.

Board of Director Elections

The board positions for Pratt, Reno, and Stafford Counties are up for election this year. Candidates for this annual election include two incumbents; Fred Grunder—Pratt County and Justin Gatz—Reno County. Both are seeking re-election in 2016 for three-year terms. Anyone interested in one of these positions should file using the above petition. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the annual meeting.

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