

GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

October 2016

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

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UPCOMING DATES

CKWBA Savings Account
December 1

District Board Meeting
November 10 - 10:00 am

Governor's Water Conference
November 14-15

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

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DISTRICT STAFF

Orrin Feril, Manager
John Hildebrand, Conservation Spec.
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Quivira NWR / Rattlesnake Creek Impairment

In July, the Chief Engineer for KDA–DWR filed the final report on the impairment investigation in the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin (<http://agriculture.ks.gov/quivira>). In that report, the Chief Engineer found that the USFWS' water right is being impaired 3,000-5,000 acre-feet per year on a regular basis. Furthermore, the report states that "groundwater reductions and/or augmentation will be needed to increase available streamflow at the Refuge." In 2015, the District, along with other stakeholder groups, testified in support of amendments to K.S.A. 82a-706b to allow augmentation for resolution to an impairment report within the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin. These amendments passed the legislature unanimously. The District's hydrologic model has been utilized to evaluate the effect of augmentation on the subbasin into the future. Recently, the District submitted a conceptual augmentation proposal to USFWS for review. The District has not yet received a response from USFWS on this proposal however. The District will pass any further information along as the information becomes available.

Central Kansas Water Bank Association

Do you have water remaining in your water appropriation this year? If so, it may be possible to preserve some of that water for use in future years. The Central Kansas Water Bank Association allows water users to create Savings Accounts that allow a water user to save that water for use in future years. The water that is placed in these accounts is non-transferrable. The deadline to create a new account is December 1. Once an account is established, the water in the account accumulates upon submission of annual water use reports to the CKWBA. The amount of water that can be preserved in a savings account for use in future years is 25% of unused water annually. If you have questions about how any part of CKWBA programs work, please contact the office or consult CKWBA's website at www.ckwba.org.

Water Management Tools

The water users in the District have access to a diverse and well-stocked water management toolbox. Some of these tools are statewide programs facilitated by both state and federal agencies. Others are specific to water users within the District boundaries. In general, these programs offer water use flexibility and conservation while maintaining the local economy. If you would like further information how these programs can work for your specific situation, please call or come by the office.

Multi-Year Flex Account

Over the past year, there have been a few changes to the Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) program that are worth noting. In 2015, the MYFA statute was updated to allow for carry over of water between consecutive allocation periods. There is a unique deadline to take advantage of this option. The water user must file the application for the new MYFA during the term of the existing MYFA. Therefore, the deadline to file new application is December 31.

Kansas Statute 82a-736 provides an option for the local groundwater management district to promote their own calculation method for the allocation within these accounts. Effective March 2016, K.A.R. 5-25-21 allows water rights within the District boundaries to calculate the new MYFA 5-year allocations as 450% of the water user's certified appropriation. The key to this option is that the water user must remove the end gun from the center pivot system. The goal of this option is that during the term of the MYFA there is a guaranteed 10% water use conservation and a boost in the overall efficiency of the system. Check with the District office or KDA-DWR office for additional details.

Water Conservation Areas

In 2015, Governor Brownback signed into law K.S.A. 82a-745 to establish the Water Conservation Area program. This new law allows for water users to enter into term permits with the Chief Engineer to address water quantity and quality issues at the local area. The intent is to allow water users within a defined area to voluntarily conserve water while providing water use flexibility. The water conservation areas are implemented using term permits that are in compliance with existing rules and regulations for the state. If interested in this tool, contact KDA-DWR for details.

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee

Recently, the Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) met at the District office. Finalization of the five regional action plans for the area was the primary objective of this meeting. These action plans were then approved by the Kansas Water Authority at their October meeting in Milford. These plans include objectives to achieve aquifer sustainability, training funds for public water supply systems, salt water disposal line monitoring, research into feed wheat as an alternative feed source for livestock, and watershed sustainability. More RAC meetings will be held in the coming months.

2017 Budget Established

The public hearing to consider the 2017 budget for the District was held in July. The proposed \$1,000,000 budget included funding for groundwater modeling and other hydrologic studies. There are several ongoing projects throughout the District that require extensive study using the District's groundwater model. Following the hearing, the board decided to accept the final budget and set the assessment rates to fund the budget at \$0.05/acre land assessment and \$0.67/acre-foot water use charge.

Approved Budget for 2017	
PERSONNEL SERVICES	
Salaries	\$ 180,000
Employee Benefits	24,000
Payroll Taxes	16,000
ADMINISTRATION	
Travel & Conferences	\$ 12,000
Utilities	8,000
Printing & Publications	5,000
Office Supplies	4,500
Office Equipment	4,000
Building Expenses	3,000
Field Equipment	6,000
OTHER EXPENSES	
Water Management	\$ 610,000
Professional Fees	100,000
Weather Stations	15,000
Insurance	11,000
Dues & Memberships	1,500
Other	1,000
Business Dinners	1,000
Postage	1,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 1,000,000