

# MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009  
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER BOARD ROOM  
510 S. PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE, WESLACO, TX

PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) Board of Directors held a meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2009 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room in Weslaco, Texas. In attendance were:

## RGRWA Board Members

President Jim Darling, Hidalgo County  
Vice President Sonia Kaniger, Irrigation Dist.  
Secretary-Treasurer Joe Barrera, Irrigation Dist.  
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County  
Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, Webb County  
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron County  
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Jo Jo White, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Bobby Sparks, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Brian Macmanus, Water Supply Corporation  
Mr. Roel "Roy" Rodriguez, Municipal  
Mr. D. V. Guerra, Public

## Others

Ms. Robyn Hadley, WaterPR  
Mr. Darrell Gunn, HWWS  
Mr. Charles Browning, NAWSC  
Ms. Laura De La Garza, Comile Resources, Inc.  
Mr. Troy Allen, DLID  
Mr. Rodolfo Montero, IBWC  
Mr. Patrick Daize, IBWC  
Ms. Connie Townsend, TWDB  
Mr. Bill Norris, NRS  
Mr. Jake White, NRS  
Mr. Tomas Rodriguez  
Mr. Juan Trevino, TDA  
Ms. Blanca Villalpando, Sen.  
Eddie Lucio, Jr.  
Mr. Chris Sherman, AP

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and announced that a quorum was present. The President then moved to item 2. – Announcement of Governor Appointment and Swearing in of New Board Member and announced that the Board is now fully constituted by the Governor with the appointment of Mr. Roel Rodriguez, Director of Public Works for the City of McAllen. This appointment completes this Board of Directors. Ms. Debby Morales, Notary Public, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Rodriguez.

Upon conclusion of Mr. Rodriguez' Oath of Office President Darling moved to item 3. - Consider approval of November 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Paul Heller asked that the record reflect his attendance at this meeting as his name was not noted in the draft minutes. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of the minutes with correction. Mr. Paul Heller seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Darling moved to agenda item 4. – Public Comment; there being none, the President moved to item 5. – Consider Action RE: Resolution / Letter of Support for New IBWC Commissioner C.W. (Bill) Ruth and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones stated that this resolution essentially sites Board support for the appointment of Commissioner Ruth, the key point being the last paragraph that supports the continuation of Commissioner Ruth’s appointment after President-Elect Barack Obama takes office on January 20, 2009. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion for approval of the resolution as presented. Mr. Bobby Sparks seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action, President Darling moved to item 6. – Consider Approval RE: 2009 Contract Renewal between the RGRWA and WaterPR, LLC for Professional Services. Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and noted that the contract being considered was essentially the same as the 2008 contract with WaterPR. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of the contract as presented. Mr. Wayne Halbert seconded the motion, and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.**

President Darling then moved to item 7. – Discussion RE: Texas Water Day 2009. The RGRWA Board Members who plan to attend are: Mr. Wayne Halbert, Mr. John Bruciak, Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, and Ms. Sonia Kaniger. Mr. Ken Jones and Ms. Robyn Hadley are also planning to attend.

President Darling then moved ahead in the agenda to item 9. - Committee Reports; D. – Legislation, Resolution of Support 2009-02. President Darling stated that this resolution is in support of Irrigation District projects funded by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Brian Macmanus suggested the development of a similar resolution pertaining to Water Supply Corporation projects in order to provide regional representation on this issue. It was the consensus of the Board to do so, and President Darling stated that once the document is created the Executive Committee will consider it for approval, and it will be presented to the full Board for ratification at the next regular meeting. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion for approval of Resolution 2009-02 as presented and to authorize the Texas Water Day delegation to distribute Resolution 2009-02 to federal legislators. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.**

President Darling then moved back to item 8. - Status Reports.

Regarding item 8.A. – Report from TCEQ Watermaster, Mr. Erasmo Yarrito gave a detailed explanation of the “Temporary Conservation Capacity” of the reservoirs. Mr. Yarrito next announced that there will be a Water Rights workshop on February 10 at 9:00 a.m. at the TCEQ office in Harlingen; this workshop will cover the sale of water rights exceeding 100 Acre Feet. Mr. Yarrito also informed the Board that under the Border Initiative there will be three additional water monitoring stations installed along the Rio Grande to track salinity levels.

Regarding item 8.B. - Report from IBWC, President Darling recognized Mr. Patrick Daize. Mr. Daize provided the Board with the background of newly appointed Commissioner C.W. “Bill” Ruth, reported the status of the reservoirs and noted that normal

conservation levels will be reestablished on May 1, 2009. Mr. Daize also provided status reports on the safety of dams, the Brownsville – Matamoros Weir, the Laredo – Nuevo Laredo Weir, and El Morillo Drain.

Regarding item 8.C. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG). Mr. Glenn Jarvis was unable to attend and President Darling stated that the Group continues to finalization two projects with TWDB.

Upon conclusion of Status Reports President Darling moved to item 9. – Committee Reports.

Regarding item 9.A. – Community Outreach, there was no new information to report.

Regarding item 9.B. – Finance and Planning:

- Item 9.B.1. - President Darling recognized Mr. Jones who reported that staff was requesting approval of expenses in the amount of \$883.98. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion for approval of these expenses as presented. Mr. Jo Jo White seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
- Item 9.B.2. – Status of Assessments, Committee Chairman Joe Barrera reported that \$88,923.26 had been received and suggested second notices be sent to those entities who have not yet paid.

Regarding item 9.C. – Personnel and Professional Services, there was no new information to report.

Regarding item 9.D. – Legislation, Mr. Wayne Halbert stated that he regularly reviews legislation on the RGRWA website and offered to look into any legislation the Board would like to track.

Regarding item 9.D.1. – Consider Action RE: Calculation of Current Water Right Market Value. President Darling informed the Board that the statute states it is the duty of the RGRWA to annually calculate the current market value by using the average price per acre-foot of municipal use water after conversion from irrigation use water to municipal use with a municipal priority of allocation under commission rules for the last three purchases involving a municipal water supplier and a party other than a municipal water supplier for purchases of at least 100 acre-feet. Upon conclusion of discussion the Board determined that the legislation regarding Water Right Market Value required some revision. **Mr. Paul Heller made a motion to revive the Legislative sub-committee and for the committee to meet prior to the next Board meeting to discuss an amendment to the legislation to clarify the formula used to calculate the water right market price. Mr. Brian Macmanus seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** The members of said committee are: Mr. Jo Jo White, Mr. Brian Macmanus, Mr. Wayne Halbert, Vice President Sonia Kaniger, Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Mr. Roy Rodriguez, Mr. Bobby Sparks, Mr. Chuck Browning, Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, and President Jim Darling. **Upon conclusion of further discussion Mr. Brian Macmanus made a motion to use the sales made to the City of Laredo dated February 29, 2008, April 23, 2008 and September 3, 2008 and calculate them based on the legislature guidelines for a Water Right Market Value of \$2,218.00 for 2009. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.**

Regarding item 9.E. – El Morillo Drain. President Darling informed the Board that an interpreter was provided for today's meeting for representatives from the Mexican

section of IBWC. The Board anticipated discussing El Morillo Drain operational issues with the Mexican representatives; however, they were unable to attend. Their attendance is anticipated for the next meeting.

President Darling then moved to item 10. – Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule. It was the consensus of the Board to not meet in February and schedule the next meeting for 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

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Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

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Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA