

MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:30 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2011
ZAPATA COUNTY COURT HOUSE 2ND FLOOR
200 7TH AVE., ZAPATA, TX

PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) Board of Directors held a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at the Zapata County Court House in Zapata, Texas. In attendance were:

RGRWA Board Members

Vice President Sonia Lambert, Irrigation Dist.
Secretary/Treasurer Joe Barrera, Irrigation Districts
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County
Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, Webb County
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Joe Pennington, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Bobby Sparks, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Brian Macmanus, Water Supply Corporations
Mr. Roel Rodriguez, Municipal

Others

Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID
Mr. Erasmo Yarrito, TCEQ
Mr. Fabian Clifford, TCEQ
Mr. Dennis Goldsberry NAWSC
Judge Joe Rathmell, Zapata County
Mr. Herman Settemeyer, TCEQ
Mr. Bill Norris, NRS
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC
Ms. Connie Townsend, TWDB
Ms. Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC
Ms. Ludy Saenz, LRGVDC
Ms. Laura De La Garza, LRGVDC
Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Region M

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Jim Darling was unable to attend, and Vice President Sonia Lambert called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. and announced that a quorum of the Board was present.

2. Consider Approval of November 3, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brian Macmanus made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3 Public Comment

No Public Comments were received.

4. Election of Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to elect the same slate of officers: Mr. Jim Darling, President; Ms. Sonia Lambert, Vice President; Mr. Joe Barrera, Secretary/Treasurer, to serve another term. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider Letter/Resolution to Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies RE: Concern for Irrigation/Drainage District Employee Safety

Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID was recognized and informed the Board of problems his employees have had regarding confrontations with people carrying out illegal activity along the canals. There have been reports from other irrigation districts having similar problems and Mr. Allen was seeking Board support

in the form of a resolution. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve the Letter/Resolution to Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies RE: Concern for Irrigation/Drainage District Employee Safety as presented. Mr. Brian Macmanus seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

6. Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Water Rights Sales Price

Vice President Lambert stated that the Executive Committee met to review the information provided to Mr. Joe Barrera from the TCEQ Watermaster's office regarding water right sales and a determination to set the price at \$2,400 was made. Mr. Barrera stated that there were a total of nine water sales starting in January 2010; most were not from an irrigation district to a municipality. The only sale that applied was a sale from Cameron County ID #2 in July 2010 for \$2,400. At the conclusion of discussion **Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee Action to set the water right price at \$2,400.00. Mr. Brian Macmanus seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

7. Consider Approval RE: 2010 Annual Report

Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the 2010 Annual Report as presented. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion RE: Future Projects

Vice President Lambert suggested that future projects should be brought before the Finance and Planning Committee for consideration. Mr. Joe Barrera anticipated having a report to present at the next meeting. No action taken.

9. Status Reports

A. Report from TCEQ Watermaster

Mr. Erasmo Yarrito reported on the Mexican water deficit, the reservoir levels; and a status of El Morillo Drain. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa asked about the status of CILA taking over operation of El Morillo from CONAQUA. Mr. Yarrito responded that those discussions are currently being conducted between the upper management levels of both agencies. Vice President Lambert asked about the status of the RGRWA's offer to IBWC to provide a SCADA system for El Morillo Drain and suggested a follow up letter might be in order. Mr. Herman Settemeyer, TCEQ stated he attended a meeting in El Paso last week with Mexican officials regarding numerous issues; the most disappointing thing that came out of the meeting was Mexico's lack of progress regarding El Morillo Drain.

B. Report from IBWC

No one from IBWC was able to attend the meeting and no report was provided.

C. Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group

Mr. Glenn Jarvis was recognized and reported that the Rio Grande Regional Water Plan was approved in December 2010 and will be a part of the State Water Plan. He also informed the Board that there were four (4) vacancies on the Region M Group: two: (2) in the County Category, one (1) in the Environmental Category and one (1) in the Small Business Category; and encouraged the Group to consider possible nominees to fill these vacancies.

Mr. Jarvis reported that for this planning cycle, the Region M Group was required by TWDB to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a consultant for the next 5 year cycle of planning, and that would be discussed at the next meeting immediately following this meeting. Mr. Jarvis added that at the same meeting Mr. Herman Settemeyer, TCEQ, will give a report on work that has been done on the water accounting issue at Fort Quitman. Work has been completed on this report through the auspices of TCEQ in developing historical information as to why that water is divided 50/50 between the U.S. and Mexico instead of given 100% to the U.S.

Lastly, Mr. Jarvis reported that the environmental flows study has now reached the Rio Grande. The Basin Stakeholders Committee is accepting nominations for the Science Committee; that will be important because this Committee will have an impact into the outcome of the extent in required in environmental flows. Mr. Jarvis suggested the RGRWA include Environmental Flows as a status report to keep apprised of this issue.

D. Regional Water Supply Study

Mr. Roy Rodriguez was recognized and stated that at the last meeting it was the consensus of the Board to request the LRGVDC look into the procurement process and asked Mr. Ken Jones to provide an update. Mr. Jones noted that was not an actual action item on the previous agenda, and staff wanted to be sure if the Board wanted to release an actual RFQ for that Scope of Work (SOW), the SOW could be identified as what was already submitted to the RGRWA by NRS Consulting Engineers and staff would need action or authorization to put together an actual RFQ. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Roy Rodriguez made a motion to release an RFQ for the Regional Water Supply Study Scope of Work. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon further discussion **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to approve the RFQ for the Regional Water Supply Study Scope of Work, if needed, prior to the next meeting.**

E. Report on Middle Pecos County GCD Pending Permit Application Submitted by Fort Stockton Holdings

There was no new information to report on this item.

F. Status RE: Field Release of Arundo Scale – Rhizaspidiotus Donacis

Unfortunately Dr. John Goolsby was unable to attend because the ARS-USDA staff was making preparations for the coming freeze.

10. Committee Reports

A. Community Outreach

There was no new information to report.

B. Finance and Planning

1. Financial Report

Mr. Joe Barrera was recognized and summarized the 2011 Budget noting that in accordance with the 2010 expenses the 2011 budget for supplies was increased by \$250 (from \$500 to \$750) and the item for Special Projects was split to include \$30,000 for the SCADA System and another \$20,000 for special projects. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve the 2011 budget as presented. Mr. Roy Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Barrera turned the floor over to Ms. Debby Morales for the Expense Report. Ms. Morales reported that the current cash balance was \$335,179.91 and there was \$1,152.46 in expenses for November and December 2010 pending approval. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion for approval of the pending expenses as presented. Mr. Joe Pennington seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Status of Assessments

Mr. Joe Barrera reported that a total of \$84,086.06 has been received from the 2011 Assessment fees and encouraged the Board members to contact those members who have not paid their assessment fees.

C. Personnel and Professional Services

1. Archiving Photos of Flooding from Hurricane Alex
Mr. Erasmo Yarrito was recognized and reported that TCEQ staff has nearly completed the directory of photos in their files, and when it is completed they will provide discs of the photos to the RGRWA.

D. Legislation

1. Senate Interim Committee Report on Flooding and Evacuations
Mr. Jones reported that in the Board folders is a draft letter of acceptance from President Jim Darling to Senator Mario Gallegos, Jr. regarding the Senate Subcommittee on Flooding and Evacuations' Interim Report. In the letter President Darling states that "The RGRWA agrees that our Regional Water Authority is the appropriate governmental entity to provide the governance necessary to successfully implement the Regional Drainage Study currently underway". ***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve this letter as presented; Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

E. El Morillo Drain

This item was addressed under TCEQ's report.

F. Ad Hoc Groundwater Committee

This item was addressed under the Regional Water Supply Study item.

G. Scholarship Committee

Ms. Marcie Oviedo was recognized and informed the Board that Texas A&M Kingsville has selected one student, Juan Daniel Vargas from Donna, TX. Mr. Vargas is currently a senior at Texas A&M majoring in plant and soil science agronomics and was the first student awarded the scholarship.

H. Drainage Committee

There was no new information to report.

11. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Board to not meet in March and scheduled the next meeting for April 6, 2011. at 9:00 a.m. in the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA