

MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007
PALM VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER
3401 JORDAN – MCALLEN, TX

PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at the Palm View Community Center in McAllen, Texas. In attendance were:

Board Members

President: Mr. Jim Darling, Hidalgo County
Vice – President: Ms. Sonia Kaniger
Secretary -Treasurer: Mr. Joe Barrera
Mr. Eduardo Guerra, Zapata County
Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, Webb County
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron County
Ms. Kathleen Reavis
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger

Others

Mr. Charlie Rankin, El Morillo Drain
Mr. Martin Ramirez, TCEQ Border Affairs
Mr. Randy Rolando, RGV Sugar Growers
Mr. Donato Medina, Jr., LRGVDC Board
Ms. Nora Lara, MAHI
Mr. Ed Vela, TCEQ
Mr. Bill Norris, NRS
Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Region M
Mr. Rick Reyes, IBWC
Judge Eliseo Barnhart, Willacy County
Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. and announced that a quorum of Board members was present. The President then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider approval of February 20, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Kathleen Reavis noted a correction: she was not in attendance at the February meeting, yet she was listed as present. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to accept the minutes with correction. Ms. Kathleen Reavis seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then moved to agenda item 3. – Public Comment. Mr. Othal Brand Sr. of McAllen requested to address the Board during the Public Comment section. Mr. Brand appeared before the Board to call their attention to a decision regarding water rights that a Judge made with which Mr. Brand disagreed.

At the conclusion of Public Comments the President then moved to Agenda item 4. – Report from TCEQ Watermaster. As Mr. Carlos Rubenstein was unable to attend Mr. Ed Vela was

recognized and stated that by October 1st, the end of the Cycle Year, the water deficit with Mexico would be 416,810 acre feet. However, as of March 16th Mexico had been releasing 52 cubic meters of water per second out of Luis Leon. TCEQ speculated that a letter to Mexico from Chairman White had encouraged Mexico to begin paying their water debt and was hopeful that the debt would be cleared by the end of the cycle.

Upon conclusion of the Watermaster's report, President Darling moved to item 5. – Status Reports.

Regarding item 5.A. – Local Fund Contribution there were no new contributions to report.

Regarding item 5.B. – Financial Report, President Darling recognized Mr. Ken Jones, who detailed the LRGVDC administrative expenses and the Fernandez Group, Inc. expenses that require Board approval. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve the LRGVDC's Administrative expenses and the Fernandez Group, Inc. expenses as presented. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding item 5.C. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Chairman of Region M was recognized and reported that the Group would meet on March 28th and that the major topic on the agenda was the Group's contract with TWDB.

Regarding item 5.D. – Report from the First Rio Grande Regional Water Authority Economic Development Corporation (FRGRWAEDC), Mr. Randy Rolando, RGV Sugar Growers, Inc. was recognized and stated that the Bond issue had closed on March 13th, construction had already begun on the project, and the \$25,000 administrative fee had been paid to the RGRWA.

Regarding item 5.E. – RGRWA Legislation, President Darling informed the Board that the legislation had been filed jointly by Senator Hinojosa, Senator Lucio and Representative Veronica Gonzalez and was currently waiting for a hearing.

Upon conclusion of the Status Reports, President Darling moved to item 6. – Consider Website Expansion RE: Water Market. Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and referenced a hard copy of the web page that was in the binder. Mr. Jones pointed out that under the "FYI" section there was a tab called "Rio Grande Water Transaction Rules & Forms". Under that tab there were links to "Watermaster's Summary of Rules for Contractual Sales of Water", "Subchapter F: Contractual Sales", and "Contract for Water" form. It was also suggested that contact information for the Watermaster's office be posted in this section for those who were seeking to buy or sell water rights. Upon conclusion of discussion, **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the addition of "Watermaster's Summary of Rules for Contractual Sales of Water", "Subchapter F: Contractual Sales", "Contract for Water" form, and contact information for the Watermaster's office to the Water Market section of the RGRWA web site. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of discussion and action on item 6, the President then moved to item 7. – Committee Reports.

Regarding item 7.A. – Community Outreach, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 7.B. – Finance and Planning, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 7.C. – Personnel and Professional Services, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 7.D. – Legislation, President Darling referenced a draft letter in the Board folders regarding HB3 and the RGRWA's support of that Bill providing that the unique Rio Grande Water Rights Allocations continue to be protected as a part of this legislation on this international river. It was the consensus of the Board to approve this draft letter be finalized and sent out.

Regarding item 7.E. – El Morillo Drain, Mr. Charlie Rankin was recognized and inquired of Mr. Vela the condition of the pumps at El Morillo Drain. Mr. Vela stated that the pumps were currently in working order, and that TCEQ was closely monitoring the salinity levels in the Rio Grande.

President Darling then moved to item 8. – New or Old Business. There being no New or Old Business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA