

MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008
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 regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room in Weslaco, Texas. In attendance were:

Board Members

President: Mr. Jim Darling, Hidalgo County
Vice-President: Ms. Sonia Kaniger
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Joe Barrera
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County
Mr. Antonio Alderete, Webb County
Mr. John Bruciak
Mr. Wayne Halbert

Others

Hon. Eddie Lucio III, State Representative
Mr. Erasmo Yarrito, Jr. TCEQ
Mr. Carlos Rubinstein, TCEQ
Mr. Roy Rodriguez, McAllen PUB
Mr. Trey Pebley, McAllen PUB
Mr. Bill Norris, NRS
Ms. Laura De La Garza, TWRI-Arroyo
Watershed Partnership
Mr. Charlie Rankin
Mr. Charles Browning
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. and announced that a quorum of Board members was present. The President then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider approval of January 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez noted an error on the list of Board Members stating the Mr. Tomas Rodriguez was from Webb County, not Starr County. ***Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to accept the minutes with correction. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

The President then moved to agenda item 3. – Public Comment. President Darling stated that no one had signed up for Public Comment. President Darling then introduced State Representative Eddie Lucio III; Mr. Erasmo Yarrito, TCEQ; and Mr. Tony Alderete, Webb County. The President then moved to item 4. – Presentation by Dimmit Utility Water Supply Corporation RE: Proposed Long Term Secondary Water Source Project Utilizing Krah Pipeline Technology and introduced Mr. John Kennedy. Mr. John Kennedy then introduced his team members, Mr. Michael Rogers, Mr. Howard Ivy, and Mr. A.C. Black then began a presentation of their proposal to supply a secondary water source to the Rio Grande Valley utilizing the new technology of Krah Pipeline.

Upon conclusion of presentation and discussion on item 4, President Darling moved to item 5. –

Consider Approval RE: 2007 Annual Report of Accomplishments. The President stated that according to the Section 3.05 of the RGRWA bylaws an Annual Report is to be filed each year. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of the 2007 Annual Report of Accomplishments as presented. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then moved to item 6. - Report from TCEQ Watermaster, and recognized Mr. Carlos Rubenstein. Mr. Rubenstein then gave a detailed report on the reservoir levels, and bi-national issues regarding the Rio Grande. At the conclusion of his report the Watermaster introduced Mr. Erasmo (Moe) Yarrita and gave the Board a brief bio of his accomplishments.

Upon conclusion of the Watermaster's report, President Darling moved to item 7. – Report from IBWC; however, Commissioner Carols Marin was unable to attend the meeting and no report was available.

Upon conclusion of the report from IBWC, President Darling moved to item 8. - Status Reports.

Regarding item 8.A. – Financial Report, President Darling recognized Ms. Debby Morales. Ms. Morales informed the Board that there were expenses for postage and printing in the amount of \$67.29 pending Board approval. **Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion for approval of the pending expenses. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding item 8.B. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG). Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Chairman of Region M, was unable to attend and no report was available at this time.

Regarding item 8.C. – Update on Submission of RGRWA Board Nominees to Governor's Appointments Office. Chairman Darling stated that there were no updates at this time to report.

Regarding item 8. D. – Board Membership, President Darling stated that there had been a change in representation from Webb County. Mr. Anthony Alderete informed the Board that the new Webb County representative would be Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, the newly hired County Engineer, and added that Mr. Sanchez would probably attend the next meeting. President Darling then showed a plaque recognizing Mr. Tomas Rodriguez' service as the former Webb County representative to the RGRWA. Mr. Adlerete agreed to deliver said plaque to Mr. Rodriguez. President Darling then announced the resignation of Mr. Eduardo Guerra from Zapata County and stated that, to date, there had been no word of a new Zapata County representative being appointed. A plaque was also prepared for Mr. Guerra and staff will make arrangements for delivery.

Upon conclusion of discussion and action on Status Reports, the President then moved to item 9. – Committee Reports.

Regarding item 9.A. – Community Outreach, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 9.B. – Finance and Planning, Chairman Darling recognized Mr. Joe Barrera, Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Barrera reported on item 9.B.1. – 2008 Budget and item 9.B.2. – 2008 Water Rights Assessments and informed the Board that the Finance Committee met to discuss formulating a recommendation to the Board on the amount of water rights that could be assessed and the rate. The total rights that could be assessed were 1,942,029.15, multiplied by \$0.05 would provide \$97,101.46 for the year; however, since the first quarter of 2008 is already passed, the committee recommended 75% of that amount for the remaining three quarters, which is \$72,826.09. The Committee then estimated the probability of collecting a maximum of 86% of that amount for a budget of \$83,500.00. **Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion for approval of the**

Budget for 2008 in the amount of \$83,500.00 and the Water Rights Assessment as presented. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Regarding item 9.C. – Personnel and Professional Services, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 9.D. – Legislation, State Representative Eddie Lucio III expressed a desire to glean information from the Board and its affiliates in order to be a more effective representative, and stated that he was eager to learn of water projects and opportunities in his district to better advocate for them.

Regarding item 9.E. – El Morillo Drain, Mr. Charlie Rankin stated that water levels are high enough that salinity has not been too high, the pumps are working fine and bills are being paid.

President Darling then moved to item 10. – New or Old Business and recognized Mr. Othal Brand Sr. who gave a presentation regarding Water Right Over Adjudication.

Upon conclusion of the presentation and there being no further business to discuss **Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.**

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA