

# MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 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, March 4, 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. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr 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. Roel "Roy" Rodriguez, Municipal  
Mr. D. V. Guerra, Public

Others

Mr. Jaime Flores, TWRI- Arroyo Colorado  
Mr. Leo Villarreal, City of Donna  
Ms. Robyn Hadley, WaterPR  
Ms. Terrie Salinas, LRGVDC  
Mr. Rolando Benavides, Hidalgo County Emergency Services  
Ms. Connie Townsend, TWDB  
Mr. Charles Browning, NAWSC  
Mr. Juan Trevino, TDA  
Mr. Troy Allen, DLID  
Mr. Jake White, NRS  
Ms. Brunilda Fuentes-Capozello- USFWS-Ecol. Services  
Mr. Felipe Chalons – CILA  
Mr. Patrick Daize, USIBWC  
Mr. Rodolfo Montero, USIBWC

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and announced that a quorum was present.

**2. Consider Approval of January 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

The President then moved to item 2. – Consider approval of January 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes. ***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

**3. Public Comment**

President Darling noted that no one had requested to make Public Comments.

**4. Election of Officers: President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer**

President Darling moved to item 4. – Election of Officers. Currently serving are Mr. Jim Darling, President; Ms. Sonia Kaniger, Vice-President, and Mr. Joe Barrera, III, Secretary/Treasurer. ***Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to re-elect the same slate of officers by acclamation. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.***

## **5. Presentation RE: Status on Arundo donax Project**

The President then moved to item 5. and recognized Dr. John Goolsby who gave the Board an update on the status of the Arundo donax Project. Dr. Goolsby stated that USDA staff was approximately six weeks away from the release of the first bio-control agent and provided details on the research and experimentation involved in this project. No action needed.

## **6. Ratify Executive Committee Action RE: Resolution in Support of Water Supply Corporation Project Funding**

President Darling noted that this resolution was used by the RGRWA delegation that attended Texas Water Day in Washington D.C. ***Mr. Paul Heller made a motion to ratify this Executive Committee Action. Mr. D.V. Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.***

## **7. Status and Possible Action RE: EDA Application for Regional Drainage Infrastructure Project**

President Darling recognized Ms. Sonia Kaniger who reported that LRGVDC staff finalized the "Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities" application for investment assistance. The application was submitted on February 20, 2009 for the amount of \$5,000,000. Staff was requesting ratification of the designation of the RGRWA as the applicant for this grant. ***Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to ratify the designation of the RGRWA as the applicant for the Regional Drainage Infrastructure Project. Mr. Wayne Halbert seconded the motion, and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.***

## **8. Discussion RE: Texas Water Day 2009**

President Darling then moved to item 8. and recognized Ms. Sonia Kaniger. Ms. Kaniger informed the Board that approximately 100 people attended this event and the RGRWA delegation met with Sen. Hutchison, and Representatives Grace Napolitano and Silvestre Reyes.

## **9. Consider Action RE: 2009 Annual Report**

President Darling stated that this report is required according to section 3.05 of the by-laws, and was prepared for the Board by LRGVDC staff. ***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of the 2009 Annual Report as presented. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

## **10. Status Reports**

### **A. Report from TCEQ Watermaster**

President Darling recognized Mr. Erasmo Yarrito. Mr. Yarrito reported on the TCEQ Workshop for Water Rights holders; informed the Board that although the reservoirs are currently full, levels are dropping and no charge water will most likely cease in the next week or so. Mr. Yarrito stated that IBWC was hosting a Town Meeting in Presidio, TX regarding the damage cause by the levee breach after Hurricane Dolly and planned on attending that meeting, a report on that discussion will be provided at the next meeting.

### **B. Report from IBWC**

President Darling noted that no representative from IBWC was present; however, he brought the Board's attention to a letter from US IBWC Commissioner Bill Ruth addressed to Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Chairman of the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group dated February 23, 2009 with updates on topics discussed at a meeting held in

January.

**C. Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group**

President Darling noted that Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Chairman, was not present and no report was available.

**11. Committee Reports**

**A. Community Outreach**

There was no new information to report.

**B. Finance and Planning**

1. Financial Report

President Darling gave the Financial Report and upon conclusion of discussion ***Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion for approval of payment of the administrative expenses presented. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Status of Assessments

President Darling recognized Mr. Joe Barrera. Mr. Barrera noted that the majority of assessments have been collected and suggested staff send second notices to the delinquent accounts for both the 2008 and 2009 Assessments. No action needed.

**C. Personnel and Professional Services**

Ms. Robyn Hadley, WaterPR was recognized and reported that at the January meeting the Board asked how many hits rgrwa.org received; Ms. Hadley researched that information and reported that statistics showed 200-300 hits were received on a monthly basis, then went over the detailed statistical report provided to the Board.

**D. Legislation**

1. Status of Revision to Legislation RE: Water Conversion Bill

Mr. Wayne Halbert was recognized and passed out information on the legislation he is currently tracking and invited the Board to submit requests to track other legislation of interest. Mr. Halbert then gave a brief summary of HB 348, HB 1434, and HB 2208.

**E. El Morillo Drain**

1. Consider Approval RE: MOA with IBWC

President Darling stated that this agreement was the same as the one the Lower Rio Grande Water Committee, Inc. had with the IBWC and recommended approval. ***Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to approve the MOA as presented. Mr. D.V. Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

**12. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule**

President Darling stated that April 1, 2009 was the first Wednesday in April; it was the consensus of the Board to hold the next meeting on that date. The President then suggested holding a Water Summit this fall similar to the one held in the fall of 2006 and invite local elected officials, provide legislative reports and educational opportunities on topics such as desalination.

**13. Adjourn**

Mr. Darling asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

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Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

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Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA