

MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 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, April 15, 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, Irrigation Dist.
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Joe Barrera, Irrigation Dist.
Mr. Frank Torres, Willacy County
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron County
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts
Ms. Kathleen Reavis, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Glenn Wilde, 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. D. V. Guerra, Public

Others

Mr. Paul Cowen, Sen. Eddie Lucio
Ms. Blanca Villalpando, Sen. Eddie Lucio
State Rep. Eddie Lucio, III
Mr. Mario Santos III, Webb County
Mr. Rick Reyes, IBWC
Mr. Charles Browning, NAWSC
Mr. Steve Taylor, Rio Grande Guardian
Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Region M
Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m. and announced that a quorum of Board was present. The President then moved to agenda item 2. – Announcement of Governor Appointments and Seating of New Board of Directors. Representative Eddie Lucio, III administered the Oath of Office to all the Board Members. Upon completion of the Oath of Office the Board members randomly drew their terms of office out of a hat; Debby Morales drew term dates for those Board Members not in attendance as well as those categories not yet seated. Following are the new Board Member Terms of Office:

Terms ending February 1, 2009

Glenn Wilde
Sonia Kaniger
D. V. Guerra
Jo Jo White
Jimmie Steidinger
Joe Barrera
Sonny Hinojosa
Ricardo Gutierrez
Fitzgerald Sanchez

Terms ending February 1, 2011

Bobby Sparks
Brian Macmanus
Kathy Reavis
Wayne Halbert
John Bruciak
Jim Darling
Frank Torres
Karran Westerman
Municipal Category (Vacant)

The President then moved to item 3. - Consider approval of March 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then moved to agenda item 4. – Public Comment. There being no one signed up for Public Comment President Darling moved to item 5. – Discussion and Possible Action on Scheduling Meeting of Conference to Submit Additional Names to Governor for Board Appointment Consideration. President Darling stated that there was one seat yet to be filled in the Irrigation District Category. Mr. Jones was recognized and stated that according to the legislation the Irrigation District Category nominees could only be picked from a pool of names submitted to the Governor's office through the Conference for the nine seats in that category. If after the first round of appointments there was still a vacancy in that category the conference could submit names, up to three times. If after three submittals the Governor has not made the appointment, the Governor can select whomever he will to fill that seat. Upon conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Board to hold a meeting of the Conference immediately following the next RGRWA Board meeting.

The President then moved to item 6. - Report from TCEQ Watermaster, and recognized Mr. Erasmo Yarrita. Mr. Yarrita gave a brief report on the status of the reservoir levels.

Upon conclusion of the Watermaster's report, President Darling moved to item 7. – Report from IBWC. Mr. Rick Reyes provided the Board with a written report, which was read by Mr. Ken Jones.

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

Regarding item 8.A. – Financial Report, President Darling recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones read the balances and stated that there was \$1,145.19 in invoices which required Board approval for payment. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of payment of all pending expenses. Ms. Kathy Reavis 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 RGRWPG was recognized and reported that regarding item 8.B. 1. – Discussion RE: Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA-16 Under HB 1763 (2005) The legislature in 2008 passed HB 1763 which essentially divided the state into various groundwater critical planning areas, and this legislation required each area to create Desired Future Conditions (DFC) for their aquifers by 2010. Regional Planning Groups (RPGs) have become involved because the 2010 deadline is too late to allow RPGs to take these DFCs into account in their plans. Several of the GMA's have been trying to get the results of their studies prior to the deadline and have asked the RPGs if they could wait in order to use their new Groundwater Availability numbers in 2009. RGRWPG has agreed that if the data is provided by June 2008 those numbers could be used. Upon conclusion of the update on GMA's Mr. Jarvis asked the Board's permission to address other topics.

Mr. Jarvis stated that he recently learned about a report by TWDB regarding the manner in which the IBWC does water accounting in the United States, Texas and Mexico. What the report generally covers is possibly converting the existing method, which IBWC has used for years, to one that can be used by the State so it can keep current with the measurement of water balances between the two countries using a modern computerized system. Mr. Jarvis stated that he requested a presentation on this new method be made to the RGRWPG and scheduled it for the next meeting, which is to be held May 28, 2008. Mr. Jarvis believes this to be a worthy project and requested the RGRWA consider possible implementation of any follow-up work that might need to be completed on this project and invited the RGRWA Board to attend the presentation. Mr. Jarvis

added that RGRWPG also scheduled the Public Hearing for the Scope of Work prior to the Board meeting, which would allow the RGRWA to provide comments on that as well. President Darling stated that the RGRWA seeks out projects; especially projects identified through the Region M Group and agreed that the RGRWA should attend the presentation. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion for the RGRWA Board of Directors and the Conference to meet on May 28, 2008 in conjunction with the RGRWPG Public Meeting and the RGRWPG Board meeting. Ms. Kathy Reavis seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Jarvis then stated that on the previous two phases of planning, the RGRWPG included in its Scope of Work an investigative report on the San Felipe Springs in Del Rio. The Group has not aggressively sought to begin this investigation due to the fact that it is more informational than planning. The San Felipe Spring is the second largest tributary to the Rio Grande and reports continue regarding a tremendous amount of groundwater development in the Del Rio area and possible well drilling in the springs themselves which could potentially diminish the supply to the Rio Grande. After due consideration Mr. Jarvis believed this to be an implementation activity more suited to the RGRWA. Upon conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Board that the Groundwater Management Committee look into this issue.

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 that on item 9.B.1. – Distribution of Assessments Approved in March a draft letter of what was to be sent to the entities being assessed was in the Board folders and those letters and invoices would be mailed out this week. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa suggested adding “acre feet” to the third line of the third paragraph of the letter to add clarification on the assessment calculation. It was the consensus of the Board to make that change.

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

Regarding item 9.D. – Legislation, Mr. Wayne Halbert updated the Board on various upcoming legislative meetings with topics pertinent to the RGRWA as well as suggested the RGRWA become more involved in supporting grant applications. President Darling suggested letters could be written to the Irrigation Districts asking if they would be interested in this type of support from the RGRWA.

Regarding item 9.E. – El Morillo Drain, this item was covered under the IBWC report

Upon conclusion of the presentation and there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA