

MINUTES

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CONFERENCE
9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 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 and Conference met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 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. Fitzgerald Sanchez, Webb County
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Glenn Wilde, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Jo Jo White, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Brian Macmanus, Water Supply Corporation

Others

Mr. David Salinas, City of Weslaco
Mr. Roy Rodriguez, City of McAllen PUB
Mr. Peter La Vaute, Krah Hydrokinetic Turbine
Mr. Howard Ivy, Krah Pipe
Mr. A.C. Black, Krah Pipe
Ms. Robyn Hadley, WaterPR
Dr. John Brown, Aircorp
Mr. John Kennedy, DUWSC
Mr. Darrell Gunn, HWWS
Mr. Roy Sagredo, Atlas Electric & A/C
Mr. Monty Dozier, Texas Agrilife Ext. Serv
Ms. Laura De La Garza, TWRI-ACW Partnership
Mr. Tomas M. Rodriguez, City of Laredo
Ms. Connie Townsend, TWDB
Mr. Robert Fulbright, Region M
Mr. Joe Guerra, Region M
Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Region M
Mr. Charles Browning, NAWSC
Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC

Vice President Sonia Kaniger called the meeting to order 9:09 a.m. as President Jim Darling was reported to be in transit to the meeting. The Vice President announced that a quorum of the Board was present then introduced Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, the new Board Member representing Webb County, and welcomed him to the Board. Ms. Debby Morales, Notary Public, then performed the Oath of Office to officially swear in Mr. Sanchez. Vice President Kaniger then moved to agenda item 2. - Consider approval of April 15, 2008 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.***

The Vice President then moved to agenda item 3. – Public Comment. There being none, Vice President Kaniger moved to item 4. – Act on Submission of Conference Nominees to Governor RE:

Board of Director Appointment Consideration. Mr. Ken Jones announced that Mr. Othal E. Brand, Jr. had been nominated by the Conference for appointment consideration. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to accept this nomination. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.**

At this time President Jim Darling arrived and began presiding over the meeting. President Darling moved to item 5. – Act on Recommendation to Governor RE: Reappointment of Board Members with term Expiration of February 1, 2009. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the Conference had recommended reappointment of all Irrigation Category Board members who had drawn February 1, 2009 term expiration dates. The President stated that Conference Members should take action on this item. **Mr. Wayne Halbert made a motion for approval of the reappointment of Mr. Glenn Wilde, Ms. Sonia Kaniger, Mr. Jo Jo White, Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Mr. Joe Barrera, and Mr. Sonny Hinojosa whose terms expire February 1, 2009. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Darling moved to item 6. – Report from TCEQ Watermaster. The representative from the Watermaster's office was unable to attend, however the reservoir levels information was provided in the Board folders.

President Darling then moved to item 7. – Report from IBWC. The representative from the IBWC was unable to attend; however, Mr. Jones gave a report on the status of the aquatic weed problem and stated that Hydrilla seemed to be under control, but water hyacinth was building up on the river banks upstream from the Delta Area. Consideration was being given to the possibility of purchasing additional grass carp to continue to control the Hydrilla.

The President next moved to item 8. – Consider Resolution of Support RE: Projects Seeking Funding Assistance through the Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program. Resolution 2008-01 was in support of District System Improvements for Harlingen I.D. and Canal Rehabilitation for Adams Garden I.D.; Resolution 2008-02 was in support of Seawater Desalination for Brownsville Public Utilities. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of the resolutions as presented. Mr. Jo Jo White seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes.**

Upon conclusion of action President Darling moved to item 9. – Updated Presentation by Dimmit Utility Water Supply Corporation RE: Proposed Long Term Secondary Water Source Projects Utilizing Krah Pipeline Technology including Green Power, and recognized Mr. John Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy briefed the Board on the progress of this project then introduced Dr. John Brown, Aircorp Agricultural Investigation and Research, who gave a presentation on the addition of "Green Power" to generate electricity within this project using turbines. Upon conclusion of the presentation Ms. Sonia Kaniger stated that municipalities would benefit from seeing this presentation and suggested the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council would be the proper venue. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Brian Macmanus made a motion for the RGRWA to endorse this project as a potential alternative source of water. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Darling moved to item 10. - Status Reports.

Regarding item 10.A. – Financial Report, President Darling recognized Mr. Jones who read the balances and stated that there was \$798.62 in invoices which required Board approval for

payment. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion for approval of payment of all expenses. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding item 10.B. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) there was no report as the RGRWPG held a joint meeting with RGRWA immediately following this meeting.

Upon conclusion of discussion and action on Status Reports, the President then moved to item 11. – Committee Reports.

Regarding item 11.A. – Community Outreach, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 11.B. – Finance and Planning, Chairman Darling recognized Mr. Joe Barrera, Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Barrera reported that on item 11.B.1. – Status of Assessments, the total assessments received to date was just over \$52,000, no action needed. President Darling then moved to item 11.B.2. – Consider Coverage Rates for Surety Bonds and Errors & Omissions Liability and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones stated that TML had provided a proposal for Errors & Omissions Liability and Bonds for the 18 members of the Board for a total annual contribution of \$1,308.79. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of this proposal. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding item 11.C. – Personnel and Professional Services, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 11.D. – Legislation, there was no new information to report at this time.

Regarding item 11.E. – El Morillo Drain, there was no new information to report.

Regarding item 11.F. – Committee Appointments, Mr. Joe Barrera distributed a proposed committee list and it was the consensus of the Board to act on this item when all the Board appointments had been made, however Board Members were encouraged to advise staff of committees on which they would like to serve.

President Darling then moved to item 12. – New or Old Business, there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA