

# MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011  
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER  
510 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 Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center in Weslaco, Texas. In attendance were:

RGRWA Board Members

President Jim Darling, Hidalgo County  
Vice President Sonia Lambert, Irrigation Dist.  
Secretary/Treasurer Joe Barrera, Irrigation Districts  
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County  
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Joe Pennington, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Jo Jo White, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Bobby Sparks, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Brian Macmanus, Water Supply Corporations  
Mr. Roy Rodriguez, Municipal  
Mr. D.V. Guerra, Public

Others

Ms. Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC  
Ms. Ludy Saenz, LRGVDC  
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC  
Mr. Bill Norris, NRS  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake I.D.

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

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and announced that a quorum of the Board was present. President Darling also announced that the Governor appointees whose terms expired in February have been reappointed:

**2 Public Comment**

No Public Comments were received.

**3. Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Hiring Consultant to Complete Proposal Documents for US Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study Proposal**

President Darling stated that the application process for the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funding is quite extensive and required the assistance of a consultant to ensure the process was completed appropriately and by the deadline. ***Mr. Brian Macmanus made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action on hiring NRS Consulting Engineers to complete the proposal documents for the US Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study Proposal. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

**4. Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Determining Local Match Formula for US Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study Proposal**

President Darling stated that the RGRWA was required to provide a non-Federal cost-share contribution that exceeds 50% of the cost of the study. To meet this requirement the Executive Committee recommended contributing 51% of the \$400,000 cost for this project. 51% is \$204,000 and the Executive Committee proposed that the RGRWA contribute half of this cost-share amount, which is

\$102,000, and request the remaining \$102,000 from the municipalities in the six counties the RGRWA serves. President Darling then briefly went over the breakdown of the recommended local match contributions. Ms. Sonia Lambert asked what was the justification for requesting local match funds from municipalities who already contribute to the RGRWA annual assessment from water rights. President Darling stated that the bulk of this study will be on groundwater for municipal potable water usage and the original concept came from the region's cities. Because a large part of the process is for potable water supply and not irrigation the Executive Committee considered it appropriate for the Board to pay 50% of the required local match and request the remaining 50% from the municipalities. The Executive Committee has asked Mr. Roy Rodriguez, Chair of the Ad Hoc Groundwater Committee, to approach some of the larger cities to request their support for this project. Ms. Lambert asked Mr. Rodriguez if he has already spoken with any of the cities and if he anticipated any difficulty. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he had not spoken with any of the cities as he was waiting for the outcome of action taken at this meeting; he stated he did not know if there would be any issues with collecting the local match as he was unfamiliar with staff and officials in many of the member cities. Mr. Rodriguez added that he would commit the City of McAllen to helping fill any monetary gap and would approach the City of Brownsville and some of the water supply corporations that will benefit from this study for their commitment. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Roy Rodriguez made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action on determining the local match formula for the US Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study Proposal.**

#### **5. Consider Approval to Submit Proposal to US Bureau of Reclamation RE: Alternative Water Supply Basin**

Mr. Bill Norris was recognized and gave a presentation on the BOR application process. Mr. Norris informed the Board that he had conferred with Collins Balcombe of the BOR and advised the Board that Mr. Balcombe recommended revisions to the draft proposal presented at today's meeting to make it more viable. The Board has 30 days after submitting the application to give the BOR the RGRWA's cost-share commitment, staff will send out letters of request for commitment to the entities on the approved local match list as soon as possible. At the conclusion of discussion **Mr. Brian Macmanus made a motion for the revised proposal to be distributed to the Board for comments, and for the Executive Committee to approve the final proposal to be sent to the BOR by the May 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mr. D. V. Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **6. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

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Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

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Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA