

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)  
 9:00 A.M. - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006  
 MCALLEN MILLER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - EAST CONFERENCE ROOM  
 2500 SOUTH BICENTENNIAL - MCALLEN, TEXAS**

**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, February 21, 2006 in the East Conference Room, McAllen International Airport, McAllen, Texas. In attendance were:

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Others</u>
President: Mr. Jim Darling, Hidalgo Co.	Neil Haman
Vice-President: Ms. Sonia Kaniger, San Benito	Blanca Villalpando, E. Lucio
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Joe Barrera, Brownsville	Linda Fernandez, Fernandez Group, Inc.
Mr. Eduardo Guerra, Zapata Co.	Carlos Rubenstein, TCEQ Watermaster
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Harlingen	Glen Jarvis, RGRWPG
Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, Webb Co.	Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Donna	Debby Morales, LRGVDC
Mr. Frank Torres, Willacy Co.	
<u>Board Members not in attendance:</u>	
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr Co.	
Ms. Kathleen Reavis	
Mr. Glen Wilde	

President Jim Darling, Chairman, called the meeting to order, and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon completion of the roll call, it was ascertained that a quorum of voting members was present. The Chairman made an announcement that Mr. Bill Card had resigned his position on the board; however, Mr. Card is still considered to be on the Board until such time that a replacement is named. The Chairman stated that the Cameron County Judge had been contacted to appoint a replacement for Mr. Card. The Chairman then moved to agenda item 2. - Consider Approval of January 17, 2006 Meeting Minutes. As there were no changes to these minutes, ***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

The President then moved to agenda item 3. - Recognition of Immediate Past President. As Past President Ricardo Gutierrez was not in attendance this item would be left on the agenda for the next meeting.

The President moved to agenda item 4. - Discussion and Possible Action on Legislative Workshop held February 8<sup>th</sup>, RE: RGRWA Legislation. Mr. Carlos Rubenstein brought Legislation, By-laws, and Oversight Authorities from other Water Authorities. President Jim Darling asked that only the governing rules be pulled out as that would be the most pertinent to this Authority. After further discussion regarding the Legislative Workshop all Board Members were satisfied that all sides were able to voice their opinion, and were confident that Legislation that would satisfy all entities would be forthcoming. **No Action was taken.**

Following discussion on the Legislative Workshop, President Darling moved to agenda item 5. - Discussion and Possible Action on Agreement for Professional Services with Fernandez Group, Inc. RE: Web Site. The Chairman reminded the Board that the Agreement was approved at the last meeting, and that the contract presented at this meeting is the written version of what was approved. Ms. Linda Fernandez explained which website names were available and that the previous website name could redirect to the new website. Ms. Linda Fernandez will meet with the Community Outreach Committee and work together to design a brochure for the Authority. The Community Outreach Committee consists of: Jim Darling, Sonia Kaniger, Tomas Rodriguez, Frank Torres, and Joe Barrera. After discussion, **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve the contract with dual website names. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then proceeded to agenda item 6. - Discussion and Possible Action RE: Development of 5, 10, and 15-Year Water Capital Improvement Plans, and Determination of Formula to Solicit Local Matching funds Prior to Submission of Application to TWDB (tabled at 12/20/05 Board Meeting). Mr. Bill Norris presented the costs of the Plan and Sample Calculation of Assessment for Planning Study based on Water Rights. After discussion, **Mr. Wayne Halbert made a motion to authorize Mr. Bill Norris, Mr. Ken Jones, and Mr. Jim Darling to request The Water Capital Improvement Plan be placed on the agendas for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, and the City Managers meetings. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion and after a vote was taken, the motion carried unanimously.**

The Chairman then moved to agenda item 7.A. - Status Reports. Mr. Ken Jones reported on the status of the Local Fund Contributions for Administrative Support indicating that since the last meeting the Authority has received \$637.27 from Cities and Counties and \$750 from Chambers and EDC.

With regard to agenda item 7. B. - Financial Report, Mr. Ken Jones explained the administrative expenditures of \$539.82 since October 2005 and requested Board approval. **Ms. Sonia Kaniger made a motion to approve reimbursement of administrative expenses. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

With regard to item 7. C. - Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group, Mr. Glen Jarvis reported that Public Awareness would greatly benefit both the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group and the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority. Mr. Jim Darling indicated that the Water Authority could facilitate Public Awareness.

With regard to item 8.A. - Community Outreach. The Chairman moved directly to item 8.B.1. - Consider Professional contract RE: Fernandez Group Inc. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez reported on the fund raiser contract. Mr. Ken Jones suggested that "and upon availability of funds" be added to the second paragraph on the second page of the contract. **Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve the contract with suggested change. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.** Ms. Linda Fernandez stated that she would need at least 5 months lead time to prepare for the event and suggested November 30, 2006 as a tentative date. The Chairman suggested the Community Outreach Committee meet with Ms. Linda Fernandez to discuss the matter in further detail.

With regard to item 8.C. - Personnel and Professional Services, the Chairman presented an idea to the Board to create a committee to revisit the El Morillo Drain project. It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on next month's agenda for consideration. In other discussion, Mr. Joe Barrera suggested joining the Texas Water Conservation Association be put on the Agenda for March. Mr. Carlos Rubenstein suggested Board Position on Ground Water Transition be put on the March Agenda.

Item 9.A. - Reservoir Levels. Carlos Rubenstein reported that reservoir levels are still going down, and water is still being moved out of Amistad. He added that the Valley will be fine for this year, but in two years if we don't get enough rain we will again be in a shortage situation.

Item 9.B. - Texas Water Day, Washington D.C. March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Jim Darling stated he would be attending along with Mr. Wayne Halbert.

There being no further business, President Jim Darling asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Joe Barrera made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.**

**Jim Darling, President, RGRWA**

**ATTEST:**

**Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA**