

MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2006
MCALLEN MILLER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – EAST CONFERENCE ROOM
2500 SOUTH BICENTENNIAL – MCALLEN, TX

PRESIDING: SONIA KANIGER, VICE PRESIDENT

The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 in the East Conference Room, McAllen International Airport, McAllen, Texas. In attendance were:

Board Members

Vice President: Ms. Sonia Kaniger, San Benito
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Joe Barrera, Brownsville
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Harlingen
Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, Webb Co.
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Donna
Ms. Kathleen Reavis
Mr. Glenn Wilde
Mr. John Bruciak
Mr. Frank Torres

Others

Linda Fernandez, Fernandez Group Inc
Randy Rolando, RGV Sugar Growers
Charlie Rankin, El Morillo Drain Committee
Neil Haman, TWDB
Julian Gonzalez, City of Mission
Nora Lara, City of McAllen
Bill Norris, NRS
Solomon Torres,
Congressman Ruben Hinojosa
Charles Browning, NAWSA

President Jim Darling was unable to attend this meeting, therefore Vice President Sonia Kaniger 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. Vice President Kaniger then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider approval of May 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez noted a misspelling in the minutes, and requested a correction; **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve the minutes with correction. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The Vice President then moved to agenda item 3. – Public Comment. Mr. Ken Jones informed Vice President Kaniger that there were no requests for Public Comment.

Vice President Kaniger then moved to Agenda item 4. – Discussion and Possible Action, RE: RGRWA Legislation. The Vice President informed the Board that as of this time the RGRWA legislation has not been received. Mr. Wayne Halbert informed the Board that he had been told not to expect any new action regarding RGRWA Legislation for another couple of months. It

was the consensus of the board to leave this item on the Agenda for future meetings. No action was taken.

With no action on item 4, Vice President Kaniger then moved to item 5 – Report from TCEQ Watermaster. Carlos Rubenstein was unable to attend to give a report; however, Mr. Ken Jones referred the Board to item 9. A. – Reservoir Levels, and reported that reservoir levels were still slowly declining.

The Vice President then moved to item 6. – Consider Request from Laguna Madre Water District RE: Letter of Support for Seawater Desalination Feasibility Study. After discussion, **Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to write a letter of Support for the Laguna Madre Water District Seawater Desalination Feasibility Study. Ms. Kathy Reavis seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action on item 6, Vice President Kaniger moved to item 7. – Status reports. Mr. Ken Jones reported on item 7.A. – Local Funds Contribution and reported that no new funds had been received.

Regarding item 7.B. – Financial Report, Mr. Jones detailed the administrative expenses. **Ms. Kathy Reavis made a motion to approve payment of administrative expenses. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Regarding item 7.C. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG), Mr. Glenn Jarvis was not able to attend, however Mr. Ken Jones reported that the next RGRWPG meeting will be in July. Mr. Jones reported the RGRWPG has designated the LRGVDC to submit an application to the Texas Water Development Board for state financial assistance for funding for preparation of the 2006-2011 planning cycle; and that funding for the next five year update that will reflect the state's two-year appropriation cycle.

Regarding item 7.D – Report from First Rio Grande Regional Water Authority Economic Development Corporation, Mr. Jones reported that there is still one vacancy pending on the FRGRWAEDC Board of Directors, and that recommendations to fill the vacancy must come from this Board. It was the consensus of the Board to leave this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Regarding item 7.E. – Application Submitted to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) RE: 2025 Grant Program. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the BOR had requested clarification on the RGRWA Comprehensive Master Plan, and that the response letter, submitted with the help of Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers, was in the Board folders.

Regarding item 7.F. – Correspondence, Mr. Ken Jones informed the Board that a copy of the letter of support for the rules change to HB 2250 that was approved for President Jim Darling to submit at the last Board meeting was in the Board folders along with the letter of support from Glenn Jarvis on behalf of Region M.

Vice President Kaniger then moved to item 8. - Committee Reports. Mr. Jones reported on item

8.A.1.a. Website Water Market. Ms. Linda Fernandez gave a presentation of what the Water Market Website will look like once it is up and running. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger suggested that the "Flow of Rio Grande" be put on the website. Ms. Fernandez stated that it was already there, but that she would make it more prominent. At the conclusion of the presentation and discussion **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the Water Market Website with the suggested minor change. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Regarding item 8.A.2. – Education Forum & Fund Raiser, Ms. Fernandez informed the Board that the Rio Grande Sugar Growers were the first sponsor for the Fund Raiser. Ms. Fernandez passed out the fund raiser brochures with invitations to the November event; these brochures were currently being mailed to appropriate entities. Ms. Fernandez informed the Board that Senators Lucio and Hinojosa will be attending; however Senator Zaffirini will not be attending the event, though her staff will be present.

Upon conclusion of Community Outreach reports, Vice President Kaniger moved to item 8.B. – Finance and Planning, and then item 8.C. – Personnel and Professional Services. As there was no business to report on either of these two items, the Vice President moved to item 8.D. – Legislation. Mr. Ken Jones reported to the Board that according to Mr. Carlos Rubenstein there was no new information to report. Ms. Linda Fernandez reported that at the TWDB Meeting the Environmental Flows division of SB 3 was discussed, but that more discussion was needed to make a decision.

The Vice President then moved to item 8. E. – El Morillo Drain. Mr. Charlie Rankin reported that the Lower Rio Grande Water Committee had received a bill from the IBWC in the amount of \$24,514.06 for 50% of El Morillo Drain Rehabilitation work performed by a Mexican Contractor. Mr. Jones reported that he spoke with Carlos Marin the previous week and that he was provided with sufficient information to put together some verbiage to amend the legislation. Mr. Jones suggested the El Morillo Drain Committee, which includes, Mr. Jim Darling, Mr. Wayne Halbert, and Mr. Joe Barrera, meet with him Dr. Joe Coulter, Mr. Charlie Rankin, and himself in the near future to start reviewing verbiage and informally strategize how to obtain sponsorship for the legislation.

At conclusion of discussion Vice President Kaniger moved to item 8.A. - Reservoir Levels, which had been discussed earlier in the meeting, so the Vice President then moved to item 8.B. – Meeting Location. Mr. Ken Jones informed the Board that he had met with President Jim Darling prior to the meeting to discuss the fact that the charges for the Board to use McAllen Miller International Airport East Conference Room are no longer going to be covered by the City of McAllen; and that the cost of refreshments and use of the room is considerably higher than the Board treasury can sustain in the long term. Mr. Jones informed the Board that he and President Darling had discussed using the Palm View Golf Course Conference Room and refreshments would be provided at no cost to the Board. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to hold the next meeting at the Palm View Golf Course Conference Room in McAllen. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

At conclusion of action on item 9.B. the Vice President moved to item 10. – Adjourn. Before the motion to adjourn, Solomon Torres gave the Board an update on Levee Rehabilitation. Mr. Torres was pleased to inform the Board that Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, along with Chairman Frank Wolf, Ranking Member Alan Mollohan and Congressman John Culberson were able to increase funding for the Construction account of the International Boundary and Water Commission by \$4 million for a total of \$6 million, and added that the President had originally requested only \$2 million. At conclusion of Mr. Torres update, ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion and upon the vote the meeting was adjourned.***

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA