

MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 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, June 17, 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. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County
Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, Webb County
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron County
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, 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

Others

Ms. Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC
Ms. Ludy Saenz, LRGVDC
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC
Mr. Bill Norris, NRS
Ms. Ella de la Rosa, MVEC
Mr. Robert Fulbright, Region M
Mr. Don McGhee, HIS
Mayor Barbra Collum, Indian Lake
Ms. Kristi Shaw, HDR Engineering
Mr. Willy Cupit, TPWD
Ms. Noemi Matos, TPWD
Ms. Valerie Ramos, LRGVDC

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and announced that a quorum of the Board was present.

2. Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Meeting of April 6, 2011

B. Meeting of May 4, 2011

Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2011 and May 4, 2011 as presented. Mr. John Bruciak seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment

No Public Comments were received.

4. Discussion of Open Meetings Requirements (Tabled 4/6/2011)

Vice President Sonia Lambert made a motion to remove this item from the table. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Lambert was recognized and stated that she requested this item for discussion in order to clarify who had the authority to place items on the agenda and/or call for special meetings. President Darling stated that according to the bylaws, Section 2.06 Meetings, "The Board may meet in a special meeting if called by the President, Vice President or a majority of the directors", and added that he would be willing to accommodate requests to place items on the agenda from any Board Member.

Vice President Lambert noted that the RGRWA Board will be faced with tough issues and censure of Board members who desire to address them as agenda items was not appropriate, whether a Board member approved of the topic or not. When censure is communicated via email to a majority of the Board with a request of how to vote on an item it is a violation of the Open Meetings Act. The Vice President then suggested the Board receive a refresher on the Open Meetings Act to prevent this happening.

At the conclusion of discussion President Darling stated that there were two issues at hand: 1) possibly changing the bylaws regarding who can call Special Meetings and, 2) care must be observed regarding email responses and the Open Meetings Act. On the topic of the bylaws, if the Board wishes, this section can be revised to allow less than a majority to call Special Meetings. Regarding the Open Meetings Act it was suggested that reappointed members re-take the Open Meetings Training. No action taken.

5. Consider Sponsorship RE: Valley Environmental Summit 2011

Mr. Paul Heller made a motion to sponsor the Valley Environmental Summit 2011 at the Silver level of \$1,000. Mr. Brian Macmanus seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider Sponsorship RE: Texas Irrigation Expo 2011

Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion to sponsor the Texas Irrigation Expo 2011 at the Platinum level of \$1,000. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

7. Status Reports

A. Report from TCEQ Watermaster

Mr. Erasmo Yarrito reported on the Mexican water deficit, the reservoir levels, and gave the drought area report. Regarding the Brownsville sandbag weir, IBWC had not yet received word from CILA regarding when it will be removed, however the middle section had been knocked down, probably by the Border Patrol.

B. Report from IBWC

Mr. Rodolfo Montero was unable to attend, however he provided a written report that President Darling summarized.

C. Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group

President Darling, also the Vice Chair of RGRWPG, reported that the Group had begin working on the third 5 year Plan and has placed a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for an engineering firm to complete the plan.

D. Report on Middle Pecos County GCD Pending Permit Application Submitted by Fort Stockton Holdings

There was no new information to report on this item.

E. Selection of Mediator RE: City of McAllen/HCWID #3

There was no new information to report on this item.

8. Committee Reports

A. Community Outreach

There was no new information to report.

B. Finance and Planning

1. Financial Report

Mr. Joe Barrera informed the Board that he called several State level entities regarding grant fund opportunities to dig wells in the Webb County areas where water is being hauled in daily, but did not have much success. It appeared that firmer answers will be available after the legislative session closes. Mr. Barrera then gave the financial report and noted that the RGRWA was \$97,632.95 under budget. Mr. Barrera then turned the floor over to Ms. Debby Morales for the Expense Report. Ms. Morales reported that the current cash balance was \$337,580.62 and there was \$1,817.20 in expenses for April 2011 pending approval. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval of payment of the pending expenses as presented. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Status of Assessments

Mr. Joe Barrera reported that a total of \$87,103.70 has been received from the 2011 Assessment fees and encouraged the Board members to contact those members who have not paid their assessment fees.

C. Personnel and Professional Services

1. Archiving Photos of Flooding from Hurricane Alex

Mr. Erasmo Yarrito reported the TCEQ photos of Hurricane Alex were labeled and ready to upload, however the link on the RGRWA website did not allow for the quantity of photos he had available. Staff will follow up with the web master to work this out.

D. Legislation

Mr. Wayne Halbert reported that SB 978 regarding the City of McAllen taking over HCWID #3 passed, but will still require Governor Perry's signature to become a law.

E. El Morillo Drain

This item was addressed under TCEQ's report.

F. Ad Hoc Groundwater Committee

1. Consider Approval of RFQ to Procure Technical Consultants for the Regional Water Supply Project Feasibility Study and Authorization to Advertise (tabled 4/6/2011)

President Darling stated that this RFQ pertained to the water supply study the Board has been working on, and that the normal process would be to approve the RFQ and advertise it. In order to discuss, it must be removed from the table. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to remove this item from the table; Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Darling stated that the purpose of one of the aspects of this study was the capability of the river as a delivery system considering the changes in the river from weed infestation, etc. Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers, stated that the purpose was to consider alternative water supply, not existing water supply. The

President stated that he was under the impression that for a better opportunity to receive funding from the BOR, the Board planned to include the entire basin. Mr. Norris agreed and stated the study would address treaty issues with Mexico, etc. as the reasons this region needed to consider alternative supplies; these would not necessarily be studied so much as they would be addressed as a concern why this region should consider alternative water supplies.

Mr. Jones also mentioned the concept of piping water from the north as an alternative, so this study would be able to provide several options to consider. Mr. Halbert noted for that reason the Ad Hoc Groundwater Supply Committee should be involved in this project.

Mr. Norris noted that the Scope of Work presented today was prepared last year and should be revised so it could work cohesively with the BOR application. President Darling noted that as the Board is not ready to act on this item today this item should be turned over to the Ad Hoc Groundwater Committee for further consideration, then submission to the Executive Committee for consideration. ***Mr. Paul Heller made a motion to allow the Ad Hoc Groundwater Committee to work on the SOW and bring a recommendation to the Executive Committee. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

G. Scholarship Committee

There was no new information to report.

H. Drainage Committee

Vice President Lambert reported that the Steering and Technical Committees continued to meet and at the last meeting they discussed the inclusion of Starr County, which was voted down because Starr County is part of the South Texas Development Council, not the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.

9. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Board to not meet in July and schedule the next meeting for August 3, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA