

# MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 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, August 3, 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. John Bruciak, Cameron County  
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Joe Pennington, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, 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  
Ms. Valerie Ramos, LRGVDC  
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC  
Mr. Mario Garcia, LRGVDC  
Mr. Jaime Flores, TWRI/ACWP  
Mr. Robert Fulbright, Region M  
Mr. Herman Settemeyer, TCEQ  
Mr. Rodolfo Montero, US-IBWC

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

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced that a quorum of the Board was present.

#### **2. Oath of Office for Governor Reappointments**

Ms. Debby Morales administered the Oath of Office for Mr. Wayne Halbert, Mr. Paul Heller, Mr. Brian Macmanus and Mr. Bobby Sparks.

#### **3. Consider Approval of June 1, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

#### **4 Public Comment**

No Public Comments were received.

## 5. Status Reports

### **A. Report from TCEQ Watermaster**

Mr. Erasmo Yarrito reported on the water deliveries from Mexico, the U.S. and Mexican reservoir levels, the drought conditions, and the status of the salinity monitoring stations for El Morillo Drain. Mr. Yarrito added that negotiations for operation of El Morillo Drain to be turned over to CILA were going well and that this hopefully happen at the end of August 2011; in addition he reported that pump #2 has been repaired, but pump #1 was not operational.

### **B. Report from IBWC**

Mr. Rodolfo Montero was unable to attend and no report was provided at this time.

### **C. Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group**

President Darling, also the Vice Chair of the RGRWPG, reported that the Group selected the firm Black & Veatch Corporation as their engineering firm to prepare the Regional Water Plan for the next 5 year planning cycle.

### **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. Update on Proposal Submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.**

President Darling noted that a letter was received from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) informing the Board that their proposal was selected to be one of four studies that will be funded in 2011. The BOR anticipated contributing Federal funds in the amount of \$198,948 toward the completion of the proposed study. ***Mr. Wayne Halbert made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to negotiate the contract with the BOR. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

## 6. Committee Reports

### **A. Community Outreach**

There was no new information to report.

### **B. Finance and Planning**

#### 1. Consider Approval RE: Expense for Online Photo Storage

***Mr. Paul Heller made a motion to approve the \$20 per year cost for additional photo storage to archive photos from tropical storm events. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

#### 2. Financial Report

Mr. Joe Barrera was recognized and noted that the balance as of June 30, 2011 was \$325,862.16 and there were \$8,257.18 in expenses from May, June and July recommended for approval. Mr. Barrera added that as of June 30<sup>th</sup> the RGRWA was under budget \$90,086.48. ***Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion for approval of the expenses for May, June and July as recommended. Ms. Sonia Lambert seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

#### 3. Status of Assessments

Mr. Barrera reported that a total of \$87,103.70 has been received from the 2011 Assessment fees and stated he had made some reminder calls to members who have not paid their assessment fees and was optimistic that delinquent fees would soon be received.

4. Status of Local Match Pledges for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Mr. Barrera reported that to date \$33,381.60 has been pledged and \$7,403.91 has been received for the Bureau of Reclamation project.

Upon conclusion of the reports President Darling asked the Board if they would want to consider moving a portion of the available funds to a TxPool or other interest bearing account. Mr. Roy Rodriguez asked if the LRGVDC had a formal Investment Policy. Mr. Jones stated they did and gave a brief explanation of said policy. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to investigate and make decisions regarding investments on behalf of the RGRWA. Mr. D.V. Guerra seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

#### C. Personnel and Professional Services

1. Archiving Photos of Flooding from Hurricane Alex  
This item was covered under 6.B.1.

#### D. Legislation

There was no new information to report on this item.

#### 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)  
**Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to take this item off the table. Mr. Roy Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Victor Morales was recognized and stated that there were suggestions for minor revisions to the RFQ from the Board and the Bureau of Reclamation that could easily be incorporated and not change from the intent of the document. **Mr. Roy Rodriguez made a motion to approve release of the RFQ with the recommended revisions incorporated. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

#### G. Scholarship Committee

Mr. Paul Heller, committee Chair stated he would follow up on the status of the scholarship and provide an update at the next meeting.

#### H. Drainage Committee

Vice President Lambert was recognized and reported that a ranking process had been agreed upon by the joint committees for identified Drainage Projects submitted as part of the plan.

### **7. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule**

It was the consensus of the Board to not meet in September and schedule the next meeting for October 5, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

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Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

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Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA