

# MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)  
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006  
PALM VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER  
3401 JORDAN – MCALLEN, TX

**PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT**

The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 in the Celebration Room, Palm View Community, McAllen, Texas. In attendance were:

## Board Members

President: Mr. Jim Darling, Hidalgo County  
Vice President: Ms. Sonia Kaniger, San Benito  
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Joe Barrera, Brownsville  
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County  
Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, Webb Co.  
Mr. Frank Torres, Willacy Co.  
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron Co.  
Mr. Wayne Halbert  
Ms. Kathleen Reavis  
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger  
Mr. Glenn Wilde

## Others

Neil Haman, TWDB  
Charlie Rankin, El Morrillo Drain Committee  
Blanca Villalpando, Senator Eddie Lucio  
Julian Gonzalez, City of Mission  
Nora Lara, City of McAllen  
Rick Reyes, IBWC  
Ed Vela, TCEQ  
Glenn Jarvis, Region M  
Bill Norris, NRS

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum of Board members was present. The Chairman then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider approval of August 15, 2006 Meeting Minutes. Mr. John Bruciak asked that the reference to the Brownsville Seawater Desalination Plant on page 3, paragraph 2 be changed to Brownsville “Pilot” Seawater Desalination Plant. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to accept the minutes with change. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The Chairman then moved to agenda item 3. – Public Comment. As there were no public comments the Chairman then moved to Agenda item 4. – Consider Resolution RE: West Texas Spring Alliance. Chairman Darling explained that the ground water issues involved in this resolution related more to Kinney County and Val Verde County than it does to the West Texas Spring Alliance, and that Mr. Wayne Halbert had written the resolution under consideration for Board approval. **Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion for approval. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The Chairman then moved to Agenda item 5. – Discussion and Possible Action RE: RGRWA Legislation. The Chairman stated that Mr. Paul Cowen of Senator Eddie Lucio's office had suggested adding Drainage to the legislation; the Chairman also suggested that non-mandatory funding from the counties be added. Chairman Darling and Mr. Wayne Halbert will follow-up with Ms. Melissa Del Bosque and Mr. Ian Randolph, both with Senator Juan Hinojosa's office regarding these additions; no action was taken.

Upon conclusion of discussion on item 6. Chairman Darling moved to item 7. – Report from TCEQ Watermaster. Mr. Ed Vela, TCEQ Watermaster's Office, was recognized and gave a report on the status of the reservoirs and stated that Falcon reservoir levels had increased about 1 ½ feet (40,000-50,000 AF) with the possibility of a greater increase in the next couple of weeks.

Upon conclusion of discussion on item 7. the Chairman then moved to item 8. – Status Reports.

Regarding item A. - Local Fund Contribution, Mr. Ken Jones informed the Board that no additional local funds had been received.

Regarding item B. – Financial Report Mr. Jones reported that a few more sponsorships and registrations had been received for the forum; then asked for approval for the LRGVDC and Fernandez Group expenses. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for approval. Mr. John Bruciak seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding item C. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG), Chairman Darling asked Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Chairman of the RGRWPG to report. Mr. Jarvis stated that TWDB had scheduled a public hearing on the 2007 State Water Plan for Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in McAllen, TX and urged the Board members to attend. Mr. Jarvis stated that Region M had filed an application with the TWDB for funding for the next two years. Mr. Bill Norris then gave a brief summary of the Scope of Work. Chairman Darling suggested the RGRWA Board provide a general resolution to Region M in support of the Scope of Work. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion for approval. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding item D. – Report from First Rio Grande Regional Water Authority Economic Development Corporation, Chairman Darling reported that the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Mill would be meeting during the following week to determine the final financial figures on their expansion project. Regarding item D.1. – Board of Director Appointments, Mr. Allen Shields' name had been submitted for consideration. **Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion for approval. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

With no action needed on item 7.D. the Chairman moved to item 8. - Committee Reports. Chairman Darling stated that regarding item A. – Community Outreach, B. – Finance and Planning, and C. – Personnel and Professional Services there was no new information to report.

Regarding item D. – Legislation, Chairman Darling speculated that environmental flows will be a topic of discussion during the next legislative session. Mr. Halbert stated that there was a possibility that before the next legislative session that the legislature may call some South

Texas Irrigation Districts and Municipal Water User Groups to discover what the region's concerns were during pre-session testimony.

Regarding item E. – El Morillo Drain, the Chairman asked Mr. Charlie Rankin to report. Mr. Rankin stated that the El Morillo Drain Committee had paid the IBWC bill of \$24,514.09, but was having difficulty collecting Cameron County's portion. Mr. Jarvis suggested Mr. Rankin speak with Cameron County Commissioner John Wood, who is also a Region M Board member to ask for assistance in collection Cameron County's share of the El Morillo Drain bill.

The Chairman then moved to item 10, - Adjourn. ***Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

---

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

---

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA