

MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 in the Celebration Room, at the 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. Eduardo Guerra, Zapata County
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron Co.
Mr. Wayne Halbert
Ms. Kathleen Reavis

Others

Blanca Villalpando, Senator Eddie Lucio
Roel Rodriguez, McAllen Public Utilities
Bill Norris, NRS
Nora Lara, City of McAllen
Melissa McEver, Valley Freedom Newspaper
Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Debby Morales, LRGVDC

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum of Board members was present. The President then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider approval of September 19, 2006 Meeting Minutes. ***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Kathy Reavis seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

The President then moved to agenda item 3. – Public Comment. As there were no public comments the President then moved to Agenda item 4. – Discussion and possible action RE: RGRWA Legislation. President Darling announced that Ms. Blanca Villalpando, Senator Eddie Lucio's Office, had given him a list of questions from Mr. Ian Randolph, Senator Eddie Lucio's Office, and Ms. Melissa Del Bosque, Senator Juan Hinojosa's Office regarding the legislative changes the Board had suggested at the August Board meeting. The President then went over the questions with the Board, and stated that he would get back with Mr. Randolph and Ms. Del Bosque with answers. Mr. Wayne Halbert asked if the board could do a broad posting prior to the legislation being written. President Darling indicated that could be done; Mr. Halbert and President Darling agreed to write the appropriate verbiage for notices to be posted in newspapers in the six county areas the RGRWA included. ***Mr. Wayne Halbert made a motion to authorize payment of expenses to publish and notify the special act requirements for the next legislative session related to our legislation. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the***

motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Villalpando stated she would ask Mr. Randolph to respond in ten days.

Upon conclusion of discussion and action on item 4, President Darling moved to item 5. – Presentation RE: LRGVDC 2005 Annual Audit. Mr. Ken Jones was recognized. Mr. Jones stated that the RGRWA expenses for 2005 were included in the LRGVDC audit for 2005 and that there were no findings or questioned costs. ***Ms. Kathy Reavis made a motion to accept the RGRWA's part of the LRGVDC 2005 Annual Audit results. Mr. John Bruciak seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action on item 5, the President then moved to item 6. – Consider Contribution in Support of Research Proposal RE: Molecular Genetic Evaluation of Arundo donax in the Rio Grande Basin. Mr. Jones explained that the Dr. John A. Goolsby, Ph.D., USDA-ARS in Weslaco was conducting research to determine the origin of the invasive Arundo donax in the Rio Grande Basin, but that his funding was short \$5,018 to complete the necessary DNA Index System database, which was necessary in order to determine the best means to eradicate the invasive cane. Mr. Jones also informed the Board that a meeting on this subject was scheduled for October 24, 2006 from 8:30 – 12:00, at the Kika de la Garza Subtropical Research Center in Weslaco. Mr. Jones stated that the Region M Group had agreed to contribute \$1,000, the Irrigation District Managers had a donation of \$1,000 on their agenda for consideration at their next meeting, North Alamo Water Supply Corporation had committed to donate \$500, Brownsville PUB had committed \$500, and other requests are being considered. Mr. Jones asked if the RGRWA Board would consider donating \$518.00. President Darling suggested that a fund for just such needs be set up so the Board could be proactive in these matters versus reactive, and asked Mr. Jones to create a draft budget for consideration. ***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to contribute \$518.00 to LRGVDC in support the Molecular Genetic Evaluation of Arundo donax research. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of discussion and action on item 6, President Darling moved to item 7. A. – Report from TCEQ Watermaster, Reservoir Levels. Mr. Ed Vela, TCEQ Watermaster's office was unable to attend, but had provided Mr. Jones with his report. Mr. Jones read the report to the Board.

At the conclusion of the Watermaster report President Darling moved to item 8. – Status Reports.

Regarding item 8.A. – Local Fund Contribution there are no new contributions to report.

Regarding item 8.B. – Financial Report. Mr. Jones detailed the LRGVDC Administrative Expenses, and the Fernandez Group Expenses that require Board approval. ***Ms. Sonia Kaniger made a motion to approve LRGVDC and Fernandez Group expenses. Mr. John Bruciak seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Regarding item 8.C. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG). President Darling recognized Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers. Mr. Norris stated that since the last meeting NRS Consulting Engineers had submitted on behalf of the RGRWPG the seven task items to the TWDB, but the Board probably will not release any

information on these types of projects until they saw the staff recommendation, most likely during the second week of November.

Regarding item 8.D. – Report from the First Rio Grande Regional Water Authority Economic Development Corporation (FRGRWAEDC). President Darling reported that the FRGRWAEDC held a special meeting during the previous week at the request of the Sugar Mill regarding an increase of the Inducement Resolution from \$20MM to \$27MM, which was approved by the Board. The bond was anticipated to be finalized by the end of the year, and the fee for the bond had yet to be determined. President Darling speculated that on a \$27MM bond a fee in the range of \$25,000 (1%) would probably be appropriate. The President went on to state that the FRGRWAEDC was the only entity in the rural environment that could issue this type of debt and there were many feasible opportunities for the Board, thus the Board would be writing a letter to the County to make them aware of the FRGRWAEDC's available services.

Upon conclusion of the Status Reports, the President moved to item 9. – Committee Reports. Regarding item 9 A. – Community Outreach, 9.A.2. – Mr. Jones announced that there were two new Copper Level (\$1,000) sponsors. Regarding item 9.B. Finance and Planning, Item 9.C. – Personnel and Professional Services, there was nothing new to report. Regarding item 9.D. Legislation – Mr. Wayne Halbert stated that a hearing is pending, and there will be some legislation regarding environmental flows. It will probably not be as complex as Senate Bill 3, and there will hopefully be an effort to get issues solved instead of grouping them together.

President Darling then moved to item 10. – New or Old Business. The President suggested that the next meeting be held prior to the Educational Forum scheduled for November 30th from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. It was the consensus of the Board to meet at 2:00 p.m. on November 30, 2006 at the Quinta Mazatlan World Birding Center in McAllen.

Upon conclusion of discussion on item 10, the meeting was adjourned.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA