

MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2007
MISSION CITY HALL COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM
1201 E. 8TH STREET – MISSION, 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 16, 2007 at the Mission City Hall in Mission, Texas. In attendance were:

Board Members

President: Mr. Jim Darling, Hidalgo County
Vice-President: Ms. Sonia Kaniger
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Joe Barrera
Mr. Eduardo Guerra, Zapata County
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County
Mr. Wayne Halbert
Ms. Kathleen Reavis
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger

Others

Dr. John Goolsby, USDA-ARS
Mr. Cris Valadez, Jr., County Judge's Office
Mr. Ed Vela, TCEQ – RIS
Mr. Bill Norris, NRS
Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and announced that a quorum of Board members was present; and then introduced Ms. Melissa Del Bosque, Senator Juan "Chuey" Hinojosa's Office; Mr. Cris Valadez, Jr., Cameron County Judges Office; Mr. Ed Vela, TCEQ Watermaster's Office; and Mr. Rick Reyes, IBWC and welcomed them to the meeting. The President then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider approval of September 25, 2007 Meeting Minutes. ***Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

The President then moved to agenda item 3. – Public Comment. President Darling stated that no one had signed up for Public Comment, and then moved to item 4. – Report from TCEQ Watermaster, and recognized Mr. Ed Vela. Mr. Vela then read the reservoir level report. President Darling mentioned a newspaper article that stated the Mexican Water Debt was technically paid. Mr. Vela confirmed that it was.

Upon conclusion of the Watermaster's report, President Darling moved to item 5. – Report from IBWC and recognized Mr. Rick Reyes. Mr. Reyes read the IBWC report prepared by Commissioner Carlos Marin and added that the total transfer for the Mexican debt was 242,546

acre feet.

Upon conclusion of the report from IBWC President Darling moved to item 6 – Report on Progress RE: Arundo donax, Carrizo Cane in the Rio Grande Basin and recognized Dr. John Goolsby. Dr. Goolsby gave a very informative presentation regarding the positive progress the USDA – ARS had made in finding a biological method of controlling these invasive weeds. Upon conclusion of the presentation Mr. Jimmie Steidinger stated that he was very impressed with the information Dr. Goolsby shared and suggested Dr. Goolsby make this same presentation to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), as they may have similar issues with these plants.

Upon conclusion of the presentation the President moved to item 7. – Presentation of LRGVDC's Annual Audit and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones stated that the outcome of the LRGVDC Annual Audit, which included the revenue and expenditures of the RGRWA, was favorable and there were no findings or questioned costs noted by the auditor. Mr. Jones added that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approved this report as presented at their September, 2007 meeting. A full detailed copy of the LRGVDC Annual Audit would be made available upon request to anyone interested in reviewing it. Upon conclusion of Mr. Jones' report and discussion **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the LRGVDC's Annual Audit. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action on item 7, President Darling moved to item 8. - Status Reports.

Regarding item 8.A. – Financial Report, President Darling again recognized Mr. Ken Jones, who went over the Administrative Expenses for September 2007 and stated that these expenses required Board approval for disbursement. **Ms. Kathleen Reavis made a motion to approve disbursement of the Administrative Expenses as presented. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** President Darling noted that the Finance Committee would need to meet to discuss and plan the budget for 2008 as well as assessments geared toward a special project.

Regarding item 8.B. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Chairman of Region M, was unable to attend and no report was available at this time.

Regarding item 8.C. – Update on 2025 Application Submitted to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Bill Norris was recognized and stated that the Water 2025 application the Board submitted was not approved. Mr. Norris speculated that the Water 2025 Board preferred to fund projects that would provide water savings as opposed to funding studies as was proposed in the RGRWA application. Mr. Norris informed the Board that the application could be reworked, but probably to no avail as the funding request would still be for studies. At the conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Board to have the Finance and Planning Committees consider this topic in December 2007 and provide a report of their findings to the Board at the next meeting. No action was taken.

Regarding item 8.D. – Report from SB 707 Advisory Committee. Item 8.D.1. – Consider Action RE: Format of Initial Meeting of Conference. President Darling stated that the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association (LRGVWDMA) was meeting on this date to

establish a subcommittee to prepare a list of gubernatorial nominees to the RGRWA to send to the Governor's office. The President suggested mailing notice to all the cities and water supply corporations in the six counties included in the RGRWA: Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Webb, Willacy and Zapata, requesting their gubernatorial nominations. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion appointing the LRGVWDMA subcommittee to prepare a list of nominees for appointment consideration under SB 707. Ms. Kathleen Reavis seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Item 8.D.2. – Schedule Conference Meeting Date. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to schedule the first RGRWA Conference on November 2, 2007, at the Mission City Hall. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of discussion and action on Status Reports, the President then moved to item 9. – Committee Reports.

Regarding item 9.A. – Community Outreach, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 9.B. – Finance and Planning, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 9.C. – Personnel and Professional Services, there was nothing new to report.

Regarding item 9.D. – Legislation, Ms. Melissa Del Bosque was recognized and offered the assistance of Senator Hinojosa's office regarding funding opportunities with TWDB in the form of a letter of support.

Regarding item 9.E. – El Morillo Drain, Mr. Charlie Rankin was unable to attend, and no report was available at this time.

President Darling then moved to item 10. – New or Old Business. It was the consensus of the Board that the next meeting be scheduled on December 18, 2007. Mr. Ken Jones stated he would coordinate the Finance Committee meeting. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA