

MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER BOARD ROOM
510 S. 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 Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room in Weslaco, Texas. In attendance were:

RGRWA Board Members

President: Mr. Jim Darling, Hidalgo County
Vice President: Ms. Sonia Kaniger, Irrigation Dist.
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County
Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, Webb County
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Irrigation Districts.
Mr. Bobby Sparks, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Brian Macmanus, Water Supply Corporation
Mr. D. V. Guerra, Public

Others

Mr. Patrick Daize, IBWC
Mr. Rodolfo Montero, IBWC
Mr. John Trevino, TDA
Mr. Charles Browning, NAWSC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID
Ms. Cheryl Flores, TWDB
Ms. Kathy Hopkins, TWDB

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and announced that a quorum was present. The President then moved to item 2. - Consider approval of September 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes. ***Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. D. V. Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Darling moved to agenda item 3. – Public Comment; there being none, the President moved to item 4. – Presentation RE: TWDB Grant Opportunities under Division of Flood Mitigation and recognized Ms. Kathy Hopkins, TWDB Flood Mitigation Specialist. Ms. Hopkins stated that TWDB administers three grant programs: The Flood Protection Planning Grant, The Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant and The Severe Repetitive Loss Grants. Ms. Hopkins explained the requirements for each of these programs and how they are scored. At the end of Ms. Hopkins presentation Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez asked if this information would be distributed to local communities. Ms. Hopkins stated that Ms. Cheryl Flores in the Harlingen TWDB office was in the process of meeting with local communities to advise staff of these grant opportunities. Chairman Darling stated that on October 17, the LRGVDC organized a Regional Drainage Workgroup meeting to look into the possibility of coordinating efforts to form a regionally organized Drainage Plan. The RGRWA's statutory authority includes drainage and President Darling stated he would like staff to create a budget for drainage

for 2009. Ms. Hopkins informed the Board that the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) formed a coalition with Global Communities which requires its members to implement practices that stop development in inappropriate places, and suggested this might be something the RGRWA would be interested in.

Upon conclusion of discussion, President Darling moved to item 5. – Consider Resolution RE: El Morillo Drain. The Chairman stated that this resolution was the end result of the Board assuming the contractual responsibility for El Morillo Drain. **Mr. Brian Macmanus made a motion for approval of Resolution 2008-04 as presented. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion, and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.**

Upon conclusion of action on item 5, President Darling moved to item 6. – Discussion of Revised Meeting Schedule. Ms. Debby Morales informed the Board that to reduce travel time for several Board members who are also on the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M), as well as State and Federal Ad Hoc members, it was suggested these two Boards meet on the same day, one after the other. At their last meeting the Region M Group unanimously decided to begin meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion that beginning January 2009 the regular RGRWA Board meetings will also be scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion, and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.**

President Darling moved to item 7. - Status Reports.

Regarding item 7.A. – Report from TCEQ Watermaster, Mr. Erasmo Yarrito, Deputy Watermaster was unable to attend, however, President Darling stated that Falcon Reservoir was almost full and Amistad Reservoir was over conservation level.

Regarding item 7.B. - Report from IBWC, President Darling recognized Mr. Patrick Daize, USIBWC Operations Manager in Mercedes. Mr. Daize stated he was reporting on behalf of Acting Commissioner Al Riera who was unable to attend. Mr. Daize informed the Board that the tragic plane crash that took the life of IBWC Commissioner Carlos Marin and three others was still under investigation and no details were available at this time. Mr. Daize then turned the floor over to Mr. Rodolfo Montero. Mr. Montero reported that regarding the 1944 Treaty, on October 8, 2008 conservation level in Amistad Reservoir was reached thus, according to the 1944 Treaty, cancelling any water debt Mexico owed the U. S.

Mr. Montero then addressed El Morillo Drain, and acknowledged the decades of service from the Lower Rio Grande Water Committee, Inc. Mr. Montero stated that once USIBWC received Resolution 2008-04, USIBWC will be able to execute a new contract with the RGRWA as the new local proponent for El Morillo Drain. Mr. Montero added that USIBWC staff looks forward to partnering with RGRWA on this effort.

Regarding item 7.C. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG). Mr. Glenn Jarvis was unable to attend, however, President Darling asked Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, who also serves on Region M, to report. Mr. Hinojosa stated that Region M submitted its Scope of Work to TWDB and only a certain amount of projects were funded, but there was going to be an effort by the Region M Group to solicit the RGRWA to fund some of the unfunded projects. Region M prioritized the unfunded projects and that list was provided in the Board folders. The Region M Group has not made an official

request of the RGRWA for funding as the Group anticipated feed back from the RGRWA at their December meeting. It was the consensus of the RGRWA to place this item on the November agenda for funding consideration.

President Darling then moved to item 8. – Committee Reports.

Regarding item 8.A. – Community Outreach, there was no new information to report.

Regarding item 8.B. – Finance and Planning, on item 8.B.1. - Chairman Darling recognized Ms. Morales who reported that staff was requesting approval of expenses in the amount of \$424.67. **Ms. Sonia Kaniger made a motion for approval of these expenses. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** On item 8.B.2. – Status of Assessments Ms. Morales reported that almost half of the 2009 assessments (\$43,769.99) had been received.

Regarding item 8.C. – Personnel and Professional Services, there was nothing to report.

Regarding item 8.D. – Legislation, there was no new information available at this time.

Regarding item 8.E. – El Morillo Drain, this item was previously discussed.

Regarding item 8.F. – Committee Appointments, there was no information to report.

President Darling then moved to item 9. – New or Old Business, Mr. Hinojosa asked what the Board might work on legislatively, and if the Board was going to have any effort to solicit funds from the Federal Government for project implementation. Mr. Hinojosa stated that there was pending legislation in Washington D.C. that includes many individual projects from several irrigation districts and asked if the Board might consider retaining a consultant to push these projects, or will the Board be the applicant for the solicitation of funds. Chairman Darling suggested the Board write a letter to all the Irrigation Districts in the six counties the RGRWA encompasses asking what plans they have, and include this item in the November agenda. Upon conclusion of discussion, and there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA