

MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009
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 Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room 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 Dist.
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County
Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, Webb County
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron County
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts
Ms. Sonia Lambert, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Joe Pennington, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Jo Jo White, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Bobby Sparks, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Brian Macmanus, Water Supply Corporation
Mr. Roel Rodriguez, Municipal
Mr. D.V. Guerra, Public

Others

Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC
Ms. Carolina Leal, LRGVDC
Mr. Gilbert Cansino, STC
Ms. Cristina Ontiveres, STC
Mr. Jaime Flores, TWRI
Ms. Robyn Hadley, WaterPR
Mr. Charles Browning, NAWSC
Ms. Connie Townsend, TWDB
Mr. Brad Cowen, Tex Ag Life Ext Service
Ms. Aleida Garces, STC
Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Region M
Mr. Gary Whittington, Region M
Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, Region M
Mr. David Salinas, City of Edinburg
Mr. Alfonso Carmona, CILA
Mr. Rodolfo Montero, USIBWC
Mr. Drew Leeper, NRS Engineers
Mr. Scott Fry, South Padre Island
Mr. Jake White, NRS Engineers
Mr. Antonio Fernandez, City of Granjeno
Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice President Sonia Lambert called the meeting to order pending the arrival of President Jim Darling and announced that a quorum was present.

2. Consider Approval of August 5, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brian Macmanus made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment

The Vice President stated that no one had signed up for Public Comments. President Darling arrived at this time and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

4. Presentation RE: Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan and Watershed Partnership

Chairman Darling recognized Mr. Jaime Flores. Mr. Flores informed the Group that part of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan and Watershed Partnership (Partnership) is to educate people

on the purpose of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed and how it affects the every day lives of the residents in the Rio Grande Valley. The Partnership's current activities include Habitat Restoration and Wastewater Infrastructure, Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), Urban BMPs, Outreach and Education, and Water Quality Monitoring. Additional goals include Wastewater Infrastructure and Habitat Restoration.

President Darling commented that the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan somewhat dovetails into the Building Disaster Resilient Communities drainage study and suggested the Board consider incorporating some of the Partnerships projects into the drainage study.

5. Discussion RE: Future Projects

President Darling informed the Board that Mr. Carlos Rubinstein, TCEQ, suggested projects such as continued support of El Morillo Drain and other salt reduction initiatives. Mr. Rubinstein suggested the RGRWA could advocate for federal funding from Section 729 and 5056 through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Other projects Mr. Rubinstein suggested are Water Conservation Measures and updating the naturalized flows for the Rio Grande.

President Darling suggested the installation of cameras on the U.S. side of the Rio Grande to monitor functionality of El Morillo Drain pumps.

Mr. Brian Macmanus asked about the status of installation of the SCADA system to monitor the El Morillo Drain pump activity. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the IBWC was in the process of finalizing a capital improvements plan for El Morillo Drain which includes consideration of a SCADA system, monitoring, automatic pump activation, upgrading the pumps and putting the canal underground.

President Darling suggested an ongoing educational program in schools would be a worth while project.

Mr. Jones suggested a feasibility comparison on brackish groundwater desalination. There are several entities in the region that are already exploring desalination and it is logical to consider this on a regional level. President Darling then summarized the discussion and appointed Mr. Roel Rodriguez to Chair a work group on this item with the members consisting of the El Morillo Drain Committee.

6. Status Reports

A. Report from TCEQ Watermaster

No representation from TCEQ was available for this meeting due to scheduled activities for the swearing in ceremony for Carlos Rubenstein as a Commissioner of TCEQ.

B. Report from IBWC

No representation from IBWC was present and no report was available at this time.

C. Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group

Mr. Glenn Jarvis, Chairman was recognized and gave an overview of the RGRWPG's current projects. Mr. Jarvis also informed the Board that there were two vacancies in the Voting Membership.

1. Contract Amendment RE: San Felipe Springs work Task

Mr. Jarvis stated that this item will be considered at the RGRWPG's meeting immediately following this meeting.

D. RFQ RE: Regional Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities

Ms. Lambert was recognized and informed the Board that the Committee extended the

deadline to receive RFQ's an additional two weeks, until October 20.

7. Committee Reports

A. Community Outreach

President Darling noted a couple of events scheduled for 2010.

B. Finance and Planning

1. Financial Report

Mr. Wayne Halbert made a motion for approval of payment of the current expenses as presented. Ms. Sonia Lambert seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Status of Assessments

Mr. Joe Barrera was recognized and informed the Board that the Assessment Invoices had been mailed and some payments had already been received.

C. Personnel and Professional Services

There was no new information to report at this time.

D. Legislation

Mr. Wayne Halbert was recognized and stated there were no significant changes to report.

E. El Morillo Drain

Mr. Jones was recognized and stated that a check was sent to IBWC for the U.S. portion of O & M for El Morillo Drain, and invoices had been forwarded to the Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties for reimbursement of their portion.

8. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

President Darling suggested waiting to schedule the next meeting dependant upon when the RFQs for Building Disaster Resilient Communities would be ready for review, possibly December 2, 2009.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA