

MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 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 5, 2011 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center 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 Districts
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County
Mr. Mike Cabello / Alt. Mr. Mario Santos
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Paul Heller, 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 Corporations
Mr. Roy Rodriguez, Municipal

Others

Ms. Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC
Ms. Ludy Saenz, LRGVDC
Ms. Valerie Ramos, LRGVDC
Mr. Mark Null, USGS
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC
Mr. Rodolfo Montero, US-IBWC
Mr. Mario T. Garcia, LRGVDC
Mr. Mario Santos, Webb Co.
Mr. Armando Vela, GMA 16

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and announced that a quorum of the Board was present.

2. Consider Approval of August 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Paul Heller seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3 Public Comment

No Public Comments were received.

**4. Consider Approval of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RE: Lower Rio Grande Basin Study**

Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and informed the Board that in the folders was the final MOA that lays out the dollar amount for the Scope Of Work (SOW). Under the Basin Study Program, the US Bureau Of Reclamation (BOR) would fund 48.4% and the RGRWA would need to fund 51.6%. The total cost of the Study is estimated to be \$412,798, of which \$198,948 will be provided by BOR under the WaterSMART Program and \$213,850 will be provided by the RGRWA. Originally the Board thought the cost share would be 50/50; since it is 51.6/48.4 the local share is about \$10,000 more than anticipated. Under item 7.B.3. staff did a tally for how efforts were progressing to collect the local match. Currently staff anticipates \$56,218.99 which leaves a shortfall of approximately \$60,000. Mr. Jones stated that

staff will continue efforts to collect the balance, and asked if the Board would be willing to make up any amount of the difference or seek funds from another source for the local match. Mr. Jones and Board members made plans to contact Hidalgo County and Cameron County regarding their willingness and ability to contribute to the project. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to add \$25,000 to the current 51.6% RGRWA contribution if necessary. Mr. Brian Macmanus seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** President Darling noted that the MOA will be signed once the local match commitment is fulfilled equal to the Board's 51.6% inclusive of the \$25,000. Mr. Roy Rodriguez stated that as it is a new budget year and the City of McAllen has been very gracious in providing funding to the RGRWA, he will commit to another 50% of what the City of McAllen had already contributed and would also approach Mr. John Bruciak, Brownsville PUB, to discuss the City of Brownsville doing the same. Mr. Jones asked if Mr. Rodriguez would like a separate invoice sent for that additional amount, Mr. Rodriguez answered in the affirmative. Staff will wait to hear from Brownsville before sending an additional invoice to them.

5. Discussion of Statement Of Qualifications Received RE: Lower Rio Grande Valley Basin and Regional Water Supply Feasibility Study and Consider Action on Date for Interviews and Scoring Process

Mr. Victor Morales was recognized and stated that in previous discussions with the Ad Hoc Groundwater Committee, the Committee agreed to interview the three respondents to the Statement Of Qualifications (SOQ) for this Study. At this time staff was requesting a date, location and method to score the presentations. Mr. Morales stated he received suggestions on the scoring method from Mr. Brian Macmanus and Mr. Jeff Gerber, BOR, who requested to be a part of this selection process. Mr. Macmanus stated that his suggested scoring method was based on the criteria the firms submitted in their packets, that it was straight forward and would match up with their proposals. President Darling suggested using Mr. Macmanus' recommended scoring method and adding a 10th factor that will incorporate the BOR to allow their ranking to be a part of the Board's raking and assign 10 points to that factor for a total of 110 points. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez made a motion to schedule the interviews for the SOQ respondents on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room, with presentations to last ten minutes with a fifteen minute question and answer session to follow and scoring the presentations using "Brian's Score Card" with modifications to a 110 point criteria. Mr. Roy Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

6. Status Reports

A. Report from TCEQ Watermaster

Mr. Erasmo Yarrito introduced Mr. Ricky Anderson, TCEQ Watermaster Section Manager. Mr. Anderson stated he would be a resource to the Board in the place of Mr. Herman Settemeyer. Mr. Yarrito then reported on the water deliveries from Mexico, the U.S. and Mexican reservoir levels, the drought conditions, and the status of the salinity monitoring stations for El Morillo Drain.

B. Report from IBWC

Mr. Rodolfo Montero reported that staff continued to work on the inventory to transfer operation of El Morillo Drain from CONAGUA to CILA and provided a written report on the status of the ARRA Levee Certification.

C. Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group

President Darling, also the Vice Chair of the RGRWPG, reported that the Group was ready to sign the contract for the 4th Round of Regional Water Planning.

D. Report on Middle Pecos County GCD Pending Permit Application Submitted by Fort Stockton Holdings

There was no new information to report on this item.

7. Committee Reports

A. Community Outreach

There was no new information to report.

B. Finance and Planning

1. Financial Report

Mr. Joe Barrera was recognized and noted that the balance as of September 30, 2011 was \$327,882.14 and there were \$2,090.38 in expenses from August and September recommended for approval. ***Mr. Wayne Halbert made a motion for approval of the expenses for August and September as recommended. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*** It was the consensus of the Board to include earmark funds for the SCADA system in the budget.

2. Status of Assessments

Mr. Barrera reported that by legislation TCEQ was required to provide the water right information to the RGRWA by September 1st every year, but staff had just received it. The water right assessment invoices were scheduled to go out the beginning of October. Staff will process the invoices as quickly as possible.

3. Status of Local Match Pledges for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

This item was covered under Item 4.

4. Future Projects

There was no new information on this item.

C. Personnel and Professional Services

There was no new information on this item.

D. Legislation

There was no new information to report on this item.

E. El Morillo Drain

This item was addressed under TCEQ's report.

F. Ad Hoc Groundwater Committee

1. Status of Regional Water Supply Project Feasibility Study

This item was covered under items 4 and 5.

G. Scholarship Committee

Mr. Paul Heller was recognized and reported Mr. Juan Vargas, student at Texas A&M Kingsville will be the scholarship recipient once more, and the balance of the scholarship fund is \$8,750 with \$1,250 to be used toward this semester's scholarship. President Darling suggested using the \$30,000 from the FRGRWAEDC bond funds to replenish the scholarship fund, and will schedule a meeting of that Board to consider this action.

H. Drainage Committee

Vice President Lambert was recognized and provided a brief update.

7. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a special meeting to interview the respondents to the SOQ for the LRGV Basin and Regional Water Supply Feasibility Study on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room and no meeting would be scheduled for December.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA