

# MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
9:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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, November 18, 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.  
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Joe Barrera, Irrigation Dist.  
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County  
Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, Webb County  
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron County  
Mr. Wayne Halbert, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Jimmie Steidinger, 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. D. V. Guerra, Public

Others

Ms. Claudia Lozano, TCEQ  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID  
Mr. Francisco Martinez, IBWC  
Mr. John Trevino, TDA  
Mr. Charles Browning, NAWSC  
Mr. Manuel Cruz, LRGVDC  
Ms. Terrie Salinas, LRGVDC  
Ms. Cheryl Flores, TWDB

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and announced that a quorum was present. The President then moved to item 2. - Consider approval of October 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes. **Mr. D.V. Guerra made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Jo Jo White 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: LRGVDC 2007 Annual Audit and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones stated that as the Administrator for the RGRWA, the Board's financial activities were incorporated in the LRGVDC's annual audit. Mr. Jones then briefed the Board on the contents of the document as it pertained to the RGRWA. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Brian Macmanus made a motion to approve the 2007 LRGVDC Annual Audit as presented. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action, President Darling moved to item 5. – Discussion RE: Texas Water Day 2009 and recognized Mr. Joe Barrera. Mr. Barrera reminded the Board that this event is scheduled for February 2009 and encouraged Board members to attend. President Darling suggested a list of Rio Grande Valley irrigation district projects should be brought to the event. It was the consensus of the Board that the RGRWA should be represented at the Texas Water Day 2009.

Upon conclusion of discussion on Texas Water Day 2009, President Darling moved to item 6. – Consider Approval of Request to Irrigation Districts RE: Inventory of Projects Pending Funding. President Darling suggested consideration of a resolution in support of the Valley Irrigation District Projects. Mr. Wayne Halbert stated he would provide more details on the inventory of projects he created previously for the Board. Mr. Jones suggested requesting the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M) and the LRGVDC also consider resolutions in support of these projects. It was the consensus of the Board to add consideration of a resolution in support of Valley Irrigation District Projects to the next agenda.

President Darling moved to item 7. - Status Reports.

Regarding item 7.A. – Report from TCEQ Watermaster, Mr. Erasmo Yarrito was unable to attend, however, the statistical report was provided in the Board folders.

Regarding item 7.B. - Report from IBWC, President Darling recognized Mr. Francisco Martinez. Mr. Martinez stated that on behalf of Acting Commissioner Al Riera he would like to mention the recent announcement by President George W. Bush of the appointment of Mr. C. W. (Bill) Ruth as the next Commissioner for USIBWC. Mr. Martinez also reported on the heavy inflows to Amistad and Falcon dams from the Rio Conchos and the Presidio; and gave status reports on the Brownsville Matamoros Weir and the El Morillo Drain.

Regarding item 7.C. – Report from Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG). Mr. Glenn Jarvis was unable to attend and President Darling asked Mr. Jones to report. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the RGRWPG was expecting the contract for the next round of planning next week. Mr. Jones then addressed item 7.C.1. – Consider Approval RE: Funding RGRWPG Project Not Funded by TWDB. Mr. Jones stated that this item has previously come before the Board and there was some concern weather or not to fund any portion of planning activities versus actual construction. This item is on the agenda this month for clarification in the interest of budget planning for the coming year. If the Board was interested in funding any of the listed projects they would need to be included in the 2009 budget. Mr. Joe Barrera suggested allocating a line item to the RGRWPG Projects not funded by TWDB in the 2009 budget in the event the Board decided to take action next year. At the conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Board to take no action on this item at this time.

Upon conclusion of Status Reports President Darling 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:

- Item 8.B.1. - Chairman Darling recognized Mr. Jones who reported that staff was requesting approval of expenses in the amount of \$212.99. **Mr. Jo Jo White made a motion for approval of these expenses. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
- Item 8.B.2. – Status of Assessments Mr. Joe Barrera reported that \$75,719.39 had been received and noted that collections were going much better this year than last.
- Item 8.B.3. – LRGVDC's Quarterly Investment Report Mr. Jones noted that there was \$100,135.75 in the TexPool investment account, and these figures were calculated through the end of September; in January 2009 the Board will receive the end of the year investment information.

Regarding item 8.C. – Personnel and Professional Services, there was no new information to report.

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

Regarding item 8.E. – El Morillo Drain, Mr. Jones reported Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties Commissioners Courts will have as an agenda item approval of the transfer of responsibility of the El Morillo Drain from the Lower Rio Grande Water Committee, Inc. to the RGRWA the second week of December and noted no difficulty is anticipated in the transfer. Mr. Jones added that during a meeting at the local IBWC office the topic of El Morillo Drain was raised. Some of the issues discussed were the possibility of installing an automatic pump station as well as a SCADA system to show accurate salinity readings at various locations. Mr. Patrick Daize intended to send a letter to the IBWC El Paso office with those recommendations. Mr. Frank Martinez stated he planned to speak to Acting Commissioner Riera regarding the Con Agua group turning responsibility for El Morillo Drain over to CILA, which would allow for better communication with the Mexican section and quicker response to resolve issues that arise. Chairman Darling offered the support of the Board in the form of letter(s) of support should the IBWC deem it advisable.

President Darling then moved to item 9. – New or Old Business:

Item 1. – Discussion RE: Open Government Training for Board Members. Mr. Wayne Halbert suggested staff keep copies of all Board Members' Open Government Training certificates on file. Staff will check current records and contact those members whose certificates are not currently on file.

Item 2. – December Meeting Schedule. It was the consensus of the Board that the full Board did not need to meet until January 2009; however, the Executive Committee should meeting in December to discuss the 2009 Budget and the Water Right Sale price.

Item 3. – Consider Approval for Submission of EDA Application RE: Regional Master Drainage Plan. President Darling stated that the Regional Drainage Work Group held two meetings and included Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties. The Work Group is requesting a grant for \$5 million for drainage planning in the four counties and would like the RGRWA to be the grant applicant; Board approval is required to do so. **Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion for the RGRWA to**

***be the grant applicant for the Regional Drainage Work Group grant application. Mr. Bobby Sparks seconded the motion, and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.***

Upon conclusion of discussion, and there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

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Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

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Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA