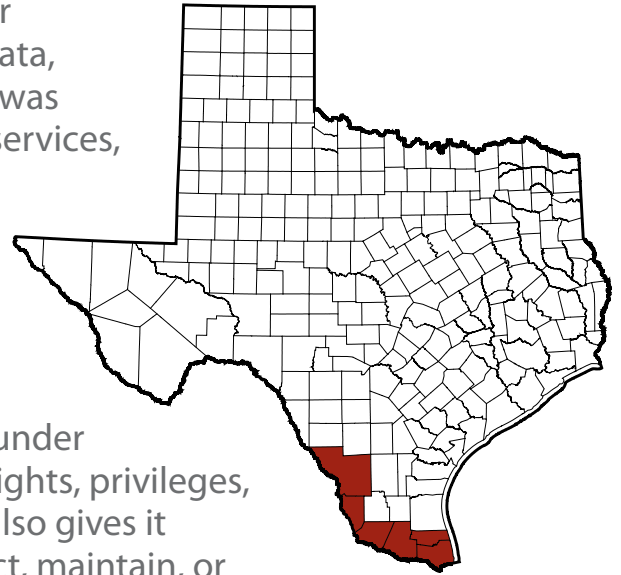


RGRWA

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

The RGRWA covers six counties in the Middle and Lower Rio Grande Valley: Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, and Webb (excluding the City of Laredo). The Authority was specifically created to supplement—not replace—the services, regulatory powers, and authority of irrigation districts, water development supply corporations, counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions within its borders. It has assumed the functions of the former Lower Rio Grande Authority (LRGA).



As a conservation and reclamation district established under the Texas Constitution, the RGRWA has broad powers, rights, privileges, and responsibilities. The RGRWA's enabling legislation also gives it specific authority to "investigate, plan, acquire, construct, maintain, or operate any property the authority considers necessary or proper for the accomplishment of the purposes of the authority, including water treatment, wastewater treatment, water conveyance, and desalination of water." The Authority may borrow money, issue negotiable bonds, and apply for, accept, receive, and administer gifts, grants, loans, and other funds available from any source.



BOARD MEMBERS

The Authority has a complex structure designed to fairly represent the diverse interests of the region. Twelve of the 18 directors are appointed by the governor: nine representing irrigation districts and one each representing the public, municipal class entities, and water supply corporations. Additionally, each county must be represented, and no more than three members can come from a single county. These directors serve four-year terms. Each member county appoints one director. These directors serve four-year terms. The officers of the board are elected by the board members.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Sonia Lambert, Vice-President
Cameron County Irrigation
District #2

Joe Barrera III, Secretary Treasurer
Brownsville Irrigation District

D.V. Guerra
D.V. Guerra Ranch

Wayne Halbert
Harlingen Irrigation District

Paul Heller
Rio Queen Citrus

Sonny Hinojosa
HCID #2

Brian Macmanus
East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corp.

Joe Pennington
Pennington Farms

Roel Rodriguez
City of McAllen

Bobby Sparks
Valley Acres

Jimmie Steidinger
Donna Irrigation District

Frank "Jo Jo" White
Hidalgo & Cameron Counties ID #9

COUNTY APPOINTMENTS:

Jim Darling, President
Hidalgo County

John Bruciak
Cameron County

Ricardo Gutierrez
Starr County

Fitzgerald G. Sanchez
Webb County

Frank Torres
Willacy County

Karran Westerman
Zapata County

RGRWA FACTS

- Established: 2003.
- Functions: To plan for and manage desalination, water supply, and wastewater treatment, agricultural water conservation, solid waste, state and federal funds, and assist in delivery of water from the Rio Grande. The Authority also certifies water rights held inside the Authority's boundaries.
- Legal Authority: SB 1902 (78th Legislature), SB 707 (80th Legislature), and Texas Constitution Article XVI, Section 59, which authorizes conservation and reclamation districts. SB 707 amended the powers and duties of the RGRWA.
- Boundaries: Counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, Zapata, and Webb (excluding Laredo).
- Governance: 18 member board representing irrigation districts, the public, municipal class entities, water supply corporations, and counties.
- Contracting Authority: With individuals, corporations (municipal, public, or private) government agencies (U.S., state or political subdivision), and through an international cooperation agreement.
- Funding: The Authority may borrow money, issue negotiable bonds, and apply for, accept, receive, and administer gifts, grants, loans, and other funds available from any source. The Authority may impose a fee or assessment on a member of the conference or another water user to pay authorized expenses of the authority. Each fiscal year, the board shall determine the amount of the fee or assessment based on the water rights certified by the board.
- Prohibitions: The RGRWA is expressly prohibited from condemning water rights or imposing ad valorem taxes.

For more information visit www.RGRWA.org or contact the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
311 N. 15th Street, McAllen, TX 78501-4705; Tel: 956.682.3481; Fax: 956.631.4670