

# MINUTES

## RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA) BOARD MEETING

9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2017

Rio Grande Valley Partnership  
322 S. Missouri Ave., WESLACO, TX

The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) Board of Directors held a meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at the Rio Grande Valley Partnership in Weslaco, Texas.

In attendance were:

### RGRWA Board Members

President, Sonia Lambert, Irrigation Districts  
Vice- President, Brian Macmanus, Water Supply Corps  
Sec/Treasurer John Bruciak, Cameron County  
Mr. Arturo Cabello, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Bobby Sparks, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Troy Allen, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County  
Mr. Jim Darling, Hidalgo County  
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County  
Mr. Joe Pennington, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Jimmy Riggan, Willacy County

### Others

Ms. Dulce Martinez, RGVP  
Ms. Sandra De Los Santos, RGVP  
Mr. Francisco Martinez, IBWC  
Mr. Marco Vega, MPU  
Esteban Martinez, IBWC  
Jose A. Davila, TCEQ

### **1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

President Lambert called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and announced that a quorum of the Board was present.

### **2. Consider Approval of January 4, 2017 Minutes**

Mr. Bobby Sparks moved to accept the January 4, 2017 board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Consideration and action, if any on the RGRWA 2016 Audit**

President Lambert informed the board that the audit for 2016 was not complete, and will not need any action at this time. She commented that this item will be placed on the agenda for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.

### **4. Consideration and action, if any on the 2017 Municipal Water Right Current Market Value in Accordance with TWC § 49.509(a)**

Mr. Paul Heller moved to accept the adjusted 2017 Municipal Water Right Current Market Value as \$3,000 per acre foot in accordance with TWC. Mr. Joe Pennington seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Consideration and action, if any on Rio Grande River water quality monitoring and pursuit of BECC funding.**

Mr. Jim Darling informed the board that the he met with BECC in El Paso for a proposal of five

permanent monitoring well sites. Mr. Darling continued by saying that BECC and IBWC will not proceed at this time with this project. Mr. Darling mentioned to the board that he will check back in the future regarding this issue, no action was taken by the board.

**6. Consideration and action, if any on USBR Grant Application for NAWSC on BGW Energy Reduction.**

Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved to authorize Mr. Jim Darling to create a letter of support for NAWSC regarding the USBR Grant on BGW Energy reduction. Sec./Treasurer, John Bruciak seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**7. Consideration and action, if any of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Management & Planning Conference.**

After board discussion no action was taken.

**8. Status Reports**

**A. Report from TCEQ**

Mr. Jose Davila informed the board that the water levels of the total combined ownership at Amistad and Falcon is at 5,922,348 acre-feet. Normal conservation capacity of Mexico is at 2,530,466 acre-feet and the normal conservation capacity of the U.S. is at 3,391,883 acre-feet which is 57.27%.

**B. Report from IBWC**

Mr. Francisco Martinez reported to the board that the El Morillo Drain has been functioning consistently. He also updated the board on the project they are working on in Mercedes, TX.

**9. Committee Reports**

**A. Community Outreach**

There was no new information to report.

**B. Finance and Planning**

**1. Financial Report**

Vice-President Macmanus moved to accept the bills as presented. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded, the motion carried.

**C. Personnel and Professional Services**

There was no new information to report.

**D. Legislative Committee**

Mr. Jim Darling informed the board of the efforts of District 122, regarding the 1944 Water Treaty between the U.S. and Mexico.

**E. El Morillo Drain**

There was no new information to report.

**F. Groundwater Management Committee**

There was no new information to report.

**G. Water Quality Subcommittee**

Paul Heller informed the board on the past Water Quality Subcommittee meeting. He mentioned that there is a need and asked the board if and how they would like to move forward. Mr. Darling asked for another committee meeting.

**H. Drainage Committee**

There was no new information to report.

**I. Aquatic Weed Ad Hoc Committee**

Mr. Jim Darling updated the board on the removal of the Arundo donax in the Rio Grande.

**J. Managers' Report**

President Lambert and Mr. Jim Darling reminded all the board members that needed to have their caucus for reappointment to please do so.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule**

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the next regular meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

**11. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 10:00 a.m., Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved to adjourn the RGRWA Board meeting. Vice-President, Brian Macmanus seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

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Sonia Lambert, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

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John Bruciak, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA