

MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (RGRWA) BOARD MEETING

9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2016

Rio Grande Valley Partnership

322 S. Missouri Ave., 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, July 6, 2016 at the Rio Grande Valley Partnership in Weslaco, Texas.

In attendance were:

RGRWA Board Members

President, Jim Darling, Hidalgo County
Vice-President, Sonia Lambert, Irrigation Districts
Sec/Treas. Brian Macmanus, Water Supply Corps
Mr. Roy Rodriguez, Municipalities
Mr. Troy Allen, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts
Mr. Arturo Cabello, Jr., Irrigation Districts
Mr. Bobby Sparks, Irrigation Districts
Mr. John Bruciak, Cameron County
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County

Others

Ms. Anabell Cardona, RGVP Chariwoman
Ms. Sandra De Los Santos, RGV Partnership
Ms. Dulce Martinez, RGV Partnership
Mr. Francisco Martinez, IBWC
Mr. Pablo Medrano, Watermasters Office

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and announced that a quorum of the Board was present.

2. Consider Approval of May 4, 2016 Minutes

Mr. Troy Allen moved to accept the May 4, 2016 board meeting minutes subject to Mr. Macmanus's corrections. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded, the motion carried.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. RGRWA Website Service and Support

Treasurer, Brian Macmanus informed the board that Good Honest Tech has gone through the RGRWA website and has proposed \$5,000.00 for project cost. He informed the board that it would be paid out with a 50% deposit and the other 50% will be paid when the project is finalized. Mr. Macmanus explained to the board that there is a \$200.00 monthly fee for monitoring. Mr. John Bruciak moved to accept the proposal from Good Honest Tech. Mr. Arturo Cabello seconded, the motion carried.

5. Calculate Municipal Water Right Current Market Value in Accordance with TWC§ 49.509(a)

Treasurer, Brian Macmanus moved to approve the Municipal Water Right Current Market Value for 2016 as \$2,411.00. Vice- President, Sonia Lambert seconded, the motion carried.

6. Dimmit County Water Supply

President, Jim Darling informed the board that he will keep an eye for any changes.

7. Status Reports

A. Report from TCEQ Watermaster

Mr. Pablo Medrano informed the board of the water levels in the U.S. and Mexico reservoirs. U.S. combined ownership at Amistad and Falcon stood at 60.81% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 2,062,446 acre-feet. The Mexican reservoirs are under 100% capacity.

B. Report from IBWC

Mr. Francisco Martinez informed the board of the current conditions of El Morillo Drain. He stated that there is 1 pump running and that the elevation of the river is at 29.60m and there is 0cms spill to the river. He also updated the board on the current levee rehabilitation projects. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa informed the board that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is working on a program to remove the non-native Carrizo cane (*Arundo donax*). Mr. Hinojosa informed the board that the TSSWCB's reasons for the removal of the *Arundo donax* is to facilitate Border security and will help reduce channel constriction. Sec. Treasurer, Brian Macmanus moved to approve a resolution in support of the TSSWCB Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program, with the RGRWA's position that the TSSWCB have a responsible process to manage the river. Mr. Roy Rodriguez seconded, the motion carried.

8. Committee Reports

A. Community Outreach

There was no new information to report.

B. Finance and Planning

1. Financial Report

Sec. Treasurer, Brian Macmanus presented the financial report and bills ending June 30, 2016. President, Jim Darling asked if Hidalgo County had paid for the maintenance fee for El Morillo Drain. Ms. Dulce Martinez replied that the maintenance fee had been approved by Hidalgo County and will be paid out soon. President, Jim Darling asked if all the money had been collected for the Lower Rio Grande Regional Facility Plan. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez volunteered to speak with the parties that have not yet contributed. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved to approve the financial report and bills as presented. Mr. John Bruciak seconded, the motion carried.

2. Status of Assessments

There was no new information to report.

C. Personnel and Professional Services

President, Jim Darling announced to the board that he has retired from Doctors Hospital at Renaissance.

D. Legislative Committee

There was no new information to report.

E. El Morillo Drain

There was no new information to report.

F. Groundwater Management Committee

There was no new information to report.

G. Scholarship Committee

There was no new information to report.

H. Drainage Committee

There was no new information to report.

I. Aquatic Weed Ad Hoc Committee

There was no new information to report.

J. Surge Valve Committee

Ms. Sandra De Los Santos announced to the board that all valves were sent back to P&R Surge to Mr. Henry Martinez at no cost to the RGRWA.

K. Commodities Committee

There was no new information to report.

L. Nueces Rio Grande Coastal Basin Water Permit Committee

President, Jim Darling asked to eliminate the Surge Valve Committee, Commodities Committee, and the Nueces Rio Grande Coastal Basin Water Permit Committee. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved to eliminate the Surge Valve, Commodities and the Nueces Rio Grande Coastal Basin Water Permit Committees. Sec. Treasurer, Brian Macmanus seconded, the motion carried.

M. Managers' Report

There was no new information to report.

9. Other Business

1. Approval to adopt absentee voting (proxy) to establish quorum.

President, Jim Darling will contact the Governor's Office to inquire about the appointee nominations that were sent in December of 2015.

10. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the next regular meeting on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 9.50 a.m. Ricardo Gutierrez moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Bobby Sparks seconded, the motion carried.

Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

Brian Macmanus, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA