

# MINUTES

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

9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, May 4, 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, May 4, 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. D.V. Guerra, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Troy Allen, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Arturo Cabello, Jr., Irrigation Districts  
Ms. Karran Westerman, Zapata County  
Mr. Paul Heller, Irrigation Districts  
Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Starr County  
Mr. Jimmy Riggan, Willacy County  
Mr. Roy Rodriguez, Municipalities  
Mr. Joe A. Pennington, Irrigation Districts

### Others

Mr. Mark Vega, McAllen PU  
Mr. Francisco Martinez, IBWC  
Ms. Sandra De Los Santos, RGV Partnership  
Ms. Dulce Martinez, RGV Partnership  
Mr. Juan Santana, TWDB  
Mr. Juan Uribe, IBWC  
Mr. Pablo Medrano, Watermasters Office

### 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. He informed the board that the names of the nominees that were submitted to the Governor's office have not been approved, and that all members will keep their position on the RGRWA board until the Governor officially appoints a successor.

### 2. Consider Approval of January 6, 2016 Minutes

Vice-President, Sonia Lambert moved to accept the January 6, 2016 board meeting minutes as presented. Sec/Treasurer, Brian Macmanus seconded, the motion carried.

### 3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 4. RGRWA Website Service and Support

Sec/Treasurer, Brian Macmanus informed the board that the original contract for the website service and support was with the Rio Grande Valley Partnership and the setup, but the support for the website was not provided by the group the RGVP was working with. Sec/Treasurer, Macmanus continued by saying that Mr. Julian Alvarez, while Interim Executive Director of the RGRWA contacted Teclo Garcia to assist with the set up and continued support of the RGRWA website. He informed the board that Teclo Garcia had submitted a proposal through the RGVP for \$1500 plus \$600 for a total of \$2100. President, Jim Darling asked to see the work that had already been started by Teclo Garcia, but the website was down. President, Jim Darling requested an official proposal from Teclo Garcia if

he would like to continue to support the website, and asked the board to authorize Sec/Treasurer, Brian Macmanus a budget of \$2,000.00 to get the website up and running. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved to authorize Sec/Treasurer, Brian Macmanus a budget of \$2,000.00 to get the RGRWA website up and running. Mr. Troy Allen seconded, the motion carried.

#### **5. Approval to Adopt a Resolution in Regards to no Charge Water Charged by the TCEQ Watermaster**

Vice President, Sonia Lambert presented a resolution, for board approval, regarding the no charge water that was charged by TCEQ. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa explained that this resolution was asking that the TCEQ follow their existing rules and that water that was wrongfully debited to diverters' accounts be reinstated. Mr. Paul Heller moved to approve the resolution as presented, Sec/Treasurer, Brian Macmanus seconded, the motion carried.

#### **6. Approval to pay Black and Veatch the Remaining amount owed for the Regional Facility Plan**

Sec/Treasurer, Brian Macmanus presented the remaining amount owed for the Regional Facility Plan to the board. He informed the board that there is a shortfall of \$13,000, which needs to be paid in full along with the 10% retainage fee from TWDB. Ms. Dulce Martinez informed the board that there will also be a final invoice for the final wrap up of the Plan. President, Jim Darling asked if Black and Veatch adjusted the scope of work to make up some of the \$13,000.00. Sec/Treasurer informed the board that Black and Veatch had to finalize the Plan to meet TWDB's deadline and believes all the work was completed. President, Jim Darling asked for a motion to authorize a payment to Black and Veatch when the RGRWA receives the BECC payment and the payment from the City of Mission. Mr. Paul Heller moved to authorize a payment to Black and Veatch when the RGRWA receives the BECC payment and the payment from the City of Mission. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded, the motion carried.

#### **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 63.63% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 2,158,110 acre-feet. The Mexican reservoirs report shows a total of 100% capacity.

##### **B. Report form IBWC**

Mr. Juan Uribe and Francisco Martinez informed the board on IBWC's ongoing projects that IBWC have been working on. They informed the board that the El Morillo drain is being cleaned daily and they are working on keeping Mexican colonias from digging into the El Morillo for drainage. They announced that while they get the SCADA System started they will install hydrologic equipment that will show the elevation and spill into the river which should be completed in May or June 2016.

#### **8. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Community Outreach**

There was no new information to report.

##### **B. Finance and Planning**

1. Financial Report

Sec/Treasurer, Brian Macmanus informed the board that the 2015 audit is underway by Long Chilton, LLP as approved in the November 11, 2015 board meeting. He informed the board that the RGRWA total assets as of May 3, 2016 was a total of \$506,047.03 with \$145,510.24 being restricted funds. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved to approve the financial report ending May 3, 2016 and bills as presented. Mr. D.V. Guerra seconded, the motion carried.

2. Status of Assessments

There was no new information to report.

**C. Personnel and Professional Services**

President, Jim Darling asked if the RGVP has an Interim Executive Director and when will the RGVP hire a new President/CEO. Ms. Sandra De Los Santos announced that the RGVP does not have an Interim Executive Director, instead they have the Chairwoman of the RGVP board facilitating the operations of RGVP. She informed the board that the RGVP has created a Search Committee and they will be hiring a President/CEO for the RGVP in the next few months.

**D. Legislative Committee**

President, Jim Darling asked for volunteer to Chair of the Legislative Committee. Vice President, Sonia Lambert nominated Brian Macmanus, Mr. Sonny Hinojosa seconded, the motion carried. President, Jim Darling requested Brian Macmanus to look into legislative items regarding groundwater.

**E. El Morillo Drain**

President, Jim Darling asked if all Counties had paid the IBWC maintenance fee for El Morillo Drain. Ms. Dulce Martinez informed him that Willacy and Cameron Counties have paid, and that Hidalgo County has approved the invoice and would be processing a payment. Ms. Martinez clarified that the RGRWA was invoiced by IBWC for the amount for the 3 Counties. She then invoiced the Counties separately. President, Jim Darling asked for a motion to approve payment to IBWC once we receive Hidalgo County's payment. Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved to approve the payment to IBWC once the RGRWA receives the Hidalgo County payment. Mr. Joe Pennington seconded, the motion carried.

**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**

President, Jim Darling asked if we had an update on the surge valves being stored at the Harlingen Irrigation District. Ms. Sandra De Los Santos informed him that she would follow up

with Harlingen ID and announced that the WaterSMART Agreement No. R13AP60058 - Surge Valve Collaborative for On-Farm Water Conservation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley with the Bureau of Reclamation was closed out and we do not owe any money.

**K. Commodities Committee**

There was no new information to report.

**L. Nueces Rio Grande Coastal Basin Water Permit Committee**

There was no new information to report.

**M. Managers' Report**

**7. Other Business**

A. Julian Alvarez's resignation from the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority.

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

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the next regular meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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Jim Darling, President, RGRWA

ATTEST:

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Brian Macmanus, Secretary-Treasurer, RGRWA