

# MINUTES

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

9:00 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, May 2, 2018

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, May 2, 2018 at the Rio Grande Valley Partnership in Weslaco, Texas.

In attendance were:

### RGRWA Board Members

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

### Others

Mr. Pablo Medrano, TCEQ  
Mr. Tim Skoglund, Harlingen Waterworks  
Ms. Dulce Martinez, RGVP  
Ms. Sandra De Los Santos, RGVP  
Mr. Mark Vega, MPU  
Mr. Ray Longoria, Freese & Nichols

### **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. Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **3. Consider Approval of January 10, 2018 Minutes**

Vice-President, Brian Macmanus moved to accept the January 10, 2018 board meeting minutes with the correction of the proposed meeting date of March 7, 2018. Mr. Arturo Cabello seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Hiring a firm from the 3 proposals received for the 2017 Audit.**

President Lambert informed the board of the 3 proposals received for the 2017 Audit of the RGRWA. Mr. Troy Allen moved to approve the proposal from Suzanne Munoz, P.L.L.C, CPA to conduct the 2017 Audit of the RGRWA. Mr. John Bruciak seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Delta Lake Irrigation District's request for letter of support for the WaterSMART Grant.**

Mr. Troy Allen asked the board for a letter in support of the Delta Lake Irrigation District's WaterSMART grant. The Grant will assist the District with improvements and will create a more reliable water delivery with less water loss. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa moved to approve a letter in support of Delta Lake Irrigation District and their application to the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program. Mr. Jim Riggan seconded

the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**6. USBR Brackish Groundwater Energy Optimization Study Update**

Mr. Ray Longoria with Freese and Nichols updated the board on the USBR Brackish Groundwater Energy Optimization Study.

**7. Status Reports**

**A. Report from TCEQ**

Pablo Medrano with TCEQ reported combined ownership of Amistad and Flacon at 60.52% and the release at Falcon is at 55cms and Anzalduas at 58.5cms.

**B. Report from IBWC**

No report

**8. Committee Reports**

**A. Community Outreach-** There was no new information to report.

**Finance and Planning**

**1. Financial Report**

A. Vice-President Macmanus moved to accept the payment of the bills as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Manager Jim Darling informed the board of the Third-Party Custodian Agreement with Frost Bank which will add BNY Mellon to the Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Banks as managers of collateral to the RGRWA Security Agreement. Mr. Paul Heller approved to execute the Third-Party Custodian Agreement with Frost Bank. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Personnel and Professional Services**

There was no new information to report.

**C. Legislative Committee**

There was no new information to report.

**D. El Morillo Drain**

Manager Darling informed that IBWC has responded to his request to explain some of the costs in the invoices for El Morillo Drain maintenance. He informed the board that the invoice cost was correct and will be sent out to the Counties today.

**E. Groundwater Management Committee**

There was no new information to report.

**F. Water Quality Subcommittee**

Mr. Paul Heller asked the board if they would like to keep track of water quality and environmental studies that will impact the Rio Grande River. Mr. Paul Heller moved to approve that the RGRWA request a quote from the People Firm to receive the updates of their studies. Mr. Arturo Cabello seconded the motion.

**G. Drainage Committee**

There was no new information to report.

**H. Aquatic Weed Ad Hoc Committee**

Manager Jim Darling informed the board that he spoke with Border Patrol and Homeland Security and they plan to proceed with the eradication of the Carrizo cane by cutting the cane 3 feet above ground instead of removing it.

**I. Managers' Report**

There was no new information to report.

**9. Other Business**

Joe Pennington moved to approve the RGRWA send a letter to IBWC to request an explanation of the lower salt content. Mr. Bobby Sparks seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa moved to send a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation to highlight the removal of the option of solar or wind as a new renewable energy leaving hydro as the only option for new renewable energy in the WaterSMART grant for 2018. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion. President Lambert called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

President Lambert has re-activated the Water Quality Committee to find out what needs to be done to maintain a good water quality and receive status updates from the EPA.

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

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the next regular meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**11. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Jim Darling moved to adjourn the board meeting at 9:45 a.m... Mr. John Bruciak 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