

# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION M)

11:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

ZAPATA COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
200 E 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 248  
PRESIDING: TOMAS RODRIGUEZ, CHAIR

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

Chairman Tomas Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and noted that the Group was one member short of a quorum. Mr. Nick Benavides had sent word that he was en route, and it was the consensus of the Group to hear non-action items until a quorum was attained. The following voting members were in attendance:

#### Board Members

Tomas Rodriguez, Chairman  
Sonny Hinojosa, Vice Chairman  
Nick Benavides, Executive Committee  
Glenn Jarvis  
Mayor Jim Darling  
Dennis Goldsberry  
Judge Joe Rathmell  
Riazul Mia  
Dale Murden  
Jorge Flores  
Tom McLemore

#### Category

Public  
Water Districts  
Small Business  
Other  
River Authorities  
Water Utility  
Counties  
Municipalities  
Agriculture  
Municipalities  
Water Districts

The following voting members were not in attendance:

Frank Schuster, Executive Committee  
Don McGhee, Secretary  
John Bruciak  
Carlos Garza  
Jaime Flores  
Armando Vela  
Dr. Neal Wilkins  
Commissioner David Fuentes

Other  
Industries  
Municipalities  
Small Business  
Environmental  
Groundwater Management Area  
Agriculture  
County

The agenda topics are listed in the order they were heard.

### **3. Hear Public Comment**

There were no requests to make public comment.

### **5. Status of Solicitation for Voting Member in Electric Generating Utilities Category**

Ms. Debby Morales was recognized and reported that she had searched for contact information on the Electric Generating Utilities presented at the last meeting. She discovered that there was no local contact information available for any of the entities. As requested by the Group

she contacted Maverick County Water Control & Improvement District #1, but calls to the General Manager Cynthia Martinez were not returned and there were no replies to emails sent. It was the consensus of the Group to next contact Maverick County officials and find out if there is another person who would qualify in this category.

## **6. Briefing Texas Water Development Board Flood Planning & Financing Meeting Held August 15, 2019 in McAllen**

Chairman Rodriguez informed the Group that this was an informative meeting and TWDB presented comprehensive information on this project. It will require the creation of an organization structured similarly to that of the Regional Water Planning Groups, and the Flood Planning Group will be tasked with the development of a 50-year plan for flooding.

## **7. Status Reports**

### **A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities**

Ms. Sara Eatman, Black & Veatch was recognized to address the following topics:

*The record reflects that at 11:17 am Mr. Nick Benavides arrived, and a quorum was attained.*

#### **1. Review Chapter 3: Supply Analysis**

Ms. Eatman summarized the contents of Chapter 3 and highlighted the sections pertaining to Drought of Record, the IBWC Treaty Status, and Groundwater Availability.

#### **2. Review Chapter 4: Needs Analysis**

Ms. Eatman summarized Chapter 4 with the help of graphs that illustrate Regional Needs, Municipal Needs, Irrigation Needs, Steam-Electric Power Generation Needs, Mining Needs, Manufacturing Needs, and Livestock Water Needs.

#### **3. Review Chapter 7: Drought Response**

Ms. Eatman briefed the Group on Chapter 7 which covers Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations on issues related to Drought of Record, Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans; and Emergency Interconnects.

#### **4. Water Management Strategy Update**

Ms. Eatman reviewed the following topics under Water Management Strategies: On-Farm Irrigation Conservation, Advanced Municipal conservation, Irrigation District Improvements, and Wastewater Reuse. Ms. Eatman summarized the strategies; the approach to Advanced Municipal Conservation used in the 2016 Regional Water Plan was that utilities with a GPCD greater than 140 conserve 1% per year. WUGs with GPCD below 140 conserve 0.5% per year, to a minimum GPCD of 60. She pointed out that these thresholds can be adjusted according to the Group's recommendations.

#### **5. Budget and Contract Status Update**

Ms. Eatman showed the current budget figures and stated that it is 57% complete based on current funding.

## **2. Consider Approval of July 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

***Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting as presented. Mr. Dale Murden seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

## **4. Consider Petition from Voting Member to Serve Additional Term**

As of September 1, 2019, Mayor Jim Darling completed three (3) 5-year terms with Region M and petitioned the Group to serve a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) term. As per Region M Bylaws, "those persons

completing two consecutive terms may petition the RGRWPG to serve additional terms". **Mr. Nick Benavides made a motion to accept Mayor Darling's petition to serve a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) term. Mr. Riazul Mia seconded and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

## **7. Status Reports**

### **B. Financial Report**

Ms. Blanca Davila, LRGVDC, reported that the current budget balance as of August 27, 2019 is \$14,585.54 from the annual budget of \$17,250.00, and there is an available cash balance of \$131,311.54. **Mr. Dale Murden made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Mr. Nick Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.** There was discussion on making another request for local funds and it was the consensus of the Group for Ms. Davila to provide information on this at the next meeting.

### **C. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 4, 5, 7, 13, & 16**

Chairman Rodriguez stated that the Group has taken positive steps forward to coordinate with GMA 16 on their process to develop the Desired Future Conditions for the next planning cycle.

### **D. Status of No Charge Releases from the San Juan River**

There was no new information to report on this item.

### **E. Reports from Other Water Planning Groups**

#### **1. Reports from Liaisons with Other Regions: Region J, Chairman Tomas Rodriguez; Region L, Don McGhee, and Region N, Commissioner David Fuentes**

There were no reports from other planning groups at this time.

### **F. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region** An updated list of plans that have been received was provided in the meeting packet.

### **G. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants** A current list of notices was provided in the meeting packet.

### **H. Report on Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)** There was no report available at this time.

## **8. Reports from Federal and State Agencies**

### **A. TWDB**

1. Mr. William Alfaro, TWDB Project Manager was recognized and reported on the following topics:

#### **a. Implementation Survey**

Mr. Alfaro provided a summary of recent topics sent to the Group including the Implementation Survey, TWDB Guidance related to new requirement in HB 807 and the Planning Data Dashboard on the TWDB website.

#### **b. Socioeconomic Impacts Report Development**

Mr. Alfaro reported that the final report on Socioeconomic Impacts should be available by the end of 2019. The Economic & Demographic Analysis staff will be

available to give this presentation at RWPG Meetings and asked if the Group would be interested in hearing it. It was the consensus of the Group to have a presentation on the Socioeconomic Impacts analysis, and an email will be sent to Mr. Alfaro to formally request the presentation.

**c. Drought Preparedness Council Recommendations**

Mr. Alfaro reported that Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG) must take into consideration recommendations from the Drought Preparedness Council (DPC). They have made two recommendations:

- Follow the outline template for Chapter 7 provided to Regions by TWDB staff in April 2019  
Ms. Eatman had begun using the outline template for Chapter 7.
- Develop region-specific model drought contingency plans for all water use categories in the region that account for more than 10% of water demands in any decade over the 50-year planning horizon.

Mr. Alfaro emphasized that this is information the Group should consider, but is not required, it is up to the Group on how to address them.

**B. IBWC**

No representative from the IBWC was present, and no report was provided.

**C. TCEQ Watermaster**

No representative from TCEQ was present, and no report was provided.

**D. TPWD**

No representative from TPWD was present, and no report was provided.

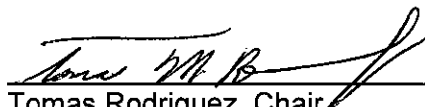
**9. Discussion and Consideration to Schedule Next Meeting**

***Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to schedule the next business meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 10:30 am at the LRGVDC Main Campus in Weslaco. Mr. Riazul Mia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

**10. New or Unfinished Business**

Mr. Riazul Mia offered to host the March or April 2020 meeting in Laredo. Mr. Jorge Flores offered to host a meeting in Eagle Pass in 2020 or 2021.

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

  
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Tomas Rodriguez, Chair