



MINUTES:

LOWER RIO GRANDE AUTHORITY (LRGA) MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2004 - 3:00 P.M.

(Immediately Following LRGGA Conference Meeting)

Lone Star Restaurant

4201 W. Business Highway 83

Harlingen, Texas

Presiding: Bobby Sparks, President

Mr. Bobby Sparks, President, called the meeting to order, and it was ascertained that there was a quorum present. A copy of the roll call sheet is attached to these minutes for verification. He then moved to agenda item 2. - Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2004. There were no corrections or amendments, and ***Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve them. Mr. Gordon Hill seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

At the conclusion of approval of the Minutes, President Sparks moved to agenda item 3. - Elect Officers (President – CEO, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer). Following discussion, ***Mr. Jo Jo White made a motion to elect the existing officers by acclamation. Mr. Joe Pennington seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*** The officers are: Bobby Sparks, President; Tito Nieto, Vice-President; and Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer.

Following election of officers, the President proceeded to agenda item 4. - Confirm Administrative Office, and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones explained that this action would approve the continuance of the LRGVDC as administrative agent for the LRGGA. ***Mr. Paul Heller moved to approve this action, Mr. Joe Pennington seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

Because the same Officers and Executive Committee were re-elected, the President stated that no action was needed on agenda item 5. - Designate Depository. He then proceeded to agenda item 6. - Consider 2004-2005 Committee Appointments. At the conclusion of discussion, ***Mr. Gordon Hill made a motion to reconfirm the existing committees. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*** At this time, the President appointed the following members to serve on an Audit Committee: Ms. Sonia Kaniger, Mr. Chuck Browning, Mr. Gordon Hill, Mr. Paul Heller, and Mr. Joe Pennington. ***Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve these members of the Audit Committee. Mr. Jo Jo White seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

The President then informed the Board that agenda item 7. - Financial Report, had been approved at the Conference Meeting and there were no requests for public comment;

therefore, he moved to agenda item 9. - Consider Amendment to NRS Work Order RE: TWDB Grant, and asked Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers, to report. Mr. Norris explained that this amendment included submittal of monthly statements for development of a Comprehensive Water Conservation Master Plan for Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties to the LRGA from NRS for services rendered in the preceding month. During discussion, it was pointed out that several entities had verbally pledged local match for the TWDB Grant awarded to LRGA. **Mr. Gordon Hill then made a motion to approve the Work Order Amendment, as presented by Mr. Norris. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

At the conclusion of action on the NRS Work Order Amendment, President Sparks moved to agenda item 10. - Consider Approval of Resolution of Support RE: Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project (Levee Rehabilitation) and Morillo Drain Rehabilitation, and asked Mr. Ken Jones to report. Mr. Jones informed the Board that this resolution had been developed as a result of the IBWC asking the Lower Rio Grande Water Committee for support of legislative appropriations in the amount of \$9 million for each of these two projects. He added that LRGVDC staff had sent letters requesting support letters and/or resolution for these projects to many entities in the three-county region. Following Mr. Jones' summary, **Mr. Jo Jo White made a motion to adopt this resolution. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Following action on the resolution of support, the President proceeded to agenda item 11. - Report from TCEQ Watermaster, and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones reported that Mr. Carlos Rubinstein, TCEQ Regional Director, was in Austin and briefed the members on the current reservoir levels as provided by the Watermaster.

President Sparks then moved to agenda item 12.A. - Master Plan Implementation, and recognized Mr. Bill Norris. Mr. Norris stated that he had been visiting various members and entities in an effort to obtain more funds.

The President then asked Ms. Linda Fernandez, Fernandez Group, Inc. to report on agenda item 12.B. - Summit on Water Supply Issues in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Ms. Fernandez stated that the Summit was a great success, updated reports continued to be posted on the website (valleywatersummit.org), and there was a follow-up meeting scheduled for tomorrow. She thanked all those who participated.

Following discussion on the Water Summit, President Sparks proceeded to agenda item 12.C. - Water Market Project, and asked Mr. Ken Jones for an update. Mr. Jones reported that there had been no new activity in the water market.

The President then moved to agenda item 13. A. - Legislative Update, and recognized Mr. Jo Jo White, who reported that there was no new information at present.

Mr. Gordon Hill was then asked by the President to report on agenda item 13.B. - Treaty Update. Mr. Hill stated that IBWC assessed the debt from Mexico at 1 million acre-feet; however there is some feeling that the actual amount is 1.243 million acre-feet. He added that IBWC is projecting additional water coming in on a monthly basis.

The President then moved to agenda item 13.C. - Regional Water Planning Committee, and asked Mr. Jones for a report. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the Planning Committee had met, and was recommending that the LRGA Board retain the law firm of Jones, Galligan, Key & Lozano, LLP to initiate work on legislation to include municipalities in the LRGA (with a limit of \$3,000) for this work. Following discussion, **Mr. Joe Barrera moved to approve the recommendations of the Planning Committee to retain the services of the law firm to initiate this work on legislation. Mr. Tito Nieto seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Jones then asked for approval of a proposed assessment of local government match structure based on an annual \$100,000 total from the cities and counties in the region. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve this local government match assessment structure. Mr. Joe Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

At the conclusion of approval of the Planning Committee's recommendations, the President proceeded to agenda item 14. - Discuss and Act on Future Meeting Dates and Locations, and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones suggested that the Board not meet in April, schedule the next LRGA Board meeting for May 6th, and to authorize the Executive Committee to take any action necessary in the interim. **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger so moved, Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Following scheduling of the next Board Meeting, President Sparks asked for any new or old business. Mr. Joe Barrera requested approval from the Board to assist in the expense (with a limit of \$500) for the upcoming reception scheduled for March 17th in honor of the new IBWC Commissioner, Arturo Q. Duran. **Mr. Gordon Hill so moved, Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Fernandez was then recognized, and she requested scheduling a press conference announcing the grant award to the LRGA. *Messrs. Jimmie Steidinger, Joe Barrera, and Joe Pennington were appointed as members of this Press Conference Committee. It was also the consensus of the Board that, if necessary, the Executive Committee be authorized to take action on scheduling the press conference.* It was suggested that the press conference be held on the same day as the May 6th LRGA meeting.

At the conclusion of discussion on the press conference, and ascertaining that there was no further business to come before the LRGA Board, President Sparks adjourned the meeting.

Bobby Sparks, President

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer