



**MINUTES:
LOWER RIO GRANDE AUTHORITY (LRGA) CONFERENCE
3:00 P.M., TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2004
LONE STAR RESTAURANT
4201 WEST BUSINESS HWY. 83
HARLINGEN, TEXAS**

Presiding: Bobby Sparks, President

President Bobby Sparks called the meeting to order, and asked Mr. Joe Barrera to call the roll. All conference members were present with the exclusion of Mr. Tommy Thompson (Hidalgo County ID #6), Mr. Wayne Halbert (Adams Garden ID #19 and Harlingen IDCC #1), Mr. Bill Green (Santa Cruz Irrigation District), and Mr. Jim Hoffman (Hidalgo/Cameron ID #13). For purposes of verification, an attendance record is attached to these minutes.

The President then moved to agenda item 3. - Finance Report, and asked Mr. Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, to report. Mr. Barrera informed the Conference Members that the amount in the Treasury was \$35,742.36 at present. Following Mr. Barrera's report, **Mr. Gordon Hill made a motion to approve the Finance Report as presented. Mr. Tito Nieto seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Following approval of the Finance Report, the Chairman proceeded to agenda item 4. - LRGA Progress Report, and recognized Mr. Joe Barrera. Mr. Barrera stated that draft Board meeting minutes will be provided to conference members. He added that the Board had a Planning Committee that included some of the Valley mayors as members. Also, several of the conference members sat on committees. The Board had approved a master plan developed by Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Engineers, and with Linda Fernandez' assistance, a website for the LRGA had been developed.

At the conclusion of the progress report, the President moved to agenda item 7. - Election of 2004-2005 Board of Directors, and asked Mr. Barrera to explain. Mr. Barrera informed the assembly that the four Board members whose terms were ending were: Willacy County - Mr. Joe Pennington; and Hidalgo County - Mr. Paul Heller, Mr. Jo Jo White, and Mr. Jimmie Steidinger. Following discussion, **Mr. Rick Smith made a motion to re-elect these same four Board members by acclamation and that nominations cease. Mr. Mark Fryer seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

The President then moved to agenda item 5 - Election of Conference Members with Initial One (1) Year Terms, and asked Mr. Barrera to explain. Following discussion, **Mr. Joe Pennington made a motion to elect by acclamation the following ten (10) conference members to serve two year terms (2004-2006): Messrs. Joe Pennington, Jimmie Steidinger, Mark Fryer, Sonny Hinojosa, Tommy Thompson, Frank "Jo Jo" White, Paul Heller, Rick Smith, Bill Green, and**

Steve Phillipp. Mr. Gordon Hill seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the list of members with term limits is attached.)

Following election of conference members, President Sparks continued to agenda item 6. - Consider Adoption of LRGA Bylaws, and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones explained that the LRGA Board had developed the Bylaws as an operating policy guide from the statutes governing the LRGA Board, and was requesting adoption by the full Conference. **Mr. Frank "Jo Jo" white made a motion to adopt the Bylaws as presented, Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Barrera mentioned that the Board members had declined a \$15.00 expense allowance for which they were eligible.

At the conclusion of action on the Bylaws, the President moved to agenda item 8 - Consider Administrative Budget Allocation for 2004-2005, and asked Mr. Barrera to report. Mr. Barrera briefed the Conference Members on the proposed budget, explaining that this budget with projected income and expenses was developed by using the past year's operations. The total anticipated income is \$50,031.42, total expense is \$47,100.00, with an operating reserve remaining of \$2,931.42. Following Mr. Jones' explanation and discussion, **Mr. Joe Pennington made a motion to approve the 2004-2005 Budget Allocation. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then proceeded to agenda item 9. - New or Old Business, and asked Mr. Barrera for information. Mr. Barrera asked that the Conference consider a new member of the Conference - Mr. Carl Macomb, Cameron County Water Improvement Dist. #10. In response to Mr. Barrera's request, **Mr. Gordon Hill made a motion to approve Mr. Carl McComb, District #10, subject to Board approval, Mr. Jo Jo White seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

At this time, the Chairman recognized Ms. Linda Fernandez, Fernandez Group, Inc., who offered her office space to Conference Members when they visit the Austin area.

Following Ms. Fernandez' announcement, and there being no further business to come before the Conference, President Sparks adjourned the Conference meeting and invited those present to attend the LRGA Board meeting, to be convened at this time.

Bobby Sparks, President

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer