

LOWER RIO GRANDE AUTHORITY (LRGA) BOARD MEETING
(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LRGA CONFERENCE MEETING)

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005 - 9:00 A.M.

**Rio Red Classroom - Texas A&M Citrus Center
312 North International Blvd.
Weslaco, Texas**

Presiding: Bobby Sparks, President

President Bobby Sparks called the meeting to order, and upon roll being called, announced that a quorum of the Board was present; however there was not a quorum present for the Conference. Voting members in attendance were:

Bobby Sparks, President	Valley Acres
Gordon Hill, Interim Secretary-Treasurer	Bayview Irrigation Dist.
Paul Heller	Rio Queen Citrus
Joe Pennington	Delta Lake
Rick Smith	La Feria IDCC #3
Frank "Jo Jo" White	H&CCID #9

Ex-Officio Members Present:

**Mr. Ricardo Perez (for Mayor Norberto Salinas), City of Mission
Mr. Charles Browning, NAWSC**

Others Present:

**Ray Prewett, Texas Citrus Mutual
Joe Barrera, Brownsville Irrigation District
Sonia Kaniger, Cameron County Water District #2
Troy Allen, Delta Lake Irrigation District
Jimmie Steidinger, Donna Irrigation District
Nora Zapata, Donna Irrigation District
Jesse Barba, Attorney
Neil Haman, Texas Water Development Board
Ken Jones, Executive Director, LRGVDC
Richard Hinojosa, Deputy Executive Director, LRGVDC
Anna Toye Bruton, LRGVDC**

President Sparks then moved to agenda item 2. - Consider Approval of Minutes of LRGVDC Board Meeting of February 2, 2005. As there were no changes, Mr. Gordon Hill made a motion to approve these minutes. Mr. Paul Heller seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

There were no requests for public comment, and the President proceeded to agenda item 4. - Recognition of Past Board Members. He presented Ms. Sonia Kaniger, Mr.

Joe Barrera, and Mr. Jimmie Steidinger with plaques of appreciation for having served on the Board. All of the recipients of plaques thanked the Board for this acknowledgment, and the Board applauded the outgoing Board Members.

Following the presentation of plaques, President Sparks asked Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers, to address agenda item 6.A. - Master Plan Implementation. Mr. Norris stated that the Work Order, items in bold (3) Evaluate water demand and supply needs for irrigation, 11) Regional opportunities, and 14) Prepare 5, 10, 15 year capital improvements plan were those requiring decisions at this time. These were priority tasks to be performed. Mr. Gordon Hill stated that there was approximately \$60,303 local matching funds in the project account. It was agreed that \$120,000 worth of tasks could be initiated at this time, bring the \$44,000 under 9) Economic Development and move it to 10) Protection of municipal/industrial and agricultural water supply sources. Mr. Norris added that he would develop a report for the approval of the Directors to review the flow of work. Following Mr. Norris' report, Mr. Paul Heller made a motion to authorize the initiation of the project to include items 1 through 5, 10 and 11. Mr. Gordon Hill seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously. (For informational purposes, a copy of the Work Order is attached as a part of these Minutes.)

Later, during the meeting, Mr. Norris announced that Texas Water Day was next week, and several irrigation district managers were going to attend this function. He asked if he could use the LRGAs name on a report delineating what the managers and the LRGAs were doing with regard to regional planning efforts. Mr. Jo Jo White made a motion to permit Mr. Norris to add the LRGAs name to supporters of the document. Mr. Gordon Hill seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The President then proceeded to agenda item 6.B. - Water Conservation Plan in State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and recognized Mr. Gordon Hill. A copy of Mr. Hill's report had been distributed to the Board, and Mr. Hill stated that tests of the new equipment were ongoing, and meetings continued to be held regarding the project. Upon being asked to report by Mr. Hill, Mr. Joe Barrera informed the Board that there had been about 60 persons at the conference he had attended. Mr. Barrera added that farmers in Mexico are very serious about improving their water delivery system(s). Mr. Hill added that he was appreciative of the LRGAs Board's support in this endeavor. (A copy of Mr. Hill's report is attached to these Minutes.)

President Sparks then addressed agenda item 5. - Report from TCEQ Watermaster, and recognized Mr. Ed Vela, TCEQ Harlingen Office. Mr. Vela informed the Board of the following: the combined reservoir level was at 104.49% (3,475,514 acre-feet) at present, and that the U.S. was receiving water from Mexican sources. Today we're getting 35 cubic meters per second, and starting tomorrow, we will be receiving 40 cms per second. Our release from Anzalduas was about 75,000 acre-feet, meeting more than half

of the demands from Mexico. We should hit 32,000 acre feet by this week-end, and after that, we should be getting about 2,800 acre-feet per day.

Following Mr. Vela's report, the President asked Mr. Jesse Barba, Attorney, Jones, Galligan, Key & Lozano, LLP, to address agenda item 7.A. - Legislative Update. Mr. Barba reported that the bill, a local bill, had been assigned a number (S.B. 1817), and very little editing had been done. One change was in the word "municipality" being changed to "municipal class entity". Mr. Barba added that State Senator Juan Hinojosa is supportive of the bill. Mr. Ricardo Perez stated that with regard to the Bill, he had met with Senator Juan Hinojosa, Bill Summers, Paul Cowen (State Senator Eddie Lucio's office), and Jim Darling. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the LRGAs write a letter under the President's signature to the Valley Partnership requesting that entity's support of this bill.

Following discussion on the bill, President Sparks moved to agenda item 7.B. - Treaty Update, and recognized Mr. Gordon Hill. Mr. Hill reported that the Mexico water debt was now down to 140,000 acre feet owed to the U.S. at present, anticipated to be paid by September.

With reference to agenda item 7.C. - Regional Water Planning/Bylaws/Legal Committees, Mr. Barba stated that there had been no meetings of these committees, and the President then moved to agenda item 8. - Discussion and Action RE: Meeting Schedule. He asked Mr. Ken Jones to report. Upon Mr. Jones' suggestion and following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the next Board Meeting be scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2005 at this same location. It was understood that the Conference Meeting should also be scheduled for that same day.

Following discussion of the next meeting, President Sparks asked Mr. Jones to address agenda item 9.A. - Consider Adoption of Resolution of Support RE: Lower Rio Grande Flood-Control Project-Levee Rehabilitation. Mr. Jones informed the Board that this resolution was in support of continuation of this project with the request for additional funding to include work on the Hidalgo levee and the Mission Inlet Closure. Following Mr. Jones request, Mr. Paul Heller made a motion to adopt this resolution. Mr. Gordon Hill seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Following action on the resolution in support of the Levee Project Mr. Jones addressed agenda item 9.B. - Consider Approval of Resolution of Support for Water Conservation Projects. He explained that this resolution was supporting S59 and HR 386 and more appropriations for an additional 19 irrigation districts on the Texas Border. At the conclusion of Mr. Jones explanation, Mr. Frank "Jo Jo" White made a motion to adopt a support resolution for these water conservation projects. Mr. Paul Heller seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gordon Hill announced that Senate Bill 3 was now published.

Following action on the resolution supporting the Water Conservation Projects, the

President asked Mr. Jones to address agenda item 9.C. - Discuss and Consider Letter of Support RE: Proposed House Bill Relating to the Consolidation of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District into the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Mr. Jones briefed the Board on the information provided by Roy Cooley in Maverick County. Following Mr. Jones' report and discussion, Mr. Paul Heller made a motion to go on record in opposition to the bill. Mr. Jo Jo White seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Barrera mentioned that Mr. Joe Coulter, President of the Rio Grande Water Committee, Inc., had informed him that this entity was searching for another body to take over the management of the Committee's business. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the LRGA write a letter to Dr. Coulter offering to assume the responsibility of administering the business of the Committee. Mr. Jones added that LRGVDC staff would request an updated list of the Water Committee members.

Following discussion and there being no further business to be considered by the Board, President Sparks adjourned the meeting.

Bobby Sparks, President

Gordon Hill, Interim Secretary-Treasurer