

LOWER RIO GRANDE AUTHORITY (LRGA) MEETING

THURSDAY, July 8, 2004 - 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 asked Mr. Joe Barrera to call the roll. Following the roll call, it was announced that there was a quorum present. A copy of the roll call sheet is attached to these minutes for verification.

President Sparks then moved to agenda item 2. - Consider Approval of LRGA Board Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2004, and called for any changes. There were none, and ***Ms. Sonia Kaniger made a motion to approve the June 10, 2004 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Paul Heller seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

The President then recognized Mr. Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer, and asked him to give the financial report. Mr. Barrera informed the Board that there was \$81,427.42 in the treasury, and following discussion, ***Mr. Paul Heller moved to accept the Financial Report as presented. Mr. Joe Pennington seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously. During discussion, it was agreed that requests to the cities for local match funds should be sent again.***

There were no requests for public comment, and President Sparks proceeded to agenda item 5. - Report from TCEQ Watermaster. The Board was informed that Mr. Carlos Rubinstein, TCEQ Regional Director, was unable to be present because of other commitments; however, there was a report included in the binders.

As there were no questions regarding the report from TCEQ, the President moved to agenda item 6. A. - Master Plan Implementation, and asked Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers, to report. Mr. Norris distributed a survey form and explained to the Board that this survey form would be mailed to irrigation districts within the next two to three weeks. He added that the next NRS Newsletter will be focused on the LRGA.

Following Mr. Norris' report, it was reported that there was no information on agenda item 6.B. - Summit on Water Supply Issues in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. However, Mr. Richard Hnojosa, Deputy Executive Director, LRGVDC, announced that the Valley Water Summit had received an innovation award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), and President Sparks proceeded to agenda item 7.A. - Legislative Update. He recognized Mr. Richard Hinojosa, and Mr. Hinojosa informed the Board that Mr. Wayne Halbert was in Washington testifying in favor of authorization of the 19 new projects listed in HR 4588. report. Mr. Hinojosa added that Mr. Halbert's report stated that

the House has agreed to a \$2.5 million appropriation for 2005. Mr. Hinojosa then announced that Beth Cubriel, Senator Cornyn's State Field Representative, is scheduled to meet with agricultural/irrigation stakeholders on Monday, July 12, 2004 between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M Agricultural Experimental Station in Weslaco, and invited LRGAs Board members to attend.

Following Mr. Hinojosa' report and discussion, the President stated that there was no report on agenda item 7.B. - Treaty Update, and asked Mr. Jesse Barba, Attorney, to report on action taken by the Bylaws/Legal Committees at their meeting on June 21, 2004. Mr. Barba stated that these committees had met to consider approval of recommendations made by the Regional Water Planning Committee RE: Amendments to a) LRGAs Bylaws and b) Article 8280-144, Section 4(a), Vernon's Civil Statutes RE: Composition of Lower Rio Grande Authority. Following discussion, ***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to approve the Minutes (with corrections) of the Bylaws/Legal Committees meeting. Mr. Paul Heller seconded, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

Mr. Barba then requested approval of the work done by his firm on the proposed legislative changes as well as authorization to proceed with further legal work, ***and Mr. Joe Pennington made a motion to approve the legal work done regarding the proposed legislative changes and to authorize further legal work. Mr. Jo Jo White seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

Following action on amendments to the Bylaws and Legislation, the President asked Mr. Hinojosa to address agenda item 8. - Discuss and Act on Future Meeting Dates and Locations. Following discussion, ***Mr. Joe Barrera made a motion to schedule the next meeting for Thursday, August 5th and to schedule a joint Conference and Board meeting for Thursday, September 9th, both at the Texas A&M Citrus Center. Mr. Joe Pennington seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

There being no further business to be conducted by the Board, President Sparks adjourned the meeting.

Bobby Sparks, President

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer