

LOWER RIO GRANDE AUTHORITY (LRGA) BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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 it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present with the following Board Members attending:

Bobby Sparks, <i>President</i>	Valley Acres
Tito Nieto, <i>Vice-President</i>	United Irrigation Dist. #15
Joe Barrera, <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Brownsville Irrigation Dist.
Paul Heller	Hidalgo County Irrigation Dist. #16
Gordon Hill	Bayview Irrigation Dist.
Sonia Kaniger	Cameron Co. ID #2
Joe Pennington	Delta Lake Irrigation. Dist.
Jimmie Steidinger	Donna Irrigation District

Ex-Officio Members Present: Wayne Halbert, Harlingen CC #1 WD
Anna Carrillo, Mission Mayor Norberto Salinas' Office.

Others Present: Jesus Flores, Englelman Irrigation District
Nora R. Zapata, Donna Irrigation District
Jesus Barba, Attorney
Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers
Richard Hinojosa, Deputy Executive Director, LRGVDC
Toye Anna Bruton, Executive Secretary, LRGVDC;

The President then addressed agenda item 2. - Consider Approval of Minutes of LRGA Board Meeting of September 9, 2004. There were no changes, and **Mr. Gordon Hill made a motion to approve these minutes. Mr. Jimmie Steidinger seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Following action on the minutes, President Sparks moved to agenda item 3. - Finance Report, and recognized Mr. Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Barrera informed the Board that there was \$68,947.19 in the Treasury at present. Following discussion, **Mr. Jimmie Steidinger made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. Mr. Tito Nieto seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.** During discussion on the Financial Report, a list of the entities from which local match funds had been received and a copy of the second request sent to local governmental entities for local match assessments was distributed to the Board. Mr. Barrera stated that the Irrigation District Managers Association anticipated writing a check to enhance this local match amount, as well.

Then, as there were no requests for public comment, the President proceeded to agenda item 5. - Report from TCEQ. It was explained that Mr. Carlos Rubinstein, TCEQ Regional

Director, was unable to attend this meeting due to prior commitments; however, the reservoir levels report was in the binders. At this time, Mr. Gordon Hill informed the Board of the meeting in Washington, D.C. with IBWC and State Department representatives last week, and that a suggested repayment plan is being developed for delivery to the Mexican Embassy next week, and there are no plans for future meetings with Mexico representatives at this time. He added that the litigation through NAFTA may help ensure Mexico's compliance with the Treaty, and the San Juan Reservoir may be a future water source.

Following discussion, President Sparks moved to agenda item 6.A. - Master Plan Implementation, and asked Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers, for a report. Mr. Norris informed the Board that during ongoing NRS staff interviews with irrigation districts and municipalities, staff was explaining the reason for the LRGAs requests for local match assessments being sent to these entities. LRGA is receiving the benefit from this task being done for the Region M Water Planning Group. Mr. Norris then informed the Board that his organization would be billing the LRGA in the next two months.

The Chairman then moved to agenda item 7. - Committee Reports, and asked Mr. Wayne Halbert to address item 7.A. - Legislative Update. Mr. Halbert reported that the House had approved certain legislation on water issues, but this was still awaiting the Senate Hearing. He added that there were still four appointments yet to be made on the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA). At this time, Mr. Hill informed the Board that the Water Conservation Task Force had completed its study on the Best Management Practices (BMPs), and these recommendations would be delivered to the legislature. Exemptions had been obtained for the irrigation districts for certain conservation issues. Ms. Sonia Kaniger then suggested that those persons who were appointed to RGRWA and currently sat on the LRGA Board should consider resigning. It was reported that an organizational meeting of the RGRWA is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2004, and following discussion, *it was the consensus of the LRGA Board that those persons who submit resignations to the LRGA Board should recommend replacements for themselves, and this should be done at the next LRGA meeting.*

Following discussion on legislation, it was reported that agenda item 7.B. - Treaty Update was previously discussed under agenda item 5., and the President moved to agenda item 7.C. - Regional Water Planning/Bylaws/Legal Committees. In response to the President's request, Mr. Jesse Barba, Attorney, reported that the Bylaws Committee had not met. However, Mr. Richard Hinojosa reported that the proposed legislation to include municipalities as members of the LRGA had been approved by the LRGVDC Board. It was agreed that COG staff would provide Mr. Barba with a letter of support/resolution from the COG Board.

At this time, Mr. Gordon Hill reported that he and Mr. Allan Jones from the Texas A&M Texas Water Resource Center had visited with representatives from Ciudad Victoria University. The two universities entered into an agreement to start a water resource center with an exchange program for students, and Mr. Hill was asking for donated supplies from members of the LRGA. Federal funds were being sought to finance this project, and CNA representatives had agreed to earmark some funds for conservation measures by water

districts, as well.

The Board was then informed that the next LRGA meeting was scheduled for November 4th, and Messrs. Joe Coulter, Lower Rio Grande Water Committee, and Carlos Marin, IBWC, were anticipated to attend.

The Chairman then asked for any further business to come before the Board, and there being none, he adjourned the meeting.

Bobby Sparks, President

Joe Barrera, Secretary-Treasurer