

MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
WORK SESSION
March 24, 2014

Chairman Rubinstein called the Work Session of the Texas Water Development Board to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Texas State Technical College, 1902 North Loop 499, Harlingen, Texas. In addition to Chairman Rubinstein, Directors Kathleen Jackson and Bech Bruun were present, and a quorum was met.

The following other individuals were present:

David Abrego, Brownsville Public Utility Board
Judy Adams, Brownsville Public Utilities Board
Jesse Aguirre, North Alamo WSC
Mike Alaniz, City of La Joya
Ramine Alemar, Harlingen Economic Development
Troy Allen, Delta Lake Irrigation District
Julian Alvarez, RGV Partnership
Gale Armstrong, El Jardin WSC
Fred Aus, Texas Rural Water Association
Joe Barrera, Rio Grande Regional Water Authority
Jude Benavides, UTB
Arturo Cabello, Brownsville Irrigation District
Jim Chapman, Sierra Club
Alfredo Constante, City of La Joya
Sherilyn Dahlberg, Sharyland WSC
Fernando Del Valle, *Valley Morning Star*
Lawrence Drake, Drake Farms
Mindy Ellmer, TRWD
Ray Eufrazio, Hidalgo County
Frank Ferris, Ferris & Flinn, LLC
Francisco Florez, Agua SUD
Jesus Flores, Engelman Irrigation
Karen Ford, Hill Country Alliance
Raul Garcia, Jr., Halff Associates
Teclo Garcia, City of McAllen
Xavier Garcia, Engelman Irrigation
Andy Garza, Kenedy County GCD
Marissa Garza, City of Edinburg

Celina Gonzales, City of Los Fresnos
Melisa Gonzales, City of Alamo
Ashley Gregory, Texas Water Resources Institute
Dario Gubers, Derby Inc.
Paul Gucik, North Alamo WSC
Darrell Gunn, Harlingen Waterworks
Wayne Halbert, Harlingen Irrigation District
Richard Hill, J & P Produce, Inc.
Joe Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15
Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Veerabhadra Kaiuluri, La Joya
Sonia Lambert, Cameron County Irrigation District #2
Jose Leal, Halff Associates
Stephanie Mahathey, Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society
Heather Mahurin, Texas Municipal League
Arturo Martinze, City of Edinburg
Brian Macmanus, East Rio Hondo WSC
Tom McLemore, Harlingen Irrigation District
Ben Medina, City of Rio Hondo
Edgar Noamert
Rubin O'Bell, Office of State Representative Eddio Lucio III
Sunny Philip, City of La Feria
Joel Pigg, Real-Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District
Ray Prewett, Texas Citrus Mutual
David A. Ramirez, TCEQ
Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWDB

Paula Rodriguez, City of La Feria
Matt Ruszczar, Rio Grande City
Robert Saenz, Halff Associates
Esmeralda Sanchez, City of La Feria
Louie Sanchez, Office of Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
Miguel Sarkis, Office of Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
Susan Schane, McAllen Public Utility
Maria Serna, El Jardin Water Supply

Laurie Simmons, Texas Research Foundation
Tim Skoglund, McAllen Public Utility
Heather Stock, Harlingen Irrigation District
Jorge Trevino
Victor Trevino, Olmito WSC
Sabrina Vasquez
Isidro Venecia, City of La Joya
John Wood, RGV Partnership

Chairman Rubinstein recognized State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., who addressed the Board. He then recognized State Representative Eddie Lucio III, who also addressed the Board. The Chairman also recognized Francisco Sanchez, Representative Armando “Mando” Martinez’s Office, who was in attendance but did not wish to address the Board.

Today was Director Jackson’s first Board meeting and she gave a brief opening statement.

1. OVERVIEW OF TWDB PROGRAMS. Stacy Barna, Program Development, presented this item.

No action was taken on this item.

2. BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD FUNDING FOR THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE. Stacy Barna, Program Development, presented this item. David Abrego, Brownsville Public Utility Board, also addressed the Board.

No action was taken on this item.

3. CONSIDER APPROVING BY RESOLUTION, A REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF LA JOYA (HIDALGO COUNTY) FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$602,600 CONSISTING OF A \$425,000 LOAN AND \$177,600 IN LOAN FORGIVENESS FROM THE CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND TO FINANCE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FIRST-TIME WASTEWATER SERVICE TO THE HAVANA AREA. Stacy Barna, Program Development, presented this item.

Director Bruun moved to adopt the proposed Resolution providing the City of La Joya financial assistance in the amount of \$602,600 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to finance planning and design of a project to provide first-time wastewater service to the Havana area, as recommended by the Executive Administrator.

The motion was seconded by Director Jackson; it passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR TO: (A) NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE CONTRACTS ON OR BEFORE JULY 17, 2014 IN A

TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000 FOR SOLICITED GRANT PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL FACILITY PLANS; AND (B) TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE WATER ASSISTANCE FUND TO THE RESEARCH AND PLANNING FUND. Stacy Barna, Program Development, presented this item. Joe Barrera, Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, and Brian Macmanus, South Texas Water Utility Managers' Association, also addressed the Board.

Director Jackson moved to authorize the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts on or before July 17, 2014 in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for solicited grant proposals for the development of regional facility plans; and transfer funds from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund.

The motion was seconded by Director Bruun; it passed unanimously.

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE U.S./MEXICO WATER DEFICIT ISSUE. Chairman Carlos Rubinstein and State Representative Eddie Lucio, III, presented this item. Wayne Halbert, Harlingen Irrigation District, also addressed the Board.

No action was taken on this item.

6. BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION ON HB 4 RULE DEVELOPMENT. Todd Chenoweth, Senior Advisor, presented this item.

The following individuals also addressed the Board:

Brian Macmanus, Texas Rural Water Association
Fred Aus, Texas Rural Water Association
Karen Ford, Hill Country Alliance
Jim Chapman, Sierra Club
Jesse Aguirre, North Alamo WSC
Francisco Flores, Agua SUD

No action was taken on this item.

7. BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION ON AGENCY ACTIVITIES ON SEAWATER AND BRACKISH GROUNDWATER DESALINATION. Sanjeev Kalaswad, Program Specialist, presented this item. Judy Adams, Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and Joe Barrera, RGRWA, also addressed the Board.

No action was taken on this item.

8. BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION ON THE PURPOSE, HISTORY, USES, AND PROJECTED BALANCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSERVATION FUND. Cameron Turner, Program Specialist, presented this item. Wayne Halbert and Tom McLemore, Harlingen Irrigation District, also addressed the Board.

No action was taken on this item.

9. THE BOARD RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

Ray Prewett, Texas Citrus Mutual
Lawrence Drake, Drake Farms

10. THE BOARD MAY CONDUCT A CLOSED MEETING TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE AND DISCUSS PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION, SETTLEMENT OFFERS, AND/OR THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC BOARD EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR AND GENERAL COUNSEL, AS PERMITTED BY SECTIONS 551.071 AND 551.074, THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, CODIFIED AS CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE. THE BOARD MAY ALSO MEET IN OPEN MEETING TO TAKE ACTION ON LEGAL OR PERSONNEL MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE CLOSED MEETING AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 551.103 OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, CHAPTER 551 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE.

The Board did not recess into Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

APPROVED and ordered of record this, the 24th day of March, 2014.

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Carlos Rubinstein, Chairman

DATE SIGNED: _____

ATTEST:

Kevin Patteson
Executive Administrator