

**Regular Called Meeting
Riverbend Water Resources District
Board Meeting Minutes**

November 9, 2016

228 Texas Avenue, Suite A, New Boston, Texas 75570

M I N U T E S

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of Quorum and Certification of Notice

Pursuant to a notice posted on the District website on October 21, 2016, the Chair, Jim Green, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Directors Present:

Jim Green, President

Marshall Wood, Vice President

Fred Milton, Treasurer

Directors Absent:

Kelly Mitchell, Secretary

Sean Rommel, Past President

Administration Present:

Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Executive Director/ CEO

David Glass, General Counsel

Becky Melton, Financial Director/HR Manager

Public Present:

Please see attached, Sign-In Sheet.

II. Innovation

Jim Green led the invocation.

III. Public Comments

Public comments were also invited at the end of the agenda again under Agenda Item V.

IV. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration

- A. Discussion with Susan Roth and Tony Smith on Update of Regional Water Master Planning.

Susan Roth, Principal of Susan Roth Consulting, provided a presentation on the Regional Water Master Plan, including the entities involved, an overview of the region's location and economies (recognizing that timber and farming are primary crops and industries for our region), an explanation of the study areas and scope of work of the master plan, and a summary of the project timeline.

- B. Discussion from Riverbend Board and Steve Mayo Texarkana, Texas Regional Water Liaison on the importance of protecting and utilizing our water resources for the economic benefit of our region and the importance of local planning and implementation.

Steve Mayo, Texarkana Regional Water Liaison, provided comments related to the work collaboratively being done by the City of Texarkana, TX and all Member Entities of Riverbend. Mr. Mayo emphasized the importance of the Regional Water Master Plan being done by Riverbend and that the data could not come fast enough for planning in the region.

Marshall Wood, Board Member of Riverbend, provided comments that Riverbend recognized the importance of planning for the region and that the region is behind on planning overall. He emphasized the importance of planning for our region first and then preparing to support the rest of the state's water needs. Mr. Wood stated clearly that the intent of the region should be to help provide water to meet the state's growing demands, so long as adequate measures were being taken to address local needs first.

Jim Green, Board Member of Riverbend, provided comments that Riverbend is representative of the region and works on behalf of the region, stating "Riverbend is me and you, and collectively, it is us."

Fred Milton, Board Member of Riverbend, provided comments that it was most important for our region to have good data that is substantiated. Mr. Milton also advocated for the updating of other data in the region, such as the Water Availability Model, in order for the region to be able to make decisions based on sound science.

- C. Discussion with our elected officials: Representative Bryan Hughes, Representative Van Deaver, Bowie County Judge James Carlow, Cass County Judge Becky Wilbanks, etc/.

James Carlow, Bowie County Judge, provided comments on the vast resources of the region and the protection and management of those resources in a responsible manner.

Judge Carlow emphasized working together and congratulated Riverbend and its Board for leading the charge to do more localized, detailed planning that could feed into the Region D and State Water Plan.

Becky Wilbanks, Cass County Judge, provided comments on the economics of the region, emphasizing the prime location, skilled laborers, and abundant natural resources. Judge Wilbanks noted that the region is geographically in a very good position and that International Paper made its home in the region for a number of reasons. She stated that we need more economic development and believed that it was coming to Cass and Bowie Counties soon.

Gary VanDeaver, State Representative for District Nol 1, provided comments on the excellent quality of life that exist in the region. Representative VanDeaver stated that it is a priority and responsibility for our region to take care of our needs and develop long-term solutions for economic development. He stated that it was only a matter of time before our neighbors come knocking on our doors for access to our natural resources. He also emphasized that the Water Availability Models were old and that we needed help from the state for more readily available access to reliable data.

D. Discussion with Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Member of the Board of Directors, on the importance of the State Water Plan to rural areas.

Kathleen Jackson, Board Member of the Texas Water Development Board, provided comments concerning the state's overall goal and mission to address future water needs. Director Jackson emphasized that the state looks to the locals to determine projects that will position the state to move forward. It is a bottom-up process. Ms. Jackson also explained the role of the TWDB in planning and financing for the identified projects included in the State Water Plan. She mentioned a variety of programs available for the support of local entities and encourage our member Entities to seek support through the TWDB.

V. Further Public Comments

George Frost provided comments that Riverbend is recognized as the local, regional planner. Mr Frost emphasized that we need to develop our water resources providing for our own future and supporting the idea of sharing with those outside of our region, so long as we maintain local control of our resources.

Eileen Collins provided comments that she strongly supports local and regional planning that Riverbend is conducting today. She emphasized frustration with attempts by others to enact "top-down planning" that take locals out of the driver's seat. She also commented that planning boards established by the state should remain the same as they are today and that Region D is geographically appropriate.

Nancy Clements provided comments on her family's stake in developing water resources in our region. Ms. Clements detailed that her family land has bordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land at Lake Wright Patman since the 1850's, having cultivated the land for cotton, corn, cattle, and today, timber. She stated that if Lake Wright Patman is raised, she could lose some of her land and that if Marvin Nichols is built, she will lose all of her land. She stated that her family has been fighting for their land "all of our lives," that "our land is our business/economy," and that this region's economy now depends greatly on a high volume of quality timber for the survival of our industry.

Marshall Wood, Board Member of Riverbend, provided closing comments that Riverbend was indeed born out of conflict, but he emphasized how cohesive the region had become today under Riverbend's leadership. He emphasized that Riverbend has several goals: first, to be organized; second, to be informed; third, to be unified; and last, most importantly, to be transparent.

VI. Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at Riverbend Offices, 228 A Texas Avenue, New Boston, TX 75570.

VII. Adjournment

With no additional business to be discussed, a motion was made by **Fred Milton** and seconded by **Marshall Wood** to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

The previous corrected minutes of Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, November 9, 2016 were read and approved on the 11 day of January, 2017.



Marshall Wood, President

Attest:



Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Executive Director/ CEO



**Riverbend Water Resources District
November 9, 2016**

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Name: Harvey Clement

Representing:



Self

Entity/Organization _____

Address: 4369 Co Rd 2116
Douglasville, TX 75540

Phone: 903-846-2743

Email: _____

Agenda Item or Topic to be Discussed:

Water



Riverbend Water Resources District
November 9, 2016

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Name: Eileen Collins

Representing:



Self



Entity/Organization

Address: 378 CR 4920

Bloomburg, TX 75556

Phone: 903 728 -5485

Email: jerry co @ swat . coop

Agenda Item or Topic to be Discussed:

Water



Riverbend Water Resources District
November 9, 2016

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Name: George Frost

Representing:



Self - self



Entity/Organization Region D Vice-Chair

Address: 408 WARD ST.

Mand, TX

Phone: 903-585-5562

Email: Gfrost003@aol.com

Agenda Item or Topic to be Discussed:

Who will determine who gets the
water if Patman is Raised.

Support from our Senator & Rep. to
support local control of water if
RAised.