

**Regular Called Meeting  
Riverbend Water Resources District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2019**

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 February 13, 2019, the Chair, Fred Milton, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**Directors Present:**

Fred Milton, President  
Sonja Hubbard, Vice President  
Tina Veal-Gooch, Treasurer  
Marshall Wood, Past President

**Directors Absent:**

None

**Administration Present:**

Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Executive Director/ CEO  
Becky Melton, Financial Director/HR Manager  
Eli Hunt, Systems Manager

**Public Present:**

See attached list.

**II. Invocation & Pledge**

Fred Milton led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Public Comments**

Fred Milton recognized all guests present.

No formal public comments.

**IV. Consent Agenda Items for Consideration**

Items IV.A. and IV.B were considered together under a Consent Agenda for one single motion of approval.

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding January 30, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes.**
- B. Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution approving the Volumetric and Sedimentation Study conducted by Arroyo Environmental Consultants, LLC and analysis by LJA Engineering, Inc.**

A single motion was made by **Tina Veal-Gooch** and seconded by **Marshall Wood** to approve the Consent Agenda Items as listed above. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **V. Reports**

### **A. Board Members**

Fred Milton provided information on recent Region D and SRBA Meetings.

### **B. Executive Director/CEO**

Elizabeth Fazio Hale provided information on providing the recently approved Volumetric and Sedimentation Study to the USACE so they can incorporate it in their records.

Mrs. Hale also provided information on the support given by all member entities for Riverbend to be the wholesale provider and to apply to issue bonds to fund a new intake on Wright Patman Lake and a raw water line to TexAmericas Center.

### Ongoing Projects:

- i. STAR (Stakeholder Technical Analysis Review) Committee – still working through past reports and studies.
- ii. RWMP – The application for funding has been submitted. Riverbend is 1 of 3 requests submitted.
- iii. NewGen Rate Studies – Expect completion by the end of February. Beyond that, Riverbend will work with NewGen on an hourly basis.
- iv. Water Availability Modeling Update to Sulphur Basin – Now that the Volumetric and Sedimentation study is complete, we expect this update to be complete in the April timeframe.
- v. Pump Station and Ground Storage Tanks Project – testing has begun, waiting on chlorine scrubber before putting online.
- vi. GIS Mapping – Review of final mapping has begun.
- vii. Volumetric and Sedimentation Study on Wright Patman Lake – presented January 30, 2019 and approved by the board today.
- viii. Future CIP Projects for a Facility Charge #3 – Continued discussion with the Army but would like to pair with the TWDB bonds for RWMP.
- ix. Member Entity Services – Continuing for Hooks and Maud.

- x. Other Maintenance and Services Projects – Hooks wastewater treatment plant rehab project coming up.
- xi. Future Riverbend Studies - Preliminary Design on Intake and Raw Water Line. Bonds will hopefully be issued in the Spring 2019 timeframe. Start date of July 2019 and completion around July 2020.
  - Distribution system and Member Cities’ Ground Storage Tanks
  - Basin Wide Study(ies)
  - Ongoing Regional Planning
  - Ongoing Vol and Sedimentation
  - Instream Flows
  - Cost Analysis of impact of other projects in the basin

**C. Discussion and possible action regarding activities with Sulphur River Basin Authority.**

Kelly Mitchell was unable to attend today. SRBA has a meeting with the USACE to discuss the Reallocation Study.

**D. Discussion and possible action regarding activities with TexAmericas Center.**

Scott Norton, Executive Director of TexAmericas Center, provided information that prospect activity is picking back up. Environmental clean-up efforts still ongoing. TexAmericas is filing a federal lawsuit because the Army is refusing to clean up.

**E. Discussion and possible action regarding activities with REDI.**

Sonja Hubbard provided information on a Meet and Greet with the new Executive Director Rob Sitterly scheduled for March 5, 2019. Invitations are in the mail.

**VI. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration**

**A. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution approving the FY 2017-2018 Audit performed by Wilf Henderson, P.C.**

Elizabeth Fawcett CPA of Wilf Henderson and Tara Houck, Senior Account/CPA of Riverbend presented the FY 2017-2018 Audit. We again had an exceptional audit with only a few items that needed to be booked correctly: 1) item needed to be moved from wet to admin (US Corps reimbursement) and 2) a couple of vehicles and the GIS study needed to be capitalized rather than expensed. Keep in mind that we utilized a professional accounting service (Rhonda Jones with Holiday, Lemons, and Cox, PC) to help us with these matters. We have relied on her services. These are very minor, and fixes required under GAAP which are government accounting guidelines. In order to protect our financial matter in the future, we have also hired Tara Houck, Senior Accountant. All changes have been made prior to your approval today and no further corrective action is required.

A motion was made by **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Sonja Hubbard** to approve **RESO 20190220-02** to approve the FY 2017-2018 Audit performed by Wilf Henderson, P.C. The motion was approved unanimously.

*Items VI.B. and VI.C. were presented and discussed simultaneously.*

**B. Discussion and possible action regarding issuance of an RFQ for Financial Advisor for the issuance of bonds to fund the implementation of the new regional water infrastructure as determined necessary by the Regional Water Master Plan completed by Susan Roth Consulting.**

Elizabeth Fazio Hale provided information on the need to request proposals for Financial Advisors. A little over 3 years ago, Riverbend issued an RFQ for financial services to help with the transfer/ acquisition of the wet utilities. Riverbend utilized First Southwest (now Hilltop Securities) for the issuance of those bonds. Marti Shew and Boyd London have been great to work with since that time. In anticipation of issuing bonds for our upcoming regional water projects, the ED/CEO recommends reissuing its RFQ for a financial advisor. This is in keeping with our open and transparent process to allow individuals and entities to participate in our growth.

**C. Discussion and possible action regarding issuance of an RFQ for Bond Counsel for the issuance of bonds to fund the implementation of the new regional water infrastructure as determined necessary by the Regional Water Master Plan completed by Susan Roth Consulting.**

Elizabeth Fazio Hale provided information on the need to request proposals for Bond Counsel. A little over 3 years ago, Riverbend issued an RFQ for bond counsel to help with the transfer/ acquisition of the wet utilities. Riverbend utilized McCall Parkhurst. Again, very happy with those services, just trying to allow others the opportunity to be a part of our process.

A motion was made by **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Tina Veal-Gooch** to approve the publication of an RFQ for Financial Advisor and an RFQ for Bond Counsel. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Discussion and possible action regarding Riverbend Annual Survey, Staff Reviews and other Personnel Matters.**

Elizabeth Fazio Hale provided information on the approaching annual survey from our member entities. This will begin towards the end of February and wrap up towards the end of March. Staff annual reviews will also be done between March and April.

No action taken.

**E. Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution to allow the Executive Director/CEO to enter into a professional service agreement with Carollo Engineers, Inc. for the purpose of updating the 2021 Region D Plan.**

Elizabeth Fazio Hale provided information that this request is connected to the findings of the Volumetric and Sedimentation studies that was approved today. Findings were presented at the Reg D meeting and our professional engineers are working with Carollo Engineers to incorporate those filings. In order to have them adopted into the current Region D planning process, we need to contract with Region D Engineering firm, Carollo Engineers, for approximately \$10,000. Ideally, we would have had this study done last year at this time to be naturally incorporated. One year ago, we did not have the time nor funding to pursue the issue. Riverbend's Regional Water Master Plan has already been incorporated into the Region D Plan.

A motion was made by **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Sonja Hubbard** to approve **RESO 20190220-03** allowing the Executive Director/CEO to enter into a professional service agreement with Carollo Engineers for the purpose of updating the 2021 Region D Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Discussion and possible action regarding Wright Patman Lake and various regional water issues, including activities in the Arkansas and Texas Legislatures.**

Elizabeth Fazio Hale provided information that bills have been filed in the House and the Senate for Riverbend legislation. Huge thanks to Senator Hughes for filing SB 578 and Rep Chris Paddie for filing HB 1574 allowing water supply corporations to become paying members and removing the sit out provision for board of directors.

Mrs. Hale suggested that the board will need to go into Executive Session to further discuss other possible legislation and also to discuss property rights in water rights at Wright Patman Lake.

No action taken.

**VII. Executive Session**

The board stood at ease beginning at 12:53 p.m.

The board reconvened with a full quorum and moved into executive session at 12:58 p.m. pursuant to sections 551.071 and 551.072 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Further discussion of Item VI.F. was held at this time.

The board came out of executive session at 2:09 p.m.

No action taken.

**VIII. Next Riverbend Meetings**

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at Riverbend Offices, 228A Texas Avenue, New Boston, Texas.

**IX. Adjournment**

With no additional business to be discussed a motion was made by **Sonja Hubbard** and seconded by **Tina Veal-Gooch** to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

The minutes of Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, February 20, 2019 were read and approved on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Milton, President

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Executive Director/ CEO

Riverbend Watershed Resources District  
 Board Meeting  
 February 20, 2019  
 12:00 p.m.

No.	Name	Organization	Title	Phone	Email
1	Tim Ljary	MAUD EDC		903 278 6447	
2	Dennis Lewis			903 293 8927	
3	Sharon Elkins	Rep. Van Deaver			
4	Elizabeth Fawcett	Wife of Henderson, A.C.		903 293 5646	
5	Scott Notten	Technicians Guild		903 223 5841	
6	Becky Wilbanks	Cass County		903-756-5181	
7	Matt Garcia	Pope-Dawson		2147732380	
8	Mike Buchanan				
9	Hal Harris				
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					