

**Regular Called Meeting
Riverbend Water Resources District
Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020
301 NE Front St., New Boston, Texas 75570**

MINUTES

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

Pursuant to a notice posted on the District website, the Chair, Sonja Hubbard, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Directors Present:

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

Directors Absent:

None

Administration Present:

Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/CEO
Eli Hunt, Operations Manager
Becky Melton, Executive Assistant/HR Manager

Public Present:

Harrell Hignight, Central Bowie County Water Supply Corporation (CBCWSC)
Earnest Shelton, Central Bowie County Water Supply Corporation
Hal Harris, Central Bowie County Water Supply Corporation
Robert Lorange, City of Redwater
Greg Bischof, Texarkana Gazette
David Briggs, CDM Smith
Becky Wilbanks, Cass County Judge
Scott Norton, TexAmericas Center
Sue Anderson, City of New Boston

II. Invocation & Pledge

Sonja Hubbard led the invocation & the pledge of allegiance.

III. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration

A. Discussion regarding future board representation for Riverbend Water Resources District

Mrs. Hubbard presented the need to have this meeting to discuss how the make-up of the board came about, how it functions now, and how it could look going forward with future economic development. Usage and percentages could change with growth and that may affect the board make-up as well. The Board would like to have input from all of the member entities. In addition, Representative Gary VanDeaver has reached out and has asked if there is anything the Board needs from his office because the Texas Legislature is in session in 2021. That would mean any action would have to be taken by this Board by the end of the year.

Mr. Hignight provided that there are some water entities that do not feel like they have a voice on the Board. He would like to see them have a voting seat on the Board. He understands that they fall under the representation of the "member at large position held by Van Alexander. Mr. Hignight feels that they would be better represented if they had a voting seat. Van Alexander asked for clarification on Mr. Hignight's feeling that his entity doesn't have a voice. He stated that he knows he can come to the Board and he will be heard but he feels like they should have their own Board representative. He also provided that CBCWSC does not have any major issues he feels are being ignored.

Mr. Wood asked, for the record, what entities are part of Rivberbend. Kyle Dooley provided that there are three counties, two water supply corporations, one industrial park and the rest are municipalities. The initial board representation was set up based on water usage.

Mr. Lorance reminded those present that the Board was downsized due to a lack of consensus on the Board. The previous Board make-up included one representative for each entity, totalling 15 Board members. The change took legislative action and any future change would also take legislative action.

Mr. Hignight stated that if they look at the current Board from a geographic stance, the make up of the Board leans more towards Texarkana than the rest of the region. He feels as though geographic representation is more important than volume or usage representation.

Mr. Milton asked for the volume percentages of the users. Mr. Dooley provided that Texarkana uses 56%, New Boston uses almost 10%, Atlanta uses almost 9%, Central Bowie uses almost 7%. The remaining members are at 5% or below.

Mr. Wood is open to expanding the Board but that expansion must only be considered while keeping Board efficiency and cohesion in mind. His concern is that if CBCWSC gains a seat, that other members will also want their own representative on the board. Mr. Hignight then clarified that they do not want a single representative from CBCWSC on the Board. They want the Board representative for the members at-large to be a representative from an area closer to the entities that person represents. All members are paying members so that would eliminate the question about who should or should not have a seat at the table. Mr. Hignight suggested that entites from a particular area would come together and choose someone to represent them. Mr. Milton clarified that this is the same system used when chosing the current member at-

large Board position. Prior to CBCWSC becoming a member of Riverbend, each entity approved by resolution the appointment of Van Alexander to that position.

Judge Wilbanks provided that her county is very happy with their representation on the Board. She agrees that the Board should be limited to no more than 7 members. Mr. Lorance agreed with Judge Wilbanks.

Mrs. Hubbard reminded those present that if the Board is expanded by 2, the City of Texarkana, as the largest user, would want another seat on the Board. Mr. Hignight would not have an issue with that as long as there is representation for the member entities outside of Texarkana that is more connected to those entities than they are to Texarkana.

Mr. Wood asked if a review of the structure of the Board needed to be done every five years as Riverbend grows. He also provided that the City of Texarkana thought in the beginning, it was extremely inequitable to give representation based solely on number of entities or region because the City of Texarkana was funding a large percentage of the operations of Riverbend. So the expansion of the Board would have to keep that in mind.

Mr. Milton provided that as a member of the Riverbend Board of Directors, board members have a responsibility to Riverbend before their own entity. The entire region has to be represented with fairness and integrity. Mr. Wood echoed Mr. Milton's sentiments. He stated that as long as Riverbend is successful, then the entity each of the Board members represents is successful as well.

The Board understands the concerns of Mr. Hignight as a representative of CBCWSC. Mr. Alexander wanted to let him and every other entity know that each Riverbend Board member is open to discussions any time of day, at all hours. It is very likely that if one entity is having an issue then more than one other entity is having the same issue. He stated that the only way the region can move forward is as a team.

Mrs. Veal Gooch asked if there is a timeline that the Board needs to keep in mind when notifying the Texas Legislature of changes in the statute. Mr. Dooley said it would need to be as soon as possible.

Mr. Wood would like to set a timeline for the Board to address these concerns of their members. He does not think the Board needs to take action at the meeting next week. There needs to be more research done before a resolution is considered. A special called meeting in early December to address this issue would be a good idea.

The Board discussed that, with the progress that has been made in the last three years regarding water rights and a new water treatment facility, they do not want anything to distract from that progress and draw focus away from the future of Riverbend. It was evident during the last legislative session when proposed amendments are made in the legislature that gives opportunity for the entire statute to be scrutinized and that may jeopardize our current position regarding the water rights application or other pressing issues. Judge Wilbanks informed the Board that she met with four legislators and they have said that there will be a low number of bills introduced during this session due to the coronavirus.

It was decided that if these concerns are not an emergency issue to be addressed immediately, the Board will leave a discussion item on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

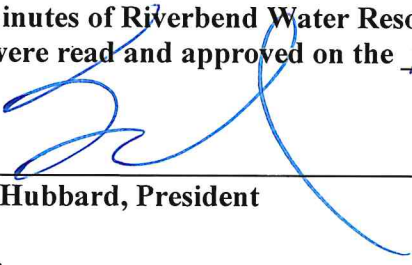
IV. Next Riverbend Meetings

Riverbend Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at Riverbend Offices, 228 A Texas Avenue, New Boston, Texas 75570.

V. Adjournment


With no additional business to be discussed, Sonja Hubbard adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

The minutes of Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, November 12, 2020 were read and approved on the 18th day of NOVEMBER, 2020.



Sonja Hubbard, President

Attest:



Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO

Riverbend Water Resources District

Board Meeting

November 12, 2020

12:00 p.m.

No.	Name	Organization	Title	Phone	Email
1	Aaron Hingault	Riverbend BCWS	President	903-701-0587	ahingault@riverbendwater.com
2	Greg Birschof	Texarkana Gazette	Reporter	(903) 824-0743	gbirschof@texarkanagazette.com
3	Robert Lawrence	Redwater			
4	Hal Harris	CRWC	GM		
5	David Briggs	CDM SMITH	Engineer	512-711-7591	briggsd@cdmsmith.com
6	Becky Wilbanks	Cass County	Judge	903-756-5181	wilbanksbecky@yahoo.com
7	Scott Nelson	TAE	CEO		
8	Jane Anderson	NB Council	Commissioner	903-748-6744	janadand@nbcc.com
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