

**Regular Called Meeting
Riverbend Water Resources District
Board Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2021**

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, the Chair, Sonja Hubbard, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Directors Present:

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

Directors Absent:

None

Administration Present:

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

Public Present:

Please see the attached list for additional guests.

II. Invocation & Pledge

Sonja Hubbard led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Consent Agenda Items

A. Discussion and possible action regarding January 27, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes.

A single motion was made by **Fred Milton** and seconded by **Marshall Wood** to approve the Consent Agenda Items as listed above. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Regional Entity Reports

A. Discussion and possible action regarding activities with Sulphur River Basin Authority (SRBA).

Kyle Dooley reported that the meeting scheduled for last week was cancelled due to the inclement weather.

No action taken.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding activities with TexAmericas Center (TAC).

Kyle Dooley provided that Scott Norton, TAC Executive Director, is visiting with the team of a prospective tenant today. They have several more visits scheduled with other prospects as well. They are still on schedule for construction on the spec building to be completed by July 2021 Also, the RCRA permit was finally removed from their property and that opened up approximately 6,850 acres of property for development.

No action taken.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding activities with Ar-Tex REDI.

Sonja Hubbard provided that Rob Sitterly, REDI Executive Director, will be at the next Riverbend meeting to discuss economic development plans. They have digital advertisements ready for publication to showcase their newly purchased parcels of land.

Marshall Wood provided information related to economic development. There is a bill that has been introduced in the Texas State House and Senate that will eliminate the Texarkana Court of Appeals and combine it with the Dallas Court of Appeals. This bill is an attempt to collapse the 14 courts of appeals in to 5 to 7 courts. The sell is that they want to save money but since the City of Texarkana provides that space for free there is not an explanation of how money is saved. This will severely impact the money spent in this area in the form of hotels, restaurants, etc. by lawyers and others when cases are tried here.

Tina Veal Gooch also provided that there was discussion at the Chamber of Commerce board meeting that other legislation being presented to eliminate Texarkana, Texas and Arkansas as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Mike Malone, Chamber of Commerce Director, is sending out information on that bill. He's asking for anyone to contact their legislators urging them to vote against this bill. The removal of the MSA will ultimately affect the economic development efforts. Having the MSA lets the public know that Texarkana is a much bigger area with twice the population than just one city in each each state.

No action taken.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding activites with Region D.

Kyle Dooley provided that we are getting started on sixth cycle of water planning for the region. The first meeting of this planning cycle is scheduled for the end of March. We have been working with Ron Ellis with Texas Water Development Board to ensure we are completing all the necessary steps for notification of meetings and such.

VI. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration

A. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an interlocal agreement(s) for risk management insurance with the TWCA Risk Management Fund.

Kyle Dooley provided that this is the annual renewal of the agreement with TWCA RMF for worker's compensation and risk management insurance.

A motion was made by **Tina Veal Gooch** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to approve **RESO 20210224-01** authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an interlocal agreement(s) for risk management insurance with the TWCA Risk Management Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Riverbend Reports

A. Board Members

No reports.

B. Executive Director/CEO

Kyle Dooley provided the following updates:

New Industrial Wastewater Plant: A contract was signed with Garver, LLC for their staff to complete an application for State Revolving Funds for a new Industrial Wastewater facility. The deadline to complete that application has been extended to March 10th.

Regional Water System Project: Pape-Dawson Engineers has been selected as the Program Manager for this project. Contract negotiations are nearing completion. There will be two design teams selected as well. One will be working on the raw water conveyance and one working on the water treatment plant. The Board has given Mr. Dooley authority to sign the contract with the Program Manager via previous action. A report will be given next month after the contract is signed.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-Cultural Resources Study and Ultimate Rule Curve: The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has stated that when the USACE sends the invoice for the Cultural Resources Study to send it in to TWDB for payment. This ensures the District will not lose any traction made on this study and can still meet the requirements to pay the USACE. The USACE is still gathering resources to begin the study. There are biweekly update meetings to discuss progress. The next step for them is to hire a group to conduct the Cultural Resources Study.

Regarding the Water Rights Application: The technical review has been completed. Dawn Pilcher has not received any other requests for information from TCEQ. We believe the draft permit will be released by the end of February. With the weather last week that may be delayed. Ms. Pilcher stated she will be in touch if she hears anything further.

Elevated Storage Tank and Chlorine Booster Station Improvements: Cobb-Findley is finishing up the design on both of these projects on Red River Army Depot. Riverbend will go out for bids within the next month. Construction will start as soon as the bidding is done and a contract is approved by the Board.

Oak Grove Water Supply Corporation: The water supply corporation has expressed a need for financial assistance in paying the debt service for the regional water facilities project. They are working with Susan Roth to submit an application for financial assistance through the State Revolving-Fund Drinking Water Fund. Annona also applied and received this assistance during the submission of the District's application for funding for the project.

Winter Weather February 15th through the 19th: The Riverbend system fared well all things considered. There was one leak and one valve that broke. There were several leaks for customers and they were handled as they were made aware. Eli Hunt and his operators' worked hard through some very tough conditions. Their commitment to ensuring the system runs efficiently is to be commended.

No action taken.

VIII. Executive Session

The board did not move into Executive Session.

IX. Next Riverbend Meetings

Riverbend Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. at Riverbend Offices, 228 A Texas Avenue, New Boston, Texas 75570.

X. Adjournment

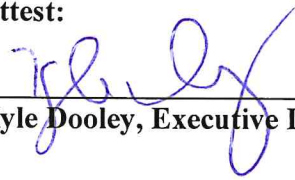
With no additional business to be discussed, a motion was made by **Van Alexander** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to adjourn the meeting at 12:24 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, February 24, 2021 were read and approved on the 24th day of MARCH, 2021.



Sonja Hubbard, President

Attest:



Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO

Board Meeting Attendees - February 24, 2021

Name	Organization
David Stanley	CP&Y
Phil Cook	CP&Y
Justin Reeves	LAN
David Briggs	CDM Smith
Jim Clary	City of Maud
Sharon Elkins	Rep. Van Deaver
Hall Harris	Central Bowie WSC
Mat Garcia	Pape Dawson
David Williams	MTG