

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

**June 23, 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 12:03 p.m.

**Directors Present:**

Tina Veal Gooch, Vice President  
Marshall Wood, Secretary  
Fred Milton, Past President

**Directors Absent:**

Sonja Hubbard, President  
Van Alexander, Treasurer

**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**

Tina Veal Gooch led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Public Comments**

None.

**IV. Consent Agenda Items**

**A. Discussion and possible action regarding May 26, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes.**

A single motion was made by **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to approve the Consent Agenda Item 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 provided that the SRBA board discussed conducting a sedimentation study on Jim Chapman Lake. Marshall Wood asked where the funding for that study would come from. Mr. Dooley stated that there has not been a decision made on that yet.

No action taken.

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

Scott Norton, TAC Executive Director, provided that the TAC board approved two new leases. One is an expansion for an existing tenant and the other is a new lease. They are also waiting on the approval of an EDA grant for rail improvements on the TAC-East footprint. Prospect activity is still very good.

No action taken.

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

No report.

No action taken.

## 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 for employees' health benefits with TML Health Benefits Pool.

Kyle Dooley provided informaton on the renewal of medical insurance. He provided the options for premium increases as well as how that would affect the deductibles. The list of options will be attached to the resolution if approved. Mr. Dooley recommends the board approve the option that increases the premium by 3% but leaves the deductibles and out of pocket expenses similar to the current amounts so as to have the least amount of impact on the employees medical expenses. Mr. Dooley also provided information on a decrease in the vision premiums. In addition, Riverbend will now have a vision network as opposed to employees having to file claims with TML on their own.

A motion was made by **Fred Milton** and seconded by **Marshall Wood** to approve **RESO 20210623-01** authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an interlocal agreement for employees' health benefits with TML Health Benefits Pool. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an interlocal agreement/contract with Texarkana Concrete Construction, Inc. to complete the rehabilitation on wastewater drying beds.**

Kyle Dooley reminded the board that in April, the District accepted bids from three firms for the rehabilitation of the drying beds located at the Ron Collins Wastewater treatment plant. Texarkana Concrete Construction, Inc. (TCC) was the apparent low bidder at that bid meeting. An addendum was issued during the bid cycle which included a revised bid form to include another piece of the project. TCC did not use this revised bid form for their bid. Normally, the contract would be awarded to the next lowest bidder, however, the other two bids received were in excess of the funds budgeted for this project. KSA Engineering reissued the request for bids. This request yielded a bid from Four Thirteen Construction and one from Texarkana Concrete Construction, Inc. Texarkana Concrete Construction provided the lowest bid for the project.

A motion was made by **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to approve **RESO 20210623-02** authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an interlocal agreement/contract with Texarkana Concrete Construction, Inc. to complete the rehabilitation on wastewater drying beds. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute a contract with the Texas Water Development Board for funding for funding of the 6th cycle of regional water planning for the North East Texas Water Planning Group (Region D).**

Kyle Dooley provided information on the costs associated with the administration of Region D. Texas Water Development Board funds these activities and requires a contract be signed with the administrator of the Planning Group. The contract will be amended periodically throughout the water planning cycle and there will be funding included to cover the costs incurred by Riverbend. There is required reporting on how the funds are spent.

A motion was made by **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to approve **RESO 202100623-03** authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute a contract with the Texas Water Development Board for funding for funding of the 6th cycle of regional water planning for the North East Texas Water Planning Group (Region D). The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Riverbend Reports**

### **A. Board Members**

Fred Milton provided that Tina Veal Gooch, Sonja Hubbard, Kyle Dooley and himself travelled to the Austin area for the TWCA Summer Conference. They were able to meet and discuss the project with a few firms knowledgeable with the type of project Riverbend is planning. They also met with Kathleen Jackson with the Texas Water Development Board. She plans to make a trip to the area to attend the August Riverbend board meeting for a Regional Water System project update. Mr. Milton also provided that he learned about a program called FIRO or Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations. It is a reservoir operations strategy that better informs decisions to retain or release water by integrating additional flexibility in operation policies and rules with enhanced monitoring and improved weather and

water forecasts. The goal of the program is to develop, demonstrate, and implement tools and science that enable more effective management of reservoirs. It could allow the USACE to retain more water in reservoirs than their allotted maximum lake level. If Region C were to take advantage of this program, and increase the lakes in that region by 15%, it has the potential to make 1.5 million more acre feet of water available for use.

Tina Veal Gooch congratulated Fred Milton on his appointment to the Governor's Committee to Support the Military. The appointment will be for a term to expire at the pleasure of the Governor. This committee studies and makes recommendations on how best to maintain and enhance military value at existing military installations in Texas and how best to make Texas a more attractive destination for additional military missions.

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

Kyle Dooley provided the following updates:

Regional Water System Project: Pape Dawson is focusing on and having discussions regarding the necessary environmental clearances needed for the transmission line. The Corps of Engineer participants on these discussions are also on the Regional Water Systems project team. Pape Dawson is also planning to send all the standards to Mr. Dooley next week for review.

Water Rights Application with TCEQ: The notice was mailed June 17<sup>th</sup>. The publication of this notice triggers the 30-day public comment period. The notice will run in the Texarkana Gazette on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Once it is published, we will notify the TCEQ it has been published. Once the public comment period has concluded on July 27<sup>th</sup>, the timeline of the issuance of the final water rights permit will be driven by the types of public comments received by TCEQ.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-Cultural Resources Study and Ultimate Rule Curve: The funds have been wired to the USACE to begin the study. The USACE needs the funds in hand before they can begin the RFQ process. Mitigation discussions will begin soon. June 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was a public scoping meeting. It went well. There was clarification made on exactly what this study will and will not cover. If anyone would like information on the information presented, a simple search on the internet of "Wright Patman URC" or "Wright Patman Ultimate Rule Curve," will bring up the slides presented that evening. Mr. Dooley also provided feedback on an article printed in the Texarkana Gazette regarding the raising of the lake level at Wright Patman Lake. While he was quoted to have said, "One, you may have a little more inundation..." Mr. Dooley would like to clarify that raising the lake level to the Ultimate Rule Curve of 228.64 would not inundate land that has never been under water. The lake level today is approximately 239 feet. Raising the level of Wright Patman Lake to the Ultimate Rule Curve of 228.64 would provide storage space between 224.89 feet and 228.64 feet for municipal and industrial water supply. This lake level was agreed upon in furtherance of implementation of Contract DACW29-68-A-0103 which was approved on July 11, 1968 by the Secretary of the Army.

Region D: The next meeting will be a pre-planning meeting to kick off the 6<sup>th</sup> water planning cycle. It is to be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Region 8 Educational Center in Pittsburg, Texas. This meeting is required prior to any planning efforts. There have been over 900 notices mailed or emailed to all stakeholders in the Region.

No action taken.

### VIII. Executive Session

The board stood at ease beginning at 12:42 p.m.

The board reconvened in Executive Session at 12:47 p.m with quorum pursuant to sections 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The board came out of Executive Session at 1:10 p.m.

### IX. Next Riverbend Meetings

Riverbend Regular Meeting, Wednesday, July 28, 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 **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to adjourn the meeting at 1:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, June 23, 2021 were read and approved on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

  
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**Sonja Hubbard, President**

Attest:

  
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**Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO**

## Board Meeting Attendees - June 23, 2021

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Charley Moon	Freese & Nichols
David Briggs	CDM Smith
David Pinkins	Kimley Horn
David Stanley	CP&Y
Phil Cook	CP&Y
Lance Klement	Garver
Stephenie Bache	Black & Veach
Sharon Elkins	Rep VanDeaver
Alberto Flores	LAN
Hal Harris	Central Bowie WSC
Scott Norton	TAC
David Williams	MTG