

**Regular Called Meeting
Riverbend Water Resources District
Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2021**

228 Texas Avenue, Suite A, 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 12:05 p.m.

Directors Present:

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

Directors Absent:

Van Alexander, Treasurer

Administration Present:

Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/CEO
Eli Hunt, Operations Manager
Tara Houck, CFO

Public Present:

Please see the attached list for additional guests.

II. Invocation & Pledge

Sonja Hubbard led the invocation & the pledge of allegiance.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Consent Agenda Items

Item IV.A. was considered under a Consent Agenda for one single motion of approval.

A. Discussion and possible action regarding August 25, 2021 Regular Called Meeting Minutes.

A single motion was made by **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Tina Veal Gooch** 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).

Chris Hartung, Interim Executive Director for SRBA, provided an update on SRBA. He stated that he is considering proposing to the SRBA board to have an engineering firm study the log jam on the Sulphur River. As part of the proposed study, he wanted to look into the possibility that the log jam could be helping the surface water coming into Wright Patman by slowing the water down and allowing for the sediment load to drop out.

No action taken.

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

No report.

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 approving a Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) water production rate increase until such time as the TWU True-Up document can be completed, reviewed and approved.

Kyle Dooley followed up on the True-Up meeting held on August 18, 2021 in conjunction with TWU regarding the water production rate. Due to the cyberattack in late 2020, TWU lost all of their data including financial data. The water production rate is fully dependant on audited financials. The member entities present decided that there should be a temporary increase of \$0.03/1000 gallons to raise the current rate of \$0.9302 to an interm rate to \$0.9602/1000 gallons. The members also stated that as soon as the audited financials are ready, they would like the True-Up document be completed and Riverbend hold another meeting to discuss the new proposed water production rate. At that time, they will discuss whether the interm rate is where the rate should stay or if change is in order.

A motion was made by **Tina Veal Gooch** and seconded by **Marshall Wood** to approve **RESO 20210922-01** approving a Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) water production rate increase

until such time as the TWU True-Up document can be completed, reviewed and approved. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution appointing the officers of the Board of Directors for FY 2021-2022.

Kyle Dooley reminded the Board that typically the board officer positions rotate moving each board member up in the officer positions. Last year, Tina Veal Gooch, current Vice President, suggested that the board positions not be rotated due to the challenges as an employee of Texarkana Independent School District she expected to face regarding remote learning and other issues as related to the COVID pandemic. She believes those challenges are well in hand for this fiscal year. This year, the board officer positions are recommended as follows:

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

A motion was made by **Fred Milton** and seconded by **Marshall Wood** to approve **RESO 20210922-02** appointing the officers of the Board of Directors for FY 2021-2022. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding the Riverbend Calendar and Board Meeting Schedule for FY 2022.

Kyle Dooley provided that there is not a resolution attached to this calendar. The meetings will still be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the exception of December. The only change is the addition of the newly federally approved Juneteenth holiday. It will be observed on June 19th, unless that day falls on a weekend and either the preceeding Friday or following Monday will be observed for that holiday. The addition of this holiday will also be included in changes to the Personnel Policy Manual that will be presented next month.

A motion was made by **Marshall Wood** and seconded by **Tina Veal Gooch** to approve the Riverbend Calendar and Board Meeting Schedule for FY 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution adopting the Revised 2021 Administrative Member Fund Budget, the Revised 2021 Wet Utilities Fund Budget, and the Revised 2021 Regional Water System Facilities Fund Budget of Riverbend Water Resources District.

Tara Houck made a presentation of the revisions to the FY 2021 budgets for all funds.

A motion was made by **Fred Milton** and seconded by **Marshall Wood** to approve **RESO 20210922-03** adopting the Revised 2021 Administrative Member Fund Budget, the Revised 2021 Wet Utilities Fund Budget, and the Revised 2021 Regional Water System Facilities Fund Budget of Riverbend Water Resources District. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution adopting the FY 2022 Administrative Member Fund Budget, the FY 2022 Wet Utilities Fund Budget, and the FY 2022 Regional Water System Facilities Fund Budget of Riverbend Water Resources District.

Tara Houck made a presentation of the FY 2022 budgets for all funds.

A motion was made by **Tina Veal Gooch** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to approve **RESO 20210922-04** adopting the FY 2022 Administrative Member Fund Budget, the FY 2022 Wet Utilities Fund Budget, and the FY 2022 Regional Water System Facilities Fund Budget of Riverbend Water Resources District. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution casting a vote for the board of trustees for Texas Municipal League Health Benefits Pool (TML).

Kyle Dooley provided information on the Board of Trustees election for TML. This is not typical. A representative from TML explained that as trustee positions come open or if there is an opponent to the current trustee, members within that region are permitted to vote for a person that best suits the region. In this case, there was no opponent but a ballot had not been sent out in several cycles and with major changes in networks and pandemic related issues, TML staff concluded that a ballot was necessary at this juncture.

A motion was made by **Fred Milton** and seconded by **Marshall Wood** to approve **RESO 20210922-05** casting a vote for Wendy Hudman, City Accountant, City of Carthage, Texas for the board of trustees for Texas Municipal League Health Benefits Pool. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Riverbend Reports

A. Board Members

None.

B. Executive Director/CEO

Kyle Dooley provided the following updates:

Industrial Waste Water Plant: Discussions with Red River Army Depot (RRAD) and TexAmericas Center have been productive regarding replacement of the plant as well as seeking out funding through Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) Clean Water SRF Program. With rates low, there was a high number of projects submitted to TWDB for funding. However, our project did not rate high enough this cycle and this project is not likely to receive funding. During budget meetings with RRAD, discussions were held regarding going to the market for funding this project. Contract language may need to be added to the contract with the Army regarding this type of funding and those discussions are still ongoing. Our financial advisors are researching the most economical path to take for funding the new Industrial Waste Water Treatment Plant. Garver Engineering was originally slated to complete the application for the SRF funds for the new plant. They are still on deck to update the cost estimates.

Oak Grove Water Supply Corporation: A principal forgiveness application was submitted to TWDB on their behalf in order to assist the water supply corporation with the debt service for the new Regional Water Facility. While their application did rank high on the list, it was not approved by TWDB.

Master Engineering List: The current list was approved in 2018. At the time of approval, a date to revisit both the list of services needed as well as the engineering firms themselves was not decided. That will be coming out in the near future.

CityWorks: Training for all employees as well as implementation for the asset management and workorder system has started this week. This system will streamline real-time workorder completion as well as allowing staff to update the GIS records on iPad as work is completed. As we use this system throughout the construction of the new water plant, it will also help to prioritize capital improvement projects and maintenance projects. Starting on a smaller scale will allow staff to grow in their knowledge of the workorder system as the Regional Water System project is completed.

Regional Water System Project: Kim Keefer with Pape-Dawson provided the following updates.

- The effort to complete 30% foundational documents continues with 6 technical memoranda under review, the first round of water sampling complete and progress made on completing the alternatives evaluation process as it relates to environmental, socio-economic, capital and operation and maintenance factors.
- RWRD staff attended site visits to several, similar WTP in the general area which afforded them to see various types of facility set-up.
- A portion of the first round of water quality samples have been obtained from the Lake. No surprises in quality were found.
- Pape Dawson are commencing with the initial preparations for selection of the design consultants for the next phase of work. This includes preparing a TWDB-appropriate advertisement and contract documents. This is on track for first quarter 2022.
- We just completed our site visit to various proposed locations of the program.
- Finally, work continues on coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers. We believe the Ultimate Rule Curve activities are going to be very beneficial in this coordination for this project.
- Finalization on the intake location and transmission line placement, the initial advisory committee meeting has not yet been scheduled. It should be scheduled in October or November.

Ultimate Rule Curve and Environmental & Cultural Resources Study: The environmental study is moving forward. There has been more discussion and less progress with the cultural resources study. The cost estimates for that study have been higher than they had anticipated. The increases are related to, among other factors, the time it could take to study a tract of land of this size regarding cultural resources and mitigation costs may also contribute. Riverbend is waiting to hear from the Corps on how to proceed. There are Caddo tribes as well as archeologists involved in the study. There is a window of 227 feet to 233 feet elevation that they will be looking for cultural resources.

TCEQ & Water Rights Application: Discussions with the five entities that requested hearings are going well and moving in a positive direction. TCEQ has extended the deadline to address

their concerns before they schedule hearings. They just requested that Riverbend keep them up to date on any further discussions with those entities.

No action taken.

VIII. Executive Session

The board stood at ease at 12:55 p.m.

The board reconvened in Executive Session at 1:02 p.m with quorum pursuant to section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The board came out of Executive Session at 1:34 p.m.

The board reconvened with quorum at 1:36 p.m.

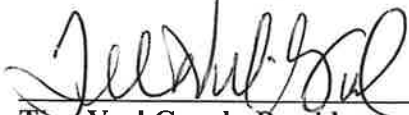
IX. Next Riverbend Meetings

Riverbend Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 27, 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 1:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, held on September 22, 2021, were read and approved on the 27 day of OCTOBER, 2021.



Tina Veal Gooch, President

Attest:



Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO