

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

June 28, 2023

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, Tina Veal-Gooch, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Directors Present:

Van Alexander, President
Steve Mayo, Vice President
Fred Milton, Treasurer
Tina Veal-Gooch, Past President

Directors Absent:

Sonja Hubbard, Secretary

Administration Present:

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

Public Present:

Please see the attached list for additional guests.

II. Invocation & Pledge

Van Alexander led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Consent Agenda Items

A. Discussion and possible action regarding May 24, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes.

A motion was made by **Fred Milton** and seconded by **Tina Veal Gooch** to approve the Consent Agenda Item. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Regional Entity Reports

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

No report. No action taken.

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

TAC Board met yesterday. Hunting leases were renewed. Bylaws were updated based on changes made in the legislature. A real estate agreement with Braven was revised to extend it four months due to a change in leadership. A contract was signed with a rail contractor to do \$733,000 worth of improvements on the rail system. A facility use agreement was also executed with Trinity Rail Maintenance Services to do maintenance on rail cars on the TAC footprint. Two leases on existing tenants were been renewed. A new lease was signed with East Texas Custom All Terrain. A press release will be posted tomorrow regarding where TexAmericas Center ranks among other Industrial Parks. In 2020 they were ranked 8th. The last two years they were ranked 5th. This year they are ranked the 3rd best Industrial Park in the country. This increase in ranking by Business Facilities Magazine was due to the “speed to market” that TAC can provide through the inhouse logistics division, which is a unique service provided by TAC. In addition, TexAmericas is the only redevelopment authority with facilities previously used by the military that was considered in the ranking.

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 information on the renewal of the TML Coverage. Staff has received the proposed employee medical insurance plan from TML Health Benefits Pool, which would become effective on 10/1/23 for the new fiscal year. There are four new plan options that are being offered by TML for consideration for this upcoming year or we can stay with the current plan. All plan options would be an increase when compared with the total cost from the previous year. Those options, and the current plan costs, are shown in the agenda packet. For all four new options, the out-of-pocket cost and/or the deductible costs would go up. The premium cost also increases between 1.82%-23.71% depending on which option is selected. Staying with the current plan would increase the premium 30%, but it holds out-of-pocket and deductible costs at the same rate as this current year. Dental coverage has an increase of 8%. The current vision plan will remain unchanged for this upcoming plan year. TML Health Benefits Pool requires us to decide to renew our plan in

July, but it will be before the next board meeting. This agenda item is requesting authorization to select one of these TML options, execute the needed paperwork to renew, and submit it by TML's July deadline. After reviewing the options, staff recommends staying with the current plan for the upcoming year to keep the out of pocket and deductible costs the same for the employees next year.

A motion was made by **Fred Milton** and seconded by **Tina Veal Gooch** for approval of **RESO 20230628-01** 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 request additional funding from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to cover costs related to design and construction of the Regional Water System Facility.

Kyle Dooley provided that this item pertains to the funding for the Johnny L. Branson Regional Water Treatment Facility. RWRD was successful in securing \$200 million in funding through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in 2020. The needed funding was secured using cost estimates from 2019. Since that time, several things have happened in the market and in the construction world that have driven costs up dramatically. Cost estimates for the project have more than doubled since the 2019 cost estimates were done. This is not a unique issue just for this project. This is a statewide, and nationwide issue, as prices everywhere have skyrocketed over the past three to four years. As such, more funding is needed to finish the construction of the Regional Water Treatment Facility. This item, if approved, would authorize staff to prepare an application for additional funding through the TWDB Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

A motion was made by **Tina Veal Gooch** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to approve **RESO 20230628-02** authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to request additional funding from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to cover costs related to design and construction of the Regional Water System Facility. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Riverbend Reports

- A. Board Members

Fred Milton provided that he spoke with the Interim Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, Kathleen Jackson at the TWCA conference. She has been keeping up with our project and is pleased with the progress we are making.

- B. Executive Director/CEO

Kyle Dooley provided the following updates:

Mat Garcia with Pape-Dawson provided the following update on the Regional Water System Project:

- The draft Engineering Feasibility Report and the draft Environmental Assessment report have been provided to RWRD staff for review and comment.

- Request for Proposals for the Various Design Consultants Agreements has been posted and are due July 21, 2023.
 - For the Intake Structure package, 114 entities have downloaded the RFQ. 34 are engineering companies.
 - For the Raw Water Main package, 99 entities have downloaded the RFQ. 33 are engineering companies.
 - For the Water Treatment Plant package, 140 entities have downloaded the RFQ. 41 are engineering companies.
 - For the Finished Water Main package, 114 entities have downloaded the RFQ. 34 are engineering companies.
 - We will assist the District in reviewing the Responses, and have set up an interview window, if needed, from August 28 to September 8.
 - We anticipate making a recommendation to the Board no later than the September Board meeting.
 - We have also reached out over 40 minority and women-owned businesses to ensure the District stays in compliance with the goals required as part of its funding through the SRF.

Kyle talked to the Corps regarding their letter of concurrence with project viability under the interim rule curve. It just needs to be signed and sent to us. The three required documents, EID, EFR and this letter, will be submitted as they are completed.

Intake Permitting: One thing that has been delaying the submitting of the EID and the EFR to TWDB is a ruling from the Corps on whether they would allow Riverbend to pull the permitting portion of the intake construction away from the Ultimate Rule Curve studies. Dawson and Associates had a meeting with USACE on Friday. The USACE representatives did not see any issues, in theory, with the construction of the intake prior to the implementation of the Ultimate Rule Curve. That decision comes with the caveat that Riverbend will operate at the Interim Rule Curve that is currently in place until the Ultimate Rule Curve is implemented. That allows Riverbend to get lined out on what the Corps expects on the application for the intake. That language will need to be in the EID and the EFR so it can be turned to TWDB that will indicate we are clear with the Corps to move forward with the project so TWDB can approve our documents and release project funds. At this point, the RFQ process can move forward because funds should be released at about the same time that a design team is chosen.

Ultimate Rule Curve: The Cultural Resources Study is out for contract and should be back by the end of July. Mid July is when we should hear from the Corps regarding any extra funding needed based on numbers they're seeing from contracting.

Industrial Wastewater Plant: Email from RRAD Public Works requested a meeting in mid-July to discuss next steps for the new plant. Location is still a major concern that will involve TexAmericas Center as well as any other entities that may be using the

True-Up: Still aiming for having the document out July 12, 2023 and planning the meeting for July 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Riverbend offices.

No action taken.

VIII. Executive Session

The board stood at ease at 12:25 p.m.

The board reconvened in Executive Session at 12:30 p.m. with quorum pursuant to sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The board came out of Executive Session at 1:23 p.m.

The board reconvened with quorum at 1:23 p.m.

IX. Next Riverbend Meetings

Riverbend True-up Workshop, July 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Riverbend Offices, 228 A Texas Avenue, New Boston, Texas 75570.

Riverbend Regular Meeting, July 26, 2023 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 **Tina Veal Gooch** and seconded by **Fred Milton** to adjourn the meeting at 1:24 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, held on June 28, 2023, were read and approved on the 28th day of JULY, 2023.



Van Alexander, President

Attest:



Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO

12:00 p.m.

[illegible]