

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

August 23, 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, Van Alexander, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Directors Present:

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

Directors Absent:

None

Administration Present:

Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/CEO
Tara Houck, CFO
Eli Hunt, Director of Operations
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 the July 26, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Steve Mayo and seconded by Sonya Hubbard 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).

Kyle Dooley provided that they hired David Widemon as their new director. No action taken.

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

Scott Norton, Executive Director, provided an update. Prospect activity is extremely strong. Budgets were reviewed yesterday. There is a letter of intent on the table to work out details on with a company that will be a big water user. He thanked Riverbend for the work on the raw water development and the industrial waste water plant. No action taken.

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

Sonja Hubbard provided an update. Ar-Tex REDI is hoping for approval on a federal spending bill for the lengthening and strengthening of the runway at Texarkana Regional Airport. The textile manufacturer is anticipating financing approval this month. No action taken.

VI. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration

A. Presentation and discussion regarding fluoride injection by Dr. Sandra Shambarger.

Dr. Sandra Shambarger made a presentation regarding the importance of fluoride in our drinking water. She is making this presentation in order to have the board as well as the member entities consider having fluoride injection as part of the new water treatment facility. Dr. Matthew Burks presented a section on the safety of fluoride. Kyle Dooley asked for guidance moving forward. Steve Mayo and Van Alexander asked for a Mayors' Meeting in conjunction with an advisory committee meeting to discuss this issue. The item will be brought to the board for discussion and consideration at the October board meeting.

No action taken.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution adopting the Member Entities' True-Up for use in FY 2024.

Kyle Dooley provided that TWU made their annual presentation of the Member Entities' True-Up report on Wednesday, July 19th. The proposed water production rate is shown to increase from \$1.2341/1000 Gallons used to \$1.2606/1000 Gallons used. This is a 2.15% increase overall. The administrative overhead cost is proposed to go from 6.57% to 6.72%.

The board can act on approving the true-up at this meeting, but typically has chosen not to act until the September meeting when the RWRD budget is considered and approved.

No action taken.

C. Discussion regarding the Riverbend Budgets.

- i. Revised 2023 Budgets for the Administrative Member Fund, the Wet Utilities Fund, and the Regional Water System Facilities Fund.

Tara Houck, CFO, presented the proposed changes to the FY 2023 Administrative Member Fund Budget, the Wet Utilities Fund Budget, and the Regional Water System Facilities Fund Budget.

- ii. Proposed 2024 Budgets for Administrative Member Fund, Wet Utilities Fund, and the Regional Water System Facilities Fund.

Tara Houck, CFO, presented the proposed FY 2024 budgets for the Administrative Member Fund, Wet Utilities Fund, and the Regional Water System Facilities Fund. Kyle Dooley provided a few details including a 5% cost of living adjustment as well as a \$0.75 increase per position to the labor table.

No action taken.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to enter into an agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Principal Financial, and Ameriflex for medical, dental, vision, life, health reimbursement, and flex savings account benefits.

Kyle Dooley provided that our current TML health benefit plan was scheduled to increase in cost by approximately 30% next year. While the board authorized the Executive Director to sign the extension with TML to keep us on schedule with renewal, there was discussion that staff was also looking for alternative plans that might help keep costs lower while still providing the employees with similar coverage. These proposed plans with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Principal Financial, and Ameriflex would provide medical, dental, vision, life insurance plans, health reimbursement, and flex savings account coverages. These plans offer similar coverage to the current TML plans and would come with considerable savings on premiums costs to RWRD. Our broker for these services will be Bockman, Knight, & Traylor Insurance Agency.

A motion was made by Fred Milton and seconded by Tina Veal Gooch to approve RESO 20230823-02 authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to enter into an agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and Principal Financial for medical, dental, vision, and life benefits, and Ameriflex for medical, dental, vision, life, health reimbursement, and flex savings account benefits. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution the ratification of an agreement with Tidewater Professional Services for engineering consulting services.

At the May board meeting, we discussed that our water rights consulting contract with LJA would be ending, as Dawn Pilcher our consulting engineer, was leaving LJA to start her own firm, Tidewater Professional Services. LJA was no longer able to offer us the specific consulting services that we need in dealing with our water rights application. Ms. Pilcher has the knowledge and history with our project and funding for the project was in the current budget. Staff working with legal counsel and Tidewater on a new contract to provide the water rights consulting services that RWRD needed. That contract was signed by the Executive Director on August 14, 2023, and the task order was for a not to exceed price of \$41,750. This total fell within the signature authority of the Executive Director, but since it is a new contract with Tidewater, staff wanted to bring it to the board for ratification.

A motion was made by Sonja Hubbard and seconded by Steve Mayo to approve RESO 20230823-03 ratifying an agreement with Tidewater Professional Services for engineering consulting services. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution amending the Water Supply Contract with Oak Grove Water Supply Corporation.

Kyle Dooley provided that Riverbend staff, along with Susan Roth, have been working with Oak Grove Water Supply Corporation on a request for principal forgiveness through the Texas Water Development Board on the Regional Water System Facilities Project. This request is identical to the one that the City of Annona successfully received through TWDB in 2020. On July 25, 2023, the TWDB approved Oak Grove's request and awarded them \$300,000 of principal forgiveness to be used on their repayment of the debt for the Regional Water System Facilities Project. This awarded funding will require an amendment to the current water supply contract between RWRD and Oak Grove WSC to add language that shows that they were the recipient of the TWDB funding and that the funding will be utilized on a pro rata monthly basis for the 30 year life of the debt payback. This amendment to the water supply contract would match the wording in the Annona water supply contract.

A motion was made by Tina Veal Gooch and seconded by Sonja Hubbard to approve RESO 20230823-04 amending the Water Supply Contract with Oak Grove Water Supply Corporation. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Riverbend Reports

A. Board Members

No reports.

B. Executive Director/CEO

Kyle Dooley provided the following updates:

Regional Water System Project: There were 22 design contract proposals for the four pieces of the project. That would be raw water intake, water treatment plant design, raw water transmission line and the potable water transmission line. There are 6 entities set for interviews on the 29th and 30th of August. We hope to have a recommendation for the board to consider by the September board meeting. All permitting documents have been submitted to the appropriate regulatory agencies for review. We are working to schedule a public meeting required by TWDB to present the full plan for the project.

Industrial Wastewater Plant: A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the budget. The bulk of the meeting will likely be to discuss the plant and how they'd like to move forward. Previous meeting have involved all concerned parties. They know it's time to move forward and we expect a final decision tomorrow.

No action taken.

VIII. Executive Session

The board stood at ease at 1:25 p.m.

The board reconvened in Executive Session at 1:31 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 2:04 p.m.

The board reconvened with quorum at 2:05 p.m.

IX. Next Riverbend Meetings

Riverbend Regular Meeting, September 27, 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 Steve Mayo and seconded by Fred Milton to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, held on August 26, 2023, were read, and approved on the 27th day of September 2023.



Van Alexander President

Attest:



Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO

Riverbend Watershed Sources District

Board Meeting

August 23, 2023

12:00 p.m.

| Name | Organization | Title | Phone | Email |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------|
| George English | City of Camanche Mayor of Camanche | Mayor | 903-407-6759 | |
| Marcelle Dean | City of Camanche | | 817-781-0880 | |
| Nick Burns | Black & Veatch | Process Engineer | 913-908-2171 | |
| Sandra Shabara | Endurotest | Endurotest | 903-906-5194 | |
| Lance Clement | Garver | Project Manager | 214-250-3497 | |
| Matthew Burks DDS, MD | Topeka Oral Surgeon | Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon | 501-617-1297 | |
| Michelle Traylor | Rockwell Inc. | Broker | 903-3091166 | |
| Danielle Reed | Rockwell Inc | Acct. Mgr | 903-3091166 | |
| David Bolero | COM Smith | Engineer | 512-771-7591 | |
| David Stacey | CDP | ASRBA | 903-985-6434 | |
| Daniel Perkins | Knightley Leard | Project Mgr | 806-239-9189 | |
| Phil Cook | STU (COPY) | RVP | 210-867-6452 | |
| Hal Harris | CB&S | GM | 903-628-5601 | |
| Ernest Jackson | CB&S | Member | 903-277-3162 | |
| Robert Kovich | | | | |
| Ron Humphrey | City of NB | Mayor | | |
| Kendra Cline | City of Avery | City Secretary | | |
| Kris Posey | City of Avery | Public Work Director | 903-933-1100 | |
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