

**Regular Called Meeting
Riverbend Water Resources District
Board Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2024**

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, Steve Mayo, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Directors Present:

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

Directors Absent:

None

Administration Present:

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

Public Present:

Please see the attached list for additional guests.

II. Invocation & Pledge

Steve Mayo led the invocation and 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 January 24, 2024 Regular Called Meeting Minutes.

A single motion was made by **Tina Veal Gooch** and seconded by **Sonja Hubbard** to approve the Consent Agenda Item as listed above. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Regional Entity Reports

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

David Weidman provided that Kelly Mitchell was appointed as the new Chairman for SRBA. No action taken.

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

Scott Norton, Executive Director, provided an update. TexAmericas is dealing with 114 different businesses right now. Twenty of them have chosen the TAC footprint as their final site in Texas to consider. The plastics recycling company has submitted paperwork to the county and the college for the tax abatements. We anticipate closing on that contract this summer. The first phase of a solar panel project will also be started on the TAC footprint bringing about 125 jobs. Project New Age is underway. A 250-acre site clearing began on TAC-East before discussions started with a new company. If the contract is finalized, 3 million square feet of space will be built in a couple of phases. They committed to 1,000 jobs but it will likely be more than that. No action taken.

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

Sonja Hubbard provided that progress is being made with the textile manufacturer on the Arkansas side as well as the airport. A dinner meeting is being held tonight with the CEO of Union Pacific to discuss logistics from the Texas side to the Arkansas side parcels. No action taken.

VI. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration

A. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution approving the first quarter financials for FY 2024.

Tara Houck presented the first quarter financials for FY 2024.

A motion was made by Van Alexander and seconded by Sonja Hubbard to approve RESO 20240228-01 approving the first quarter financials for FY 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution approving the first quarter investment report for FY 2024.

Tara Houck presented the first quarter investment report for FY 2024.

A motion was made by Tina Veal Gooch and seconded by Lynn Davis to approve RESO 20240228-02 approving the first quarter investment report for FY 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 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 information that this is a renewal of the District's risk management insurance. We are currently part of the TWCA Risk Management Fund, and the plan includes property insurance, workers' compensation insurance, board insurance and cyber security insurance.

A motion was made by Sonja Hubbard and seconded by Tina Veal Gooch to approve RESO 20240228-03 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.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution reviewing and updating the Drought Contingency Plan and the Water Conservation Plan of Riverbend Water Resources District.

Kyle Dooley provided information on the review and update of the Water Conservation Plan as well as the Drought Contingency Plan. Normally this review is done in March, however, TWDB needs these documents approved in order to finalize principal forgiveness applications turned in for the City of Avery and the City of Leary as well as for the additional request for water facility project funds. There is no change in the Drought Contingency Plan and one change to the Water Conservation Plan. We needed to add that the breakdown on the installation costs on the larger taps will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

A motion was made by Van Alexander and seconded by Lynn Davis to approve RESO 20240228-04 reviewing and updating the Drought Contingency Plan and the Water Conservation Plan of Riverbend Water Resources District. 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: Matt Garcia provided an update on the project. Pape has completed the second phase of Value Engineering with the successful design consultants.

Several design decisions were made which will make the project more efficient and the plant easier to operate. They met with Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) and Plummer & Associates to review the connection of the proposed facilities to the existing system as it relates to pressures and metering locations. This coordination effort is on-going. The Texas Water Development Board returned 13 comments on our Environmental Information Document. Pape's team met with TWDB on February 22 to review the comments in person and identify next steps. There are essentially two comments outstanding that we are working to resolve: one deals with the Texas Historical Commission deliverable and the other deals with the waters of the US. They should have the Water of the US comment resolved by the end of this week and they are working on a satisfactory method to resolve the Historical Commission comment as soon as possible. The Project Information Form is completed for the request for additional funding and will be submitted by the deadline of March 1, 2024. The contract documents for the remaining portion of the Design for the successful Design Consultant are being finalized and Pape will assist Riverbend to negotiate these contracts. Kyle Dooley added that the final application to withdraw the remaining funds to complete the project. This request will be for \$297.8 million, bringing the total project cost to \$497.8 million, which includes \$57 million for contingency to cover the unknown changes in construction costs. In the original request, 60% of the funds were taxable and 40% were tax exempt, in this request, 80% will be tax exempt which will help with the payback. With the EID near completion, Mr. Dooley elaborated on a couple of comments. On the original EID, TPWD reviewed and had no comments. The environmental manager at TWDB sees that TPWD didn't comment on the raw water line running near the Redwater City Park. She asked TPWD to make a comment if they had one which started the review of that piece of the process over. The comment from the Historic Commission is related to archeological surveys. Those surveys were started during the initial planning for the project to get permits for the intake and the ultimate rule curve. The Corps now states we don't need the permit at all so now the archeological surveys can be started.

Industrial Waste Water Plant: On February 5th, Kyle met with RRAD Public Works, Contracting and the Directorate of Resource Management. The Resource Manager had questions about the project and needed to complete its review before Contracting could finalize the contract language for the funding of the project. They would then submit comments back to Public Works. Public Works has not received comments to date. Debt is paid back by the Army through facility charges. Our assumption is that the new debt would be paid back in the same way. We are awaiting their response.

Ultimate Rule Curve and Environmental & Cultural Resources Study: The Programmatic agreement is in the process of being signed by all the interested parties. The Environmental Assessment Document is complete as well as the H & H studies. It will be March before the Cultural Resources Study is finalized and awarded to a contractor. Once the contractor is on board, they will ask us to review the contributed funds agreement again. Once we have that, we will bring it to the Board for approval.

No action taken.

VIII. Executive Session

The board stood at ease at 12:45 p.m.

The board reconvened in Executive Session at 12:50 p.m. with quorum pursuant to section 551.071 and 551.072 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The board came out of Executive Session at 1:38 p.m.

The board reconvened with quorum at 1:39 p.m.

IX. Next Riverbend Meetings

Riverbend Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 27, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at Riverbend Offices, 228 A Texas Avenue, New Boston, Texas 75570.

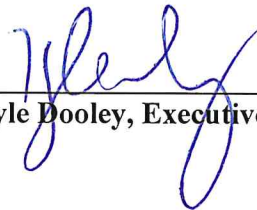
X. Adjournment

With no additional business to be discussed, a motion was made by Tina Veal Gooch and seconded by Lynn Davis to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, held on February 28, 2024, were read and approved on the 27th day of March 2024.



Steve Mayo, President



Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO

