

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

**March 27, 2024**

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, Steve Mayo, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**Directors Present:**

Steve Mayo, President  
Lynn Davis, Vice President  
Sonja Hubbard, Treasurer  
Van Alexander, Past President

**Directors Absent:**

Tina Veal-Gooch, Secretary

**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**

Van Alexander led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Public Comments**

Steve Mayo introduced Congressman Nathan Moran as well as his staff members, Jaylon Lewis and Robbin Bass. Representative Moran expressed gratitude to the board for giving their time to represent Riverbend. Institutions like Riverbend are crucial to local communities because they know best what is important to them and work like Riverbend is doing will improve the area tremendously.

#### **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 February 22, 2023 Regular Called Meeting Minutes.**

A single motion was made by **Van Alexander** 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 their meeting held yesterday was productive. They met with their western partners that included all the heads of every agency from the metroplex. No action taken.

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

Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO provided an update. The plastics recycling company met with the commissioners court and Texarkana College on tax abatements. They will be a huge water user. They should have a contract to purchase property by July 2024. They will buy 75 acres from TAC. Most of their equipment will be outside. The total investment in two phases will be near \$350 million over the next 6 to 7 years. They look to employ 120 to 160 people. The CEO wants to begin clearing the property soon. The solar panel project should be complete and up and running by December 2024. They're clearing 20 acres to get it ready for sale. Prospect activity is very strong. The first part of March, Mr Norton was at the Governor's mansion when it was announced that Texas has over 1200 projects going all over the state. That is twice as many as the state in second place. In addition to the Texarkana Regional Airport expansion, the Riverbend regional water facility project is the biggest project for our region and is the most important because it will have an impact on our region for generations to come.

No action taken.

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

Paul Mehrlich provided that there is a ribbon cutting for the new terminal on June 28, 2024 at 11am. The first flight to Dallas will be July 1, 2024. It's a larger plane with 12 first class seats and the overhead bins are fully functional, so you don't have to check bags. There are talks to book flights to Charlotte if the flights are 8% full. Mr. Mehrlich will meet with other airlines in May to bring in other carriers but they won't be able to come to Texarkana until the \$8.2 million runway extension and reinforcement is completed. The extension

project should take about 2 years. Two companies have given letters of intent to relocate in Texarkana once that is complete. He is meeting with six more companies in Chicago to discuss moving to the region. Each company he is meeting with has approximately 150 jobs to bring to the area. No action taken.

## **VII. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration**

### **A. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution reviewing and updating Riverbend's Personnel Policy Manual.**

Kyle Dooley provided details on the clarification of the Bereavement Leave policy. It was originally set up to cover a week of leave but with the introduction of different schedules, we would like to clarify that employees may use up to 40 hours of Bereavement Leave for the death of a family member.

A motion was made by **Sonja Hubbard** and seconded by **Lynn Davis** to approve **RESO 20240327-01** approving reviewing and updating Riverbend's Personnel Policy Manual. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution reviewing and updating the Capitalization Policy & Investment Policy of Riverbend Water Resources District.**

Kyle Dooley provided that this item pertains to the annual review and, if necessary, updates, to the Capitalization Policy as well as the Investment Policy. Riverbend Water Resources District desires to review and update accordingly, its policies and procedures regarding the principles and criteria involved in the capitalization of district assets. In addition, the Public Funds Act of Texas requires the Board of Directors of the Riverbend Water Resources District to annually review its Investment Policy and Strategies and to make readily available these policies and procedures to the public in written form. There are no changes for either policy being proposed for this year.

A motion was made by **Lynn Davis** and seconded by **Van Alexander** to approve **RESO 20240327-02** reviewing and updating the Capitalization Policy & Investment Policy of Riverbend Water Resources District. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. Riverbend Reports**

### **A. Board Members**

No reports.

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

Kyle Dooley provided the following updates:

Regional Water System Project: Kim Keefer with Pape Dawson, provided the following updates: They continue to coordinate 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. Plummer completed their model of the City's system; they are estimating a higher pressure needed from our system than originally assumed. We are working through their assumptions now. They have responses for 12 of the 13 comments from the Texas Water Development Board. They are working on a satisfactory method to resolve the Historic Preservation Office comment related to cultural resources as soon as possible. The Project Information Form (PIF) for the request for additional funding was submitted to the Texas Water Development Board on the deadline of March 1, 2024. We received the Memorandum of Agreement from the Corps for the Outgrant activities to be completed by the Corps. This is the first step in getting the easement through the Corps property for the intake structure and the pipeline. We held our first "scoping" meeting with the public last night at Texarkana City Hall. The second and final scoping meeting will be tonight in Atlanta. There were also 2 PIFs turned in to TWDB for principal forgiveness for the City of Avery and the City of Leary.

Industrial Waste Water Plant: The Directorate of Resource Management at RRAD had questions about the project to clear up before they could give contracting the all clear to issue an amendment to start the funding process. The most recent update is that Resource Management has sent it up the chain to the next step in the review process. As soon as the contracting office gets the go ahead, Riverbend is ready to go with funding.

Ultimate Rule Curve and Environmental & Cultural Resources Study: The Cultural Resource Study will be awarded next month. The Corps sent an invoice to Riverbend for \$1.5 million for that study. We have submitted an outlay request to TWDB. Work should begin early next month.

## **XI. 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 section 551.071 and 551.072 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The board came out of Executive Session at 1:04 p.m.

The board reconvened with quorum at 1:04 p.m.

## **X. Next Riverbend Meetings**

Riverbend Regular Meeting, Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at Riverbend Offices, 228 A Texas Avenue, New Boston, Texas 75570.

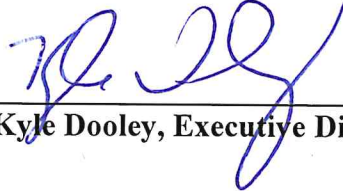
## **XI. Adjournment**

With no additional business to be discussed, a motion was made by **Lynn Davis** and seconded by **Sonja Hubbard** to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, held on March 27, 2024 were read and approved on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

Attest:

  
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Steve Mayo, President

  
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Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/CEO

Riverbend Water Resources District

Board Meeting

March 27, 2024

12:00 p.m.

Name	Organization	Title	Phone	Email
David Welch	SR BIA			
Ron Thompson	City of New Boston			
Matt Ganser	Page-Dawson	Sr. V.P.	2147732380	MrHGanser@page-dawson.com
Sharon Siskina	Pop. Jan Stewarts			
Paul Mehlich	Texasiana Airport	Exec Director	870 774 2171	Director@TXA-Airport.com
Brian Stickleland	Page Dawson	Program Mgr	919 673 7010	bstickle@page-dawson.com
Kim Keefer	Page Dawson	Program Mgr		Kkefer@page-dawson.com