

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

July 24, 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 12:05 p.m.

Directors Present:

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

Directors Absent:

Van Alexander, Past President

Administration Present:

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

Public Present:

Please see the attached list for additional guests.

II. Invocation & Pledge

Kyle Dooley led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion and possible action regarding the minutes for the June 26, 2024 Regular Meeting and the July 17, 2024 True-Up Workshop.

A motion was made by Tina Veal Gooch and seconded by Lynn Davis to approve the Consent Agenda Items. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Regional Entity Reports

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

David Wiedmon provided that their proposed budget received positive comments from partners. The request for an inflation adjustment from the metroplex partner was declined. Upper Trinity approved a request for additional funding. The board did approve a resolution supporting the Rural River Authority Coalition legislative funding request. The board approved Mr. Wiedmon's nomination to the Region D Board. No action taken.

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

No report. No action taken.

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

Sonja Hubbard provided that efforts to promote the Texas side property are ongoing. The Arkansas side tract is moving forward for the textile manufacturer. Ar-Tex REDI appreciates the help of the congressmen in helping to develop the area. No action taken.

VII. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution approving the Third Quarter FY 2024 Financial Statements.

Tara Houck presented the financial statements.

A motion was made by Sonja Hubbard and seconded by Tina Veal Gooch to approve RESO 20240724-01 approving the Third Quarter FY 2024 Financial Statements. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution approving the Third Quarter FY 2024 Investment Report.

Tara Houck presented the investment report.

A motion was made by Sonja Hubbard and seconded by Lynn Davis to approve RESO 20240724-02 approving the Third Quarter FY 2024 Investment Report. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding the City of Maud Service Contract True-Up.

Kyle Dooley provided he met with the City of Maud, Texas on July 17, 2024 to discuss the True-Up to the water and wastewater services agreement. The proposed True-Up for FY 2024 results in an increase in the monthly contract amount for FY 25 of \$3,295.14. This would bring the monthly contract invoice amount for FY 25 to \$14,623.14. He reminded the board that they can act on approving the true-up at this meeting, but he requests that they follow the same process they have followed historically with the TWU True-Up process and consider approving this True-Up in September. No action taken.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding the FY 2025 Member Entities True Up.

Kyle Dooley provided that TWU made their annual presentation of the Member Entities' True-Up report on Wednesday, July 17th. The proposed water production rate is shown to decrease from \$1.2606/1000 Gallons used to \$1.0895/1000 Gallons used. This is a 13.57% decrease overall. This decrease was due to a large leak in a location that was very difficult to locate. The volume used increased so significantly that once they calculated overall cost to treat the water divided by the gallons used the rate decreased by \$0.18. The administrative overhead cost is proposed to go from 6.72% to 6.49%. TWU expects that the rate will very likely increase by the same rate it has in the past and during the next true-up process, the rate will end up close to \$1.30/1000 gallons. 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.

E. Discussion regarding Regional Water Facility Fund Budget and Debt Service Rate for FY 2025.

Riverbend made the annual presentation of the Regional Water Treatment Facilities FY 25 Budget & Debt Service report on Wednesday, July 17th. The proposed debt service rate is shown to stay at the current rate for FY 25. The current rate is \$2.40/1000 Gallons used. This is due to the 2-year extension granted to Riverbend by TWDB regarding closing on the last set of bonds. The board can act on approving the proposed debt service rate 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.

F. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an amendment to the contract with Carollo Engineering, LLC for technical consulting services for the 6th cycle of regional water planning on behalf of North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region D).

At the October 25, 2023 RWRD Board meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director to execute any amendment to the funding contract with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the 6th Cycle of regional water planning on behalf of the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region D). On May 20, 2024, an amendment to that contract was executed which made more funding available for remaining work on the 6th Cycle of regional water planning. TWDB, through three amendments, has adjusted the not to exceed total project cost amount to \$1,332,006. \$26,000 in funding is allocated to administrative expenses, so the amount available to the

technical consultant is \$1,306,006. This release of more funding through TWDB has led to the need to amend the contract RWRD has in place with Carollo Engineers, who are serving as the Technical Consultant for Region D. The current contract with Carollo Engineers was executed in September of 2021. The original amount of the contract was \$200,691. The first amendment increased the amount of the contract to \$580,747. This is the second amendment to this contract, and would increase the contract by \$725,259, taking the total contract amount to \$1,306,006.

A motion was made by Sonja Hubbard and seconded by Lynn Davis to approve RESO 20240724-06 authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an amended contract with Carollo Engineers for technical consulting services for the 6th cycle of regional water planning on behalf of North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group. The motion passed unanimously

VII. Riverbend Reports

A. Board Members

No reports.

B. Executive Director/CEO

Kyle Dooley provided the following updates:

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

- The design contracts from Black & Veatch and LAN have been received and they are ready for review and signature.
- They are finishing the final attachments for Garver's contract, and it will be ready for endorsement in the next few days. The design contracts are necessary for TWDB review before releasing design funds. Currently, we are receiving planning funds.
- USACE accepted the draft Environmental Assessment, and their 30-day review will conclude on August 6th.
 - They have conducted two operational team meetings with the USACE team. The USACE has delayed setting the second public meeting to announce the outcome of the Environmental Assessment and preferred alternative until they complete the review.
 - By regulation, there is a 30-day advertisement period once the public meetings are scheduled.
 - Additionally, USACE is unwilling to confirm the use of the Nation-Wide Permit 58 dealing with utilities construction within Waters of the US until the Environmental Assessment review is completed and verified.
 - Concurrence from USACE on the use of the Nation-Wide Permit 58 was a comment by the TWDB environmental specialist.
 - All other comments from TWDB have been addressed. Brian will meet with the TWDB project team consisting of Joe Koen, Jason Asbury, and Kylie Beard on July 30th in Lewisville, Texas.

- The antiquities fieldwork is 50% complete. The shovel testing is complete with no findings. The backhoe trenching fieldwork is in coordination with an expected completion date in 2 weeks. If no artifacts are found, the final report will be completed and filed with The Historic Commission to close out the antiquities permit on the preferred route.
- TWDB has not released the list of programs receiving money for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for 2025. We are expecting the release in September 2024. An increase in total program amount was submitted in March during the annual funding cycle for SRF projects.

Ultimate Rule Curve: No update at this time. We have a meeting scheduled for right after the board meeting.

Industrial Wastewater Plant: Mr. Dooley is working with Hilltop to discuss funding options, and he is researching other funding that could be available. We are working on an interlocal agreement with the ArkTex Council of Governments (ATCOG) to submit a Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant application to assist with funding as well. That agreement should be on the August meeting agenda for review and approval.

Member City True-Up: Because the water production rate is expected to drop \$0.18, a discussion came up regarding capital projects. Texas Department of Transportation is widening Highway 82 from DeKalb to the Red River county line. That means that the transmission line that runs along Highway 82 will also have to be moved. That project is slated to cost close to \$7 million. It will begin just after the first of the year and needs to be completed by next summer. There is debt still outstanding on part of the project that moved the line between New Boston and DeKalb. The cities of New Boston, Hooks, DeKalb, Wake Village, Maud, Annona, and Texarkana, Texas agreed to pay that debt. This leads to the discussion that a meeting needs to be scheduled with those original Member Cities to discuss continuing to pay the current water production rate of \$1.2606 with the understanding that the excess that payment will produce would be put into an interest bearing account to put towards that outstanding debt for the relocation of that transmission line. Doing so would generate approximately \$730,000 in one year.

Mr. Dooley made one last offer for Steve Mayo and himself to visit cities that would like to provide their citizens with information on the need for a fluoride injection station at the new Regional Water Facility. An item regarding this addition will be brought to the Board at a future board meeting.

No action taken.

VIII. Executive Session

The board stood at ease at 12:43 p.m.

The board reconvened in Executive Session at 12:45 p.m. with quorum pursuant to section 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, August 28, 2024 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 **Lynn Davis** and seconded by **Tina Veal Gooch** 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 July 24, 2024, were read, and approved on the 28th day of August, 2024.



Steve Mayo, President

Attest:



Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO

