

**Regular Called Meeting  
Riverbend Water Resources District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 20, 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, Lynn Davis, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**Directors Present:**

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

**Directors Absent:**

None

**Administration Present:**

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

**Public Present:**

Please see the attached list for additional guests.

**II. Invocation & Pledge**

Lynn Davis 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 October 16, 2024 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.

**V. Regional Entity Reports**

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

David Weidman was not able to attend today. Kyle Dooley did attend their meeting yesterday where they presented their audit. It was a clean audit with no findings. They are having budgeting issues with their Clean Rivers Program. The state has not increased their funding for this project more than \$10,000 over the last 30+ years. They sample reservoirs upstream so there will likely be discussions among those that might benefit from utilizing that program on how to streamline that process to work within the budget they have. No action taken.

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

Scott Norton, Executive Director provided an update. Hooks ISD has approved moving forward with the JEDI application for Braven which is for the tax abatement on the school district taxes. The governor's office, Braven and the school district are in negotiations on the final agreement. Then Braven will write a performance bond that will hold the state and the school district harmless in the event that they decide to pull out of that agreement. Once the agreement is signed, the land transaction can be completed and construction can begin. Braven does have plans for a phase 2 as well. They are also working with a lithium processing company. The company has their demonstration plant on site now and they are in negotiations now to finalize a processing facility on the property as well that includes a purchase of 330 acres of land as well as a brine lease. No action taken.

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

Sonja Hubbard provided an update. Two weeks ago a meeting was held with the executive team from a paint manufacturer out of San Antonio. That meeting was in relation to the lengthening and strengthening of the runway at Texarkana Regional Airport. The company has committed to moving to the airport as soon as the runway project is complete. Congressmen VanDeaver and Phelan did take them to the airport for a tour and discussed their budget for the move to the area. The federal funding as well as the funding promised by the State of Arkansas has distributed for the airport upgrade. The Texas legislature is working through that same process. The textile manufacturer that is planning on buying the Arkansas side tract is still in process but the land has been shown to two other entities recently. The Texas side tract is gaining popularity as well. No action taken.

**VI. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration**

**A. Discussion regarding the draft Fourth Quarter FY 2024 Investment Report.**

Presentation of the fourth quarter investment report for FY 2024 was made by Tara Houck.

No action taken.

**B. Discussion regarding the draft Fourth Quarter FY 2024 Financials.**

Presentation of the draft fourth quarter financials of FY 2024 was made by Tara Houck. These draft numbers will be finalized and included in the audit so no action will be required at this time. The audit will be brought before the board for review and approval at the January board meeting.

No action taken.

**C. Discussion regarding the emergency repair of the Hayes Lift Station.**

Kyle Dooley provided information on emergency repairs. In accordance with Section 4.B of the RWRD Purchasing Manual on Emergency Purchases, an agenda item must be prepared for the meeting following any emergency purchase exceeding \$25,000. The Hayes Lift Station required maintenance, initially estimated to cover bypass setup, pump-down, cleaning, and inspection. Standard maintenance repairs were anticipated by staff and scheduled to be invoiced separately upon completion. However, during inspection, several critical, unexpected issues were discovered, requiring immediate repair. These included broken guiderails, replacement of all discharge pipes, and a new concrete bottom. As the lift station operates continuously, servicing all sewer flow from RRAD, these repairs were essential for its uninterrupted operation. The total cost for these emergency repairs was \$42,505. No action is required.

**D. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution authorizing the addition of bank depositories for the management of the Wet Utility Fund, the Administrative Fund, and the Regional Water Facility Fund.**

Kyle Dooley provided that there is a need to authorize board members to have signature authority on all bank accounts. It also includes a new account at Simmons Bank.

A motion was made by Sonja Hubbard and seconded by Van Alexander to approve RESO 20241120-01 authorizing the addition of bank depositories for the management of the Wet Utility Fund, the Administrative Fund, and the Regional Water Facility Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute needed agreements with the Cities of Leary, Nash, Texarkana, and Wake Village for the construction of the Waggoner Creek Wastewater Facility.**

Kyle Dooley provided information on discussions held with the Cities of Leary, Nash, Texarkana, and Wake Village regarding the need for a new wastewater treatment facility to replace the current one they are using, which is at the end of its' service life. These members have requested that Riverbend consider constructing and operating the new wastewater treatment plant. Currently, the design plans have been completed and are ready to go. If the board approves this item, the first step for Riverbend would be to execute agreements with each member for wastewater treatment services, much like we have done with the regional water treatment facilities.

A motion was made by Van Alexander and seconded by Steve Mayo to approve RESO 20241120-02 authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute needed agreements with the Cities of Leary, Nash, Texarkana, and Wake Village for the construction of the Waggoner Creek Wastewater Facility. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution awarding the bid to a vendor for the purchase and installation of a 230KW Generator needed for the Hayes Lift Station.**

Kyle Dooley provided information on the need for a generator purchase. An ad was placed in the Texarkana Gazette leading vendors to the Riverbend website to obtain the specifications needed on a 230 KW generator. Two bids were submitted and opened on November 7, 2024. The lowest bid was from Electrique Corporation in Nash, Texas. Their bid was within budget and all bids are attached presented the packet.

Sonja Hubbard made a motion seconded by Steve Mayo to approve RESO 20241120-03 awarding the bid to Electrique Corporation for the purchase and installation of a 230KW Generator. 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: Kim Keefer provided an update. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved the Environmental Assessment Document. They agreed on the intake location and the route the main line will take to the treatment facility. The next step is the real estate transaction. The USACE will advertise the EAD to the public at the beginning January 2025 and then wait a full 30 days for any public comments that will need to be addressed. Then they will write their finding of no significant impact equivalent. Concurrent

with that, there was a meeting with TWDB to discuss next steps for the release of additional funds for the design phase of the facility. Mr. Dooley added that Riverbend applied for \$290 Million in additional funding through the Drinking Water SRF fund but when the funding actually became available, TWDB capped the awards this year at \$59 Million for a singular entity or project. We are eligible for principal forgiveness on \$10 million of that. That leads to the necessity for a meeting with TWDB to discuss a strategy for obtaining the additional funding needed. It may lead to reapplying for funds from the SWIFT fund. The State Revolving Fund (SRF) no longer awards multi-year agreements as Riverbend was awarded in 2020. They now give a lump sum each year. Even if Riverbend is awarded the maximum per project, that will not provide enough cash flow to complete the project on the timeline we have set. That meeting is tentatively set for December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>.

There was a meeting in Nash, Texas on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> regarding fluoride. It was a public hearing type meeting with local dentists presenting information as previously presented on the need for an injection station in the new facility. This was the first meeting where a few attendees spoke in opposition of adding fluoride. Randy Mansfield, City Secretary for the City of Leary, suggested that the decision to have fluoride injected could be put on a county or city wide ballot and let the citizens decide. Another suggestion is that an injection station could be built but not dedicated to anything specific until it's needed. Sonja Hubbard asked for more sources, i.e. legitimate scientific sources, with pros, cons, and impacts of adding fluoride that Riverbend can have as backup. Other communities have mentioned that they may want to consider holding meetings, but at this time no other meetings are scheduled.

Industrial Waste Water Plant: The bonds were closed for this project on November 14, 2024. The Request for Qualifications for the design of the new plant will be posted on November 25<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to have those proposals submitted is January 2, 2025. If contract negotiations are complete, the contract approval will be presented at the February board meeting. There will be a meeting for the Military Preparedness Commission on December 16, 2024 in Austin where the awards for the DEAAG grants will be decided.

No action taken.

### **VIII. Executive Session**

The board stood at ease at 12:56 p.m.

The board reconvened in Executive Session at 1:00 p.m. with quorum pursuant to section 551.072 and 551.087 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The board came out of Executive Session at 2:09 p.m.

The board reconvened with quorum at 2:10 p.m.

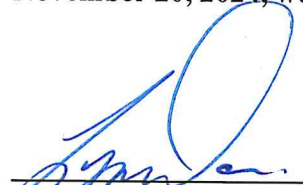
### **IX. Next Riverbend Meetings**

Riverbend Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 22, 2025 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 Sonja Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 2:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**The minutes of the Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, held on November 20, 2024, were read and approved on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025.**



---

Lynn Davis, President

Attest:



---

Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO