

**Regular Called Meeting
Riverbend Water Resources District
Board Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2025**

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

Directors Absent:

Steve Mayo, Past President

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 November 20, 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 provided an update. The board had a fairly extensive discussion on the Clean Rivers Program. The funding received from the state next fiscal year will not be sufficient to maintain the current number of monitoring stations. The the board discussed reducing or maintaining the same number of monitoring stations to reduce cost. They chose to keep the same number of stations and fund the difference. Senator Charles Perry has asked to meet Executive Directors associated with the Rural River Authority Coalition Initiative in Ausitn next week. There are a several vacancies on the SRBA board that need to be filled. Chris Spencer stepped down when he ran for state legislature, Gary Cheatwood's term is expiring and he is stepping down. Reeves Hayter and Wally Kraft, both of Lamar County, also have expiring terms. Please reach out to the governor's appointment office to make nominations to their board. No action taken.

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

Scott Norton, Executive Director provided an update. The inhouse Qualified Sites Program was recognized by Expansions Solutions Magazine as one of the top certified site programs in the southern part of the US. EnviroSafe Demil has excersized the option to purchase an additional 130 acres to add to the 45 they currently own. Pending approval from USDA, that sale will close by the end of the month. Braven Environmental has finalized their JEDI application with the State of Texas. They will announce their project soon. TexAmericas Center is under contract with Braven to purchase 75 acres. There are currently 126 prospects interested in the TAC footprint. No action taken.

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

Sonja Hubbard provided an update. Congressman Steve Womack paid a visit to the Texarkana Regional Airport and he committed to searching for more funding for the airport project. The Texas Legislative budget does have the runway project in the budget. The airplane painting company is moving to the airport as well. The textile manufacturer put their prospective move on hold pending the election. That site has been shown to 4 other entities. No action taken.

Lynn Davis, Board President, introduced Lee Elliott, a New Boston native. He has been hired as the full time Executive Director of the Special Industrial Development Corporation for the City of the New Boston. Mr. Elliott has a long history of industrial, commercial involvement across the state and across the country. He will be an asset to the city and to future development.

VI. Agenda Items for Individual Consideration

A. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution approving the Fourth Quarter FY 2024 Financials.

Presentation of the fourth quarter financial statements for FY 2024 was made by Tara Houck.

A motion was made by Tina Veal Gooch and seconded by Van Alexander to approve RESO 20250122-01 approving the fourth quarter financials for FY 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

A motion was made by Van Alexander and seconded by Sonja Hubbard to approve RESO 20250122-02 approving the fourth quarter investment report for FY 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution approving the FY 2024 Annual Audit performed by Wilf and Henderson, P.C.

The presentation of the FY 2024 Annual Audit was made by Carolyn Wilder with Wilf and Henderson, P.C. Ms. Wilder stated the audit is clean and the District is in good financial position.

A motion was made by Sonja Hubbard and seconded by Tina Veal Gooch to approve RESO 20250122-03 approving the FY 2024 Annual Audit performed by Wilf and Henderson, P.C. the motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to request additional funding from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to cover costs related to design and construction of the Regional Water System Facility.

Kyle Dooley provided that this item pertains to the TWDB invitation to submit a full application for additional funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the Regional Water System Facility. At the June 28, 2023 Board meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director to request additional funding from the TWDB for the project. In a pre-application meeting on January 7th with TWDB, TWDB informed the group that we would need to update the resolution to include the specific dollar amount of the possible award from TWDB plus 10% and submit it as part of the application to TWDB. The deadline for the application submittal was January 10th. TWDB advised us to turn in the application with the June 28, 2023 resolution attached and update that resolution at our January board meeting and then submit is to replace the June 28, 2023 resolution.

A motion was made by Van Alexander and seconded by Sonja Hubbard to approve RESO 20250122-04 authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to request additional funding from the

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to cover costs related to design and construction of the Regional Water System Facility. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an agreement with Cross Oak Group for professional consulting services.

Kyle Dooley provided that this item pertains to the current agreement with Cross Oak Group for professional consulting services. Cross Oak Group has performed consulting services for RWRD since 2013. This agreement requests to increase the cost from \$5,000 to \$7,500 per month. While this cost increase is significant, there has not been a cost adjustment in the last 6 years and the funds are available in the budget to cover this increase.

A motion was made by Sonja Hubbard and seconded by Tina Veal Gooch to approve RESO 20240122-05 authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute an agreement with Cross Oak Group for professional consulting services. 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 with Pape-Dawson provided an update. Overall, the Program is gaining momentum, moving closer to the design phase every day. The Environmental Assessment (EA) document is being routed through the Corps of Engineers for signature. After the public comment period that ends on February 9, 2025, the Fort Worth District Commander will be able to sign the final EA. This will allow the Corps to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, also known as a FONSI. As referenced in the first comment, two public meetings required as part of the FONSI were held on the 7th and 8th of this month in Texarkana, Texas and Atlanta, Texas. There were no adverse comments. The Corps approved of the public meetings format and content allowing the public notification requirement to be met. Once the EA FONSI is issued, the EA will be sent to TWDB for inclusion into the Environmental Information Document (EID) along with Nation Wide Permit 58 dealing with waters of the US. The final comment period for the antiquities permit ends on February 16, 2025 at which time Texas Historical Commission will issue a concurrence on the cultural research completed for the program area. We would like to thank Scott Norton and Jeff Whitten at TexAmericas for their help on the permit. The goal of providing all the environmental information to TWDB is to move into the design phase which allows design documents to be completed, and land and easement acquisitions to begin. Planning activities with design firms on the dredge, intake, tunnel, pump station, raw water transmission, water treatment plant, and finished water lines. These activities have seen incredible progress over the last 2 months. Some of the day to day activities that are occurring are:

- Borings on the lake bottom near the intake location are being conducted from a barge. There are three bores and 10 grab samples remaining before the barge demobilizes.

- Bores near the intake location and road are being scheduled around the weather. The road is currently holding water with the lake at 227.5’.
- Soil test pits are being planned near the raw water pump station site to categorize soil types.
- Outgrant documentation and coordination with the Corps point of contact (she attended the public meetings) has begun.
- Survey Easement Drafts are being drawn for TexAmericas and private property owners.
- Use of the Nation Wide Permit 58 for construction near Waters of the US is under review with regulators.

Kyle Dooley added that he met with TWDB on January 7th. They specifically discussed the strategy to obtain the remaining funds for the project. The Drinking Water SRF offers the best rates, but they have stopped awarding multiple year agreements. The funds must be applied for annually with a cap of \$59 million per project per year. We can apply every year but if the cap stays at \$59 million, that will not get the project complete. TWDB has now suggested Riverbend apply for SWIFT funds. The application deadline is February 3rd, and Riverbend will submit an application for the remaining project funds.

IWW Plant: Bonds have been closed. Eli Hunt, Director of Operations, published the RFQ on November 25th. The deadline for submittal was January 2nd. Burns McDonald and Garver were the two proposals we received. Interviews with Kyle, Dooley, Eli Hunt, Tara Houck, Tina Veal Gooch, and Lynn Davis are scheduled on February 3rd and a decision will be made that week. That will keep us on track for having design complete before the end of the year.

A Mayors’ Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 8th. Discussion centered around ownership of the ground storage tanks in each city and whether or not they are group assets or they belong to each individual entity. The reason for this discussion started because the ground storage tank in the City of New Boston began leaking and the leak lead to discovering that the tank needs to be replaced. In the past, the repairs and maintenance were handled by Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) because the cost for that was minimal. Now that nearly all of the tanks are nearing end of life, there needs to be a clear point of delivery for the water system so as to better define where ownership of facilities and equipment begins. The meeting resulted in a need to amend each member entity’s water supply contract to define that point of delivery. That item will be brought to the board in February.

There will be a Region D Meeting held on February 19, 2025. The meeting will be held to adopt the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and then planning will begin for the approval of the final Regional Water Plan. The IPP must be submitted by March 3. Then a public hearing with a 30-day notice will be scheduled and that will open up a 60-day comment period for constituents to make comments. There will then be one more meeting to approve the final regional water plan that must be submitted by October 20, 2025

No action taken.

VIII. Executive Session

The board stood at ease at 12:55 p.m.

The board reconvened in Executive Session at 1:00 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 1:43 p.m.

The board reconvened with quorum at 1:45 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 Van Alexander and seconded by Sonja Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Riverbend Water Resources District Board of Directors meeting, held on January 22, 2025, were read and approved on the 26th day of February 2025.



Lynn Davis, President

Attest:



Kyle Dooley, Executive Director/ CEO

Kiverbend Water Resources District
Board Meeting
January 22, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Name	Organization	Title	Phone	Email
Bobbi Newman				
Chuck Solomon				
Candyn White	W&H	Auditor		