RIO GRANDE WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 8, 2018
TCEQ/RGWM OFFICE, HARLINGEN, TX
10:00 A.M.- 10:32 A.M.

MINUTES

I. Chair, Sonny Hinojosa called the meeting to Order. Six Committee members were present and two were on the phone.

II. Self-introductions were made.

III. Minutes of February 6, 2018, Meeting: Troy Allen

The Minutes of the July 20, 2017 meeting were presented.

Sonia Lambert moved and Joe Aguilar seconded to approve the Minutes. The motion carried.

IV. Watermaster Program Updates and Reports: Amy Settemeyer

A) Quarterly Financial Reports: Sonia Lambert questioned the fringe benefits expenses being out of line on expenditures year to date. Amy Settemeyer said the FY 18 assessments for fringe were 30%, which is under the actual expenditures of fringe, that amount is closer to 36%. The deficit this year will come out of Fund 158. Amy said for FY19 the fringe rate would be set at 36%. Amy also mentioned they just lost their Administrative Assistant; this person did all of the program purchasing. If a replacement is not hired in time to finish purchasing the needed items for FY 18, the money budgeted will be carried over into the FY19 budget.

B) Watermaster Report: Jose (Lupe) Luna

Lupe Luna reported on April 28, 2018, the US storage in both reservoirs was 59.37%, Amistad having 1,364,425 acre-feet and Falcon 649,379 acre-feet for a total of 2,013,840 acre-feet. Mexico's storage in both reservoirs was 26.01%, Amistad having 512,369 acre-feet and Falcon 145,928 acre-feet for a total of 658,297 acre-feet.

Sonny Hinojosa commented on how low the TDS has been this year. The TDS was in the 500 ppm earlier this year, which is considerably lower than the 700 ppm plus range we have seen the last few years. Lupe commented they are not sure what has contributed to the lower TDS. TCEQ asked IBWC if they knew what has changed, IBWC also did not know what is contributing to the lower TDS. Lupe mentioned we would see a spike in the TDS during the irrigation season in Mexico due to spillage returning back into the river. We will also see a spike after our irrigation season finishes.

Sonia Lambert questioned the procedure on picking up water from a district that released it upstream. Lupe replied when he started they were giving no-charge water to everyone from San Benito down. Lupe implemented an internal SOP stating "if they had additional water try to give it away as charge water first, then if no one wants the water it will be offered at no charge". If a district takes the water at charge the district that is releasing the water will be credited.

Sonny Hinojosa questioned what happens if water shows up unexpectedly, Lupe replied TCEQ normally know if someone is releasing water. Lupe said we do have extra water in the system sometimes because IBWC is releasing over our demand at Anzalduas. IBWC sometimes releases close to 6 meters over what is ordered and as much as 8 meters under what is ordered. Lupe said TCEQ doesn't find this out until a day later when Mexico reads the gauge in Reynosa. This has been going on for a few years now. TCEQ has no control of the regulation of the gates; they only turn the order in. TCEQ has asked IBWC what do you do when you get that data showing an over or under release? IBWC replied the gates are adjusted, the problem is, there is no secondary gauging station to check the releases. This is the reason the system runs short at San Benito sometimes.

V. Report on Mexico water deliveries: Amy Settemeyer

Amy Settemeyer reported as of April 21, 2018, Mexico has delivered 898,264 acre-feet this 5-year cycle; we are in the third year of this cycle. In the third year they have delivered 114,184 acre-feet. At this point on the lineal analysis Mexico is currently 26,000 acre-feet ahead on deliveries for the third year.

VI. El Morillo Drain update: Lupe Luna

Lupe Luna reported the drain is currently spilling less than 5 meters. This is not affecting our TDS readings that are 780 at this time.

VII. Public Comments and Concerns:

None

VIII. Future Meetings:

The next meeting is scheduled for sometime in July.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS, THE ____ DAY OF _____, 2018

_____, CHAIR

_____, SECRETARY