

RIO GRANDE WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 12, 2018
TCEQ/RGWM OFFICE, HARLINGEN, TX
1:30 P.M.- 2:45 P.M.

MINUTES

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

II. Self-introductions were made.

III. Minutes of May 8, 2018, Meeting: Troy Allen

The Minutes of the May 8, 2018 meeting were presented.

Tom McLemore moved and Daniel Arrant seconded to approve the Minutes. The motion carried.

IV. Watermaster Program Updates and Reports: Amy Settemeyer

A) Quarterly Financial Reports: Amy Settemeyer explained some of the planned purchases were not made in FY 18 due to losing the purchasing agent earlier in the year. The money will be carried forward to make these purchases in FY 19. The FY 19 fringe benefit rate is increasing to 36%. The report also reflects the additional revenue of \$4,300 for the FY18 No Charge Assessments.

B) Watermaster Report: Jose (Lupe) Luna: The Storage Balance on June 30, 2018, US balance 50.58%, 1,715,462 ac/ft. combined at both reservoirs.. Amistad reservoir balance is 1,231,468, ac/ft., Falcon reservoir balance 483,994. Releases are 40 meters at Amistad and 30 meters at Falcon. Mexico storage balance is 19.67%, 448,766 ac/ft. combined at both reservoirs. Amistad reservoir balance is 333,655 ac/ft., Falcon reservoir is 115,121 ac/ft.

V. FY19 Proposed Assessment Rate and Budget.

Amy Settemeyer discussed there is a small increase in the FY19 budget. The fringe benefit rate is increasing from 30% to 36% to reflect the true cost of benefits. The budget does not show any capital expenditures for FY19. Adjustments were made where possible which reflects a decrease in travel expenses and small changes throughout the rest of the budget. Sonia requested the FY19 Proposed Budget report be compared to FY18 adjusted amount instead of approved amount; this will show the actual expenditures. Also discussed is the current assessment rate which is based on a 97% collection rate only, this does not include income from no charge assessments, delinquent assessments, interest and fees for reinstatements. The collections for FY18 are already more than the FY19 Budget needs and there are two more months of collections for FY18. Amy said she could not include the no charge assessments. Amy said she would go back and look at the proposed FY19 budget and see if she could bring the assessment down, this would not change the operation needs.

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Sonia Lambert moved seconded by Troy Allen to recommend approving the FY19 budget as presented with no increase in the municipal assessment rate for FY19. Sonia Lambert amended her motion seconded by Troy Allen to recommend approving the FY19 budget as presented with no increase in the municipal assessment rate for FY19 with the option to decrease the municipal assessment rate if possible based on 100% collection. The Municipal rate would be .4167, Irrigation rate .3334 based on 100% collection, the current Municipal rate is .4240, Irrigation rate is .3406.

The beginning Fund Balance for FY18 was \$550,000. At the end of the 3rd Qtr. it is \$890,000. This amount does not reflect all the expenditures that will come out of the fund for FY18.

VI. Report on Mexico water deliveries: Amy Settemeyer

As of June 30 Mexico has delivered 904,890 ac/ft. for this cycle that began on October 25, 2015. The third year deliveries are at 120,810 ac/ft. When you look at the linear deficit Mexico is 33,877 ac/ft. behind on deliveries for year three.

VII. El Morillo Drain update: Lupe Luna

Sonny Hinojosa discussed our frustration towards IBWC on maintenance of the El Morillo Drain. The TDS is higher than we have ever seen. They run one pump for 24 hours a day and a second pump for 12 hours a day, the drain will not carry the capacity it was designed and constructed to carry.

VIII. Public Comments and Concerns:

None

IX. Future Meetings:

The next meeting is scheduled for sometime in December.

X. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:45

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

_____, CHAIR

_____, SECRETARY