

RIO GRANDE WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 26, 2022

1804 W Jefferson Avenue, Harlingen, TX.

And via

Microsoft Teams

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

- I. Chair, Sonny Hinojosa called the meeting to Order.** Five Committee members were present and four via Teams. TCEQ Officials and Staff were also present and via Teams.

- II. Self-introductions were made.**

- III. Minutes of the 12/07/21 & 03/30/22, Meeting: Troy Allen**
The minutes of 12/07/21 & 03/30/22 were presented. A motion was made by Tom McLemore, seconded by Sonia Lambert, and upon unanimous vote, passed to approve the minutes as presented.

- IV. Watermaster Program Updates and Reports**
 - a) **Quarterly Financial Reports – Jose Davila**
Jose Davila reported the expenditures are on target with a few items being under budget and few being over budget. Jose went over all of the line items in the budget, explaining the difference if any. The fund balance is \$691,868.65.
 - b) **Watermaster Reports – Anthony Stambaugh**
Anthony Stambaugh reported as of July 2, 2022, the combined ownership of Amistad and Falcon stood at 25.37%, (860,461 acre-feet). This is down from 38.92% last year at this time. The system overall is holding 19.77% (1,171,144 acre-feet). Amistad is currently 24.72% (809,674 acre-feet) Falcon is currently 13.66% (361,470 acre-feet). In both reservoirs Mexico has a storage of 12.28% (310,684 acre-feet).
Sonia Lambert asked Anthony Stambaugh if he has heard anything from IBWC on the current storage balance in the reservoirs. Anthony said he talks to IBWC almost daily. The issue is IBWC and CILA not agreeing on the input data related to Falcon. Sonny Hinojosa said he spoke to Billy Finn yesterday, Billy said IBWC and CILA finally came to an agreement on the numbers. They are hoping to get the update reports to us in a couple of days. Sonny also discussed how we were shocked to see such a great loss in the system last month. Sonny suggested not making increases in the Amistad releases on the last week of a reporting period since water in transit is not accounted for and is reflected as a loss to the U.S.

- V. FY23 Proposed Assessment Rate and Budget**
Jose Davila and Kim Nygren discussed the changes in the budget from FY22 to FY23. Also discussed, was our concern of the fund balance continuing to increase. The FY23 municipal assessment is \$0.4214 per acre-foot, the Irrigation assessment is

\$0.3371 per acre-foot. The assessment rate for FY23 was calculated on 98% collection rate.

Sonia Lambert motioned to make a recommendation to the TCEQ Executive Director to adopt the Budget, seconded by Tom McLemore, and upon unanimous vote, the motion is approved.

VI. Report on Mexico water deliveries – Jose Davila

Jose Davila reported this 5-year cycle started October 25, 2020. As of July 2, 2022, Mexico has delivered 68,700 acre-feet of water since the start of this cycle. The first year of this cycle ended on October 24, 2021, with Mexico delivering 61,160 acre-feet of water. As of July 2, 2022, Mexico has a deficit of 232,186 acre-feet of water for the current year and 521,260 acre-feet since the start of the five-year cycle.

VII. El Morillo Drain – Anthony Stambaugh

Anthony Stambaugh reported this morning at 0600 El Morillo had one pump running with no water spilling over the weir. Salinity at Anzalduas was 770 ppm. Falcon is releasing 40 CMS for the U.S. and Mexico is releasing 2 CMS.

VIII. Public Comments and Concerns

Tom McLemore asked about negative allocation. Since the Watermaster Report doesn't come out until the middle of the month, what happens if a district's account balance is low at the beginning of the month and they pumped majority of their water prior to the report coming out, would their account go negative if they didn't have enough water to cover their share of the negative allocation? Anthony Stambaugh answered, they are watching the account balances closely and closing out pumping reports immediately after each cycle so they can keep a close handle on all of the account balances. Anthony doesn't think the first month will be an issue with any of the irrigation districts. Sonia Lambert asked Anthony to explain the procedure on implementing the negative allocation. Anthony explained once the operational reserve goes negative, no matter how much, they do a negative allocation on a pro-rata bases against all class A and B accounts to bring the operational reserve back to 48,000 acre-feet. The negative allocation is based on the amount of water that is in each account. Tom asked, since only a couple of cities are talking about any type of water conservation, does TCEQ have any authority to make the cities implement their water conservation plans? Kim Nygren answered, by statute TCEQ has the authority to require entities to have a Drought Contingency Plan. Entities need to submit their plan to TCEQ every five years, and the entities need to have their plans onsite. That is the only enforcement TCEQ has. TCEQ cannot force the entity to implement the plan, only encourage them to do so.

IX. Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for some time in December 2022.

X. Adjourn

The Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

THESE MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS, THE 28 DAY OF MARCH, 2024

Sammy Hugo, CHAIR

Troy Ak, SECRETARY