

## **RIO GRANDE WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 28, 2024

1804 W Jefferson Avenue, Harlingen, TX.

And via

Microsoft Teams

1:30 P.M.

### ***MINUTES***

- I. **Chair, Sonny Hinojosa called the meeting to Order.** Four Committee members were present and five via Teams. TCEQ Officials and Staff were also present and via Teams.
- II. **Self-introductions were made.**
- III. **Minutes of the July 26, 2022 & July 21, 2023, Meeting: Troy Allen**  
The minutes of July 26, 2022, and July 21, 2023, were presented. A motion was made by Tom McLemore, seconded by Antonio Uresti, and upon unanimous vote, passed to approve the minutes as presented.
- IV. **Watermaster Program Updates and Reports**
  - a) **Quarterly Financial Reports – Jose (Pepe) Davila**  
Pepe Davila reported the expenditures are on target with a few items being under budget and few being over budget. The projected fund balance is \$571,189.64, less the new vehicle purchase that will be reflected in the next financial report. The FY24 Municipal assessment rate is \$0.4733, the FY24 Irrigation assessment rate is \$0.3786. The FY24 collection rate is 98.30%. Pepe said there is a possibility they will be able to purchase an additional vehicle in FY24. Sonny Hinojosa brought up a question, asked in the past, about vehicles being purchased with Watermaster funds. The question was “What happens to the money when the vehicle is sold, do those funds get deposited into 158?” Pepe said they have been researching this since the question was asked. Pepe mentioned there is a possibility of getting 50% of the money from the sale of vehicles put into the 158 fund, they are still working on it.
  - b) **Watermaster Reports – Georgina P. (Gina) Bermea**  
Gina Bermea reported as of March 23, 2024, the combined ownership of Amistad and Falcon stood at 21.61%, (763,431 acre-feet). This is down from 27.85% last year at this time. The system overall is holding 23%. Amistad is currently 20.64% Falcon is currently 25.89%. In both reservoirs Mexico has a storage of 23.54% (592,628 acre-feet).
  - c) **Report on Mexican water deliveries – Jose (Pepe) Davila**  
Pepe reported, IBWC data, as of March 23, 2024, we are in year 3 of the cycle. Based on calculations Mexico has a prorated cycle deficit 811,298 acre-feet. The current year deficit is 134,197 acre-feet.
  - d) **El Morillo Drain – Georgina P. (Gina) Bermea**  
Gina reported the El Morillo is not spilling at this time. The pool salinity is 700ppm.

**V. WAC Appointments and Renewals – Jose (Pepe) Davila**

Pepe discussed the WAC members asked that there be staggered terms setup for the committee members. The terms were set up as requested. Seven members of the committee were set up for one year expiring July 2024. Pepe is in the process of soliciting them if they wish to continue serving, depending on the answers, they will proceed with the appointment request through the sector director's office. If someone is not interested in serving, a replacement will need to be sought to fill the position.

**VI. Consideration and possible action of a Resolution requesting Mexico release water to the U.S. – Sonny Hinojosa**

Sonny discussed the push to get Cities and other organizations to sign a resolution urging the State of Texas to put pressure on Mexico to comply with the terms of the 1944 Treaty and deliver water due to the United States.

A motion was made by Tom McLemore, seconded by Antonio Uresti to approve the resolution.

**VII. Public Comments and Concerns**

Sonny discussed the Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee Rules of Procedure. The committee decided to have a sub-committee to review and update the Rules of Procedure.

**VIII. Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for some time in July 2024.

**IX. Adjourn**

The Meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.

THESE MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS, THE 10 DAY OF July, 2024

Sonny Hinojosa, CHAIR

Tracy, SECRETARY