

South Texas Water Master Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
7/12/2023

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Chair Escobar called the meeting to order at 11:00am. We proceeded with Roll Call, we do have a quorum.

Everyone present including STWAC members, TCEQ staff and visitors introduced themselves. In attendance included:

STWM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mario Escobar, Chairperson, STWAC
Melissa Bryant, Secretary, STWAC (virtual)
Michael Pawelek
Gregory Rodriguez, City of Victoria
Pablo Martinez, San Antonio Water System
Michael Short, New Braunfels Utilities
Ryan Bayle, Luminant
Esteban (Steve) Ramos, City of Corpus Christi
John Byrum, Nueces River Authority
Charles Hickman, P.E., Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
Gregg Tieken, CPS Energy

VISITORS

Daisy Fuentes, City of Corpus Christi
Maria Corona, City of Corpus Christi
Grant Sartor
Jack Birkner, Jr. (virtual)
Scott Bishop (virtual)

TCEQ STAFF

Kim Nygren
Iliana Spaeth
Stephen Kinal
Jose "Pepe" Davila
Angela Sander
Landry Cesare
Lizeth Gonzales
Joseph Nichols
Cesar Alvarado
Ashley Miller
Claire Weirich

Absent

STWM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stuart Barron, City of Kerrville
Scott Hartl, Lavaca Navidad River Authority
Jeff Holt
Cameron Ocker
Concho River Watermaster Area Non-Voting Member (Pending ED's Appointment)

Mr. Davila provided an update on the Sunset Review process and the amendments to Chapter 5 that pertain to the Water Advisory Committee. The amendment was approved by TCEQ on June 14th and effective July 6, 2023.

A quorum was established, so the election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary can be held. Mr. Escobar nominated himself to continue as Chair. Mr. Ramos made a motion for Mario Escobar to be Chair. Mr. Byrum seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ramos was self-nominated as Vice Chair. Mr. Byrum made a motion for Steve Ramos as Vice Chair. Mr. Escobar seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Bryant was self-nominated as Secretary. Mr. Byrum made a motion for Melissa Bryant as Chair, motion was seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The committee reviewed the 2022 minutes. Mr. Hickman made a motion for approval of the minutes, motion was seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Nygren proceeded to 2024 budget being presented. Mrs. Nygren listed out the normal expenditures associated with salaries, longevity, salary enhancements, fringe, and additional insurance and retirement. Budget for FY24 was increased by about \$80,000 with \$78,000 of this being salary increases. As of 9/1/2022 the South Texas Fund Balance was \$717,458.75. Projected fund balance for 9/1/2023 is estimated to be \$610,143.94. The goal for the fund balance is 6 months' worth of operating budget which is approximately \$450,000. If revenue exceeds agency's estimated revenue, we can access Rider authority. South Texas Watermaster Program accessed Rider authority this year to lower 2024 assessments. These Rider purchases include one new vehicle. The vehicle purchases have been a prolonged process but is still in progress. TCEQ is in process of adding dash cams for all the vehicles for field staff. Recently the agency paid to settle a lawsuit from an accident several years ago (approximately \$100,000 settlement). Now the agency has vehicle insurance rather than self-insured. Rider purchases also included three MF Pro streamflow monitoring equipment, Q-boat surveyor, and some training for staff. The total budget for 2024 is \$836,621.86 with a municipal rate of \$0.2324. Mr. Byrum made a motion to approve the budget for 2024, Mr. Ramos seconded, and motion was carried unanimously.

Old business

Last year the committee did not have a quorum, so the 2021 minutes need to be approved. Copies of the minutes were provided to those in attendance. Mr. Hickman made a motion for approval of the 2021 minutes, Mr. Bayle seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The bylaws also need to be signed by the Chair and Secretary. Mr. Ramos made a motion to review and update the bylaws for signature, Mrs. Bryant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Chair will sign the Bylaws and the Secretary will stop by to sign off on the documents.

Future meetings

The next regular meeting of the committee will be in July 2024. Dates for the future meeting will be sent in advance of the meeting. There was discussion about moving the meeting to March, but the meetings need to be held in July in order for the budgets to be developed and presented to the committee.

Mr. Bayle made motion to adjourn. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion: the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm.

THESE MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS, THE 11 DAY OF July .2024.

Wendy Fischer Chair

Stacy . Secretary