

**MINUTES OF THE
2,156th REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

Directors having been duly notified, Madam Chair Dunning called the regular meeting to order at 3:05 pm at the MRGCD General Office. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS				STAFF	
Karen Dunning, Madam Chair	Present	Mike Hamman		Chief Engineer/CEO	
Joaquin Baca, Vice-Chair	Present	Tanya Scott		Chief Water Counsel	
John Kelly, Director	Absent	Lorna Wiggins		General Counsel	
Valerie Moore, Director	Present	David M. Ferguson		Secretary-Treasurer	
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present	Jeanette Bustamante		Administrative Officer/CPO	
Barbara Baca, Director	Present	David Gensler		Water Operations Manager	
Stephanie Russo Baca, Director	Present	Becky Burnham		Budget Analyst	
		Alicia Lopez		Engineer 1	
		DeAnna Phillips		GIS Tech/Board Liaison	
		John Thompson		MRGCD Lobbyist	
		Christina Nardi		Human Resources Director	
		Jason Casuga		Engineer Manager	
		Joe Brem		Albuquerque Division Manager	
		Rebecca Thompson		Assessment Clerk II	
		Doug Strech		GIS Manager	
		Alexys Gabaldon		ABQ Division Clerk	
		Casey Ish		Water Resource Specialist	
		Steve Kinberger		HR Generalist I	
		Ashley Zamora		Payroll Coordinator	
		Ricardo Varela		Warehouse Specialist	
		Marta Moerch		HR Generalist II	
		Richard Deloia		Purchasing Agent	
		Tarah Jaramillo		AP/AR Clerk	
		Judith McSweeney		Accountant	
		Melin Villegas-Vargas		Accountant Supervisor	
		Santiago Chavez		Secretary-Treasurer	

The following names of individuals were interested viewers and/or participants:

Kat Abraham	Diana Pino
Mary Ann Joca	Brian & Jenny Crawford
Viola Sanchez, BIA	Sandra L. Montoya
Albert Sanchez	Wendy Cohen & Joel Pickar

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In honor of Veterans' Day, Madam Chair thanked and recognized different veterans, such as, our General Counsel, Bruce Wiggins who was not present as well as MRGCD's new CFO, Santiago Chavez who led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

A moment of silence was made in honor of the passing of former Board Member and Chairmen Jose U. Otero (Valencia County). Madam Chair Dunning wants it duly noted that MRGCD as a whole is thankful for his service to the MRGCD. Staff was directed to send flowers and a card to the family to show MRGCD's condolences.

Madam Chair Dunning declared a quorum and welcomed guests, as well as noted that the meeting was publicly noticed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE MRGCD BOARD MEETING AGENDA

No changes, additions, or deletions were made on today's Agenda.

Director Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA**. Director Moore seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification - November 12, 2019
- b. Consideration/Approval of September 2019 Invoice for Wiggins Williams & Wiggins
- c. Consideration/Approval of September Invoice for Law & Resource Planning Associates, PC
- d. Consideration/Approval of Minutes for Regular Board Meeting - October 14, 2019
- e. Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for October 2019 (For Informational Purposes Only)

Madam Chair Dunning asked if the Approved Licenses (Item 3.e.) were attached to its property or to the property owner. Mike Hamman replied that licenses do vary but can have a term anywhere from 25 to 50 years. Jason Casuga concurred with Mike Hamman also explaining it depends on (1) the request and (2) the type of license but is not guaranteed and is at the will of the District. Jason also explained that a license is tied to the legal or "in the care of" in instances such as crossing or a sewer line, something that would span the lifetime of the item. Encroachment licenses are attached to a specific person, mainly because it gives the District the ability to opt out.

Vice Chair Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**. Director Sandoval seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCORRO HUB PROJECT - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

Mike Hamman recognized the following MRGCD individuals for their hard work on the Socorro HUB Project: David Gensler, Mike Lopez, Jason Casuga, Ricardo Varela, Tarah Jaramillo, Richard Deloia, Melin Villegas-Vargas, and Judy McSweeney.

A luncheon will be hosted by Director Moore at the Socorro Field Office for the staff from Socorro to show gratitude for their hard work on the project, November 26th at 11 am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are held to six (6) minutes)

Santiago Maestas

Mr. Maestas is from the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias and the Atrisco Community Acequia. He wanted to take the opportunity to thank Director Baca for introducing the Resolution that will be discussed later in the agenda.

Brian Crawford

Mr. Crawford requested an update on the collapsed return under Menaul Boulevard. Mike Hamman reported that the District is working closely with the City of Albuquerque's project engineer. The design had already been worked out a couple of years ago with MRGCD's now-retired Engineer Ray Gomez to accept the return flow, if you will, or discharge from the acequia (ditch) back into the drain. We are currently reviewing the plans to make sure they adhere to today's standards. Mr. Crawford asked if MRGCD would have representation at the meeting on November 13th at the construction site and if what will be discussed at the meeting is the plan. Mr. Hamman responded that from MRGCD's perspective, this is the plan. Mr. Hamman does not know about the general plan for the roundabout project, but he suspects that may be what tomorrow's meeting entails.

Mr. Crawford (along with neighbors that he brought with him to today's meeting) is concerned about irrigation next season during the roundabout project. Mr. Hamman responded that they will all still have the ability to irrigate. Mr. Crawford offered up his assistance if necessary.

Mr. Crawford then asked for an update on the Foraker ditch. Mr. Hamman reported that there is no update as nothing is going to happen with the Foraker ditch unless there will be extra maintenance performed, which, at this point, he is not aware of. It will remain intact. Mr. Crawford asked if they need to worry about the ditch being transferred to private ownership. Mr. Hamman responded that MRGCD tries to ensure that it has adequate access to the ditch at all times for maintenance. If that is a problem, then we ask the owners to resolve the issue. If they cannot resolve it, and MRGCD has no access for maintenance, then MRGCD may turn the ditch over to the private ownership. Mr. Hamman is not sure if that's the case with the Foraker ditch or not, at this point.

Sandra Montoya

Ms. Montoya is the current license holder of the gates in the Hell Canyon Lateral between Peralta Boulevard and Molina Street in Peralta, New Mexico. She received a letter to revoke their 50-year gate license; however, the gates will remain up and will be taken over by the Conservancy. The letter stated that this was due to policy change and that the District will no longer grant licenses to private landowners. She is not opposed to turning over the ownership and the maintenance of the gates, but there are quite a few things that she and her community would like resolved prior to this occurring. She has requested that the transfer be tabled until the issues are resolved. Mr. Hamman will be setting up a meeting to go over her issues in the near future.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

a. Bureau of Reclamation - Jennifer Faler, Area Manager

Jennifer Faler was not in attendance of today's meeting; however, copies of the buckets and a summary report were made available for today's meeting.

b. Bureau of Indian Affairs - Viola Sanchez, Designated Engineer

Viola Sanchez did not have very much to report this month. The Prior and Paramount water was not used all summer long. It was not needed because there was such a good, natural flow of the river. It is being released now. The release began November 1st for Compact purposes. We are now down to almost 6,000-acre feet of Prior and Paramount, which should be coming out in the next week or so.

One item of concern is a sediment plug that developed coming into Elephant Butte, which has kept some waters from going in. Things have seemed to improve though. David Gensler will go over that in more detail during his report.

Insofar as annual work plans, the BIA is using the Dropbox system currently. Since almost everyone is on board and can manage maintenance needs on the Excel spreadsheet on Dropbox, it has alleviated the need for quarterly meetings.

Ms. Sanchez did hear some talk this morning about the repairs that are coming up at El Vado and construction slated for 2022. There are also talks going on about storing native in Abiquiu and trying to get that lined up for when storage cannot occur in El Vado. Ms. Sanchez encouraged folks to include the Prior and Paramount because it is not subject to approval by the State or by the Compact.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO AND STAFF TO ENGAGE IN A COOPERATIVE PLANNING INITIATIVE FOR THE ACEQUIA MADRE DE ATRISCO PARTNERSHIP - Director Baca and Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

Director Baca read a couple of first clauses because it sets the stage for discussion: "Besides authorizing the Chief Engineer and CEO and staff to engage in a cooperative planning initiative for the Acequia Madre de Atrisco Partnership, we are pledging \$25,000 from the FY-2021 for matching funds for planning and conceptual design."

"Whereas the Rio Grande Valley contains a unique system of ancient acequias, which, according to Juan Esteban Arrellano in his book *Enduring Acequias*, were created for a necessity, for survival, in the desert southwest for without the acequias water, there would be no food. They are what give us a sense of place, and the water becomes the blood that brings communities together."

Director Baca feels it is really important to talk about the history because the acequia culture and the farming that happens in the valley would not happen without our acequias, and the Conservancy District is a big part of that. It wouldn't happen without collaboration, and it does really bring communities together.

This location is at basically Central Northwest, in the City of Albuquerque, with the Acequia Madre de Atrisco coming down and under Central and then the Atrisco Acequia coming off of that. There is also heading of the Atrisco Acequia there. Maps are in the board packets.

The Conservancy staff came in at the end of the summer season and cleared out the exotic vegetation that was sort of overgrowing the Acequia Madre, as well as the smaller acequia. There is also public space that is managed by the City that is Rio Grande Valley State Park. There is also property that fronts on Central at this site, at Sunset and Central Northwest. The acequias go underneath and continue down into the South Valley.

We have this connection and coming together of the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias, CESOSS, City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and MRGCD. It just

seemed appropriate that we would establish a partnership. This Resolution is basically committing our agencies, as well as the community, to this partnership and what can it be, because this is an opportunity to really educate the community about what the Conservancy District does, about what these waters do, and why we are here in Albuquerque. The youth of our community really don't have a place in the Bernalillo County area that we articulate that message.

Bernalillo County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley is sponsoring a Companion Resolution at the county level and proposed to earmark a match of \$25,000. City of Albuquerque Councilor Ken Sanchez is also sponsoring a Companion Resolution and seed money.

Director Moore asked about reseeding the native grass and shrubs, and if this would be an **MRGCD** staff responsibility and MRGCD budget item. Mike Hamman responded it could be some of both. MRGCD has equipment that can do the seeding. MRGCD can always use a contractor for planting. MRGCD will do whatever the work plan calls for, to do our best to try to achieve the reseeding and replanting of native grasses and shrubs in that area.

Director Baca added that the South Valley Regional Acequia Association has a request in with the State Historic Preservation Office for a historic monument or marker identifying the Atrisco Acequia. A celebration is also being discussed at the beginning of the irrigation season.

Madam Chair Dunning expressed her thanks to Director Baca for all of her hard work in getting this project off the ground.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD CHIEF ENGINEER - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

a. End of Season Water Report - David Gensler, Water Operations Division Manager

The 2019 irrigation season is all but wrapped up now. We are still diverting water at Cochiti, Angostura, and Isleta Dam for deliveries to the six pueblos through November 15th, but the amounts are very small. Very little, if any, water is actually being used. We expect to end all the diversions at the end of the week. No problems are in place.

The big issue continues to be the end of the year Rio Grande Compact status. Mother Nature gave us no help this fall, unfortunately. We had only a very minor wet period in early October. It was just enough to wet the bottom of the river, but it didn't really deliver any appreciable quantity of water to Elephant Butte. Since then, we've been fighting against what is nearly 100% delivery obligation for Otowi. In October, we had to deliver 97% of all water at Otowi to Elephant Butte. Obviously, we fall short while the trees are still consuming water and evaporation is happening. So, October was really hard for us.

When we started releasing water on October 11th, we found that not a lot of it was getting down there. We started moving Rio Grande water from El Vado to Elephant Butte, beginning on October 11th, which probably turned out to be a good decision because, if we had not, we would have lost a lot more ground in October than what we lost previously.

From the New Mexico State Engineer's Office last week, accounting for the year is 87,900-acre feet in the red, as of the end of October, which is not good news for us. Part of that, unfortunately, was the USGS redid the gauges at Otowi, and we actually found out we owed a little bit more water than what we thought because they had gone back and recalibrated the gauges.

As of November 1st, we only had about 60,000-acre feet of Rio Grande left in El Vado, and that water is moving right now, to be delivered down to Elephant Butte before the end of the year. As Ms. Sanchez noted, none of the Prior and Paramount reserve was needed in 2019. So, it's all there, and it's all lumped together with that 60,000-acre feet of native to be moved.

We appear to be headed towards the end of the year shortfall now, even with draining El Vado. We should still be 25,000-35,000-acre feet in the red by the end of the year, with a little luck.

So, it could be a lot worse. So far, we're looking at 1.3-million-acre foot year, and, traditionally, in those years, we've gone deep, deep, deep into the red. We limited a lot of the reservoir evaporation this summer by keeping that water up in the system and moving it down now.

The plan now for moving the water out of El Vado is we have kind of frontloaded it a little bit with some of that release in October and increased our release just last week. The idea being to move a little bit earlier in November and start to taper it down as we get into December to make life a little easier on the brown trout up on the Chama.

Regarding the delivery obligation for October, we released 32,000-acre feet of water from El Vado in October. And it turned out that about half of that was for our own needs, and about half of that got delivered into Elephant Butte. So, out of 32,000, 28,000 is accounted for. We still lost ground by 4,500-acre feet in the month of October because our delivery obligation is over 30,000-acre feet.

Mr. Gensler also explained that much water disappears when MRGCD is not consuming it, such as, most of the water is supplying the Bosque for riparian use, evaporating from the river channel and recharge aquifers underneath the City of Albuquerque, Los Lunas, Belen and others where people pump ground water so it seeps into the ground.

b. Report on the Socorro Distribution HUB Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, October 23, 2019 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

Mr. Hamman reported a very nice ceremony with both the current Chair of the Board and the former Chair of the Board cutting the ribbon. It was well attended. There were displays of progression photographs, and the weather cooperated.

c. Report on the Division's Open House Meetings, October 28-31, 2019 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO, and Attending Directors

Mr. Hamman reported that the first set of Open Houses was sparsely attended and that the second Open Houses even more sparsely attended. Cochiti and Socorro had no participation. Some folks showed up in Belen and in Albuquerque. He believes this is the case because the season is winding down but feels that there will be an increased interest once the season gears up again.

Madam Chair Dunning called upon an audience member that also attended the Albuquerque Open House to share his feelings on the Open House concept. Brian Crawford came forward

and felt that it was a great idea to get people to talk informally about what is going in the Division. He personally plans on attending more in the future.

Director Moore added that she agreed with Director Baca's prior suggestion of having informational sessions during these Open Houses regarding hot topics (i.e., Drought Contingency Plan, Rio Grande Compact, etc.).

Director Russo Baca would like to see something like an agenda prepared prior to the Open House and would like to get the word out more efficiently. She says while her group was small, she felt the Open House was worthwhile.

d. Report on 2019-2020 Elk Hunt Landowner Permit Allocation and Employee Drawing, October 30, 2019 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

Mike Hamman reported that once the details of the hunt were ironed out and the landowners were assured of the rules, this was a worthwhile cause. There were 13 separate landowners, amounting to 550 acres of land put into the hunt zone. There was a total of 63 permits for a five-day hunt. The first hunt took place on November 16th.

MRGCD withheld eight permits for their employee draw. 49 employees put in for the draw. For the winning employees, there is a nominal fee of \$100 plus the fee to Game and Fish of approximately \$69 for antlerless or \$99 for either sex.

Director Baca asked if we knew the population that is the problem and the extent of the damage, as well as is this all being monitored. Mr. Hamman responded that Game and Fish monitors the situation constantly. Hunters are required to report any successful hunts to Game and Fish. Game and Fish anticipates it being a four or five year process before they can get a handle on reducing the herds that exist in the western and eastern foothills, Bernardo, and the Bosque area, primarily in Lemitar and San Antonio area.

e. Report on the Six Pueblos Coalition Meeting at Isleta Pueblo, November 12, 2019 - Mike Haman, CE/CEO

Mike Hamman reported that he attended the meeting only briefly to give a water update and title transfer update.

Director Baca reported that she was happy to have been invited as a new MRGCD Director. She feels it was a real reaching-out, and she intends to attend more of their meetings in the future. The big takeaway for her was (after Mr. Hamman left the meeting) they discussed the importance of collaborating with them when advocating or lobbying in DC, so that we may do so in tandem.

Director Sandoval added that the three MRGCD Directors were at the meeting to listen and offer whatever support was needed. Madam Chair Dunning expressed her hopes that Director Sandoval will be available for the trip to DC in March or April 2020. Director Sandoval responded that the trip is duly noted.

Director Russo Baca feels it was an honor to be invited to the meeting. She stayed quite a bit after the meeting and spoke to some of the folks from the Pueblo of Isleta (including the Lieutenant Governor). One of the issues that was discussed was renegotiation of the BIA contract for operation and maintenance. During their conversation, she noted that MRGCD wants to continue working with the Pueblos. They also discussed the ability to carry over P&P

water year to year. Director Russo Baca noted that the Pueblo of Isleta asked for MRGCD to do whatever it can to be proactive to ensure that the sediment stays in the middle of the river.

Madam Chair Dunning asked Mr. Hamman about the sediment plugs at Elephant Butte and the ability to deliver water. Mr. Hamman responded that whenever there is heavy runoff, there is quite a bit of sediment moving. You never know exactly where it's going to settle out. Historically, there's been a plug problem near the Bosque Del Apache area. This year, there was also another plug that settled in what they call the Narrows area, which is the dividing point between the upper reservoir and the lower reservoir. Currently, the lower reservoir is the only place where water is now. When that happens, water tends to spread out, evaporate, and not stay in the channel to get down to Elephant Butte. Some water is getting there. It is just a question of how efficiently. The Interstate Stream Commission has activated their contracting authority, and they're attacking the lower plug with the amphibious excavators. He thinks they've opened it back up. Reclamation has also done some work on the upper plug to try to get it opened up. We are hoping that all the water energy that we're putting down the river now, and then hopefully additional energy that may occur during the runoff, will help keep that plug open.

There's a new project they're working on. It's gone through all the permitting, Corps of Engineers, and with the service consultation to go ahead and realign the channel to the east, up against the bluff, in the Bosque Del Apache area. Hopefully, a new channel will reestablish itself along the eastern side of the floodway, thereby minimizing this plug problem.

f. Report on the NWRA Conference in Houston, TX, November 6-8, 2019 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO, Madam Chair Dunning, and Director Russo Baca

Mike Hamman reported that the NWRA Conference was a bit "Texas-centric," but it was extremely helpful nonetheless. The annual conferences focus on the relationship between the federal agencies. Both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers were in attendance. The conference itself is about projects. Some key points of interest that occurred at the conference include:

- Presentation on Water Smart.
- Commissioner of Reclamation keynote address regarding the items that Reclamation is engaged in (Colorado River and some California issues). (They also flashed a picture of a New Mexico project.)
- Presentation on Texas v. New Mexico, wherein the lead attorney representing Texas confidently presented their position in the matter.
- Various presentations about federal actions under the current administration.
- Presentation on title transfer.
- State meetings with big concerns regarding the County of Maui lawsuit.

A presentation by Representative Lyle Larson, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee of the Texas Legislature on the House side caught Mr. Hamman's attention. Mr. Hamman was able to have a discussion with Rep. Larson about the other side (New Mexico side). Mr. Hamman let him know that New Mexico is meeting its Compact delivery obligations. He offered Rep. Larson to visit Albuquerque so that MRGCD can show what is going on in New Mexico. Rep. Larson was very open-minded to a visit. Mr. Hamman feels he wants to try to negotiate some kind of a settlement.

Director Russo Baca believed that Mr. Hamman summarized the Conference quite well. She added that she felt it was an excellent conference, and the topics that Mr. Hamman discussed are things that MRGCD needs to keep an eye on.

Madam Chair Dunning added that the important thing about conferences is not what happens at the conference but the conversations that occur. She appreciated the panel that discussed the reaction and handling of Hurricane Harvey. She especially took note of the panel discussion about the fact that most people do not understand what 30,000 CFS really equates to, as well as that when one is in crisis mode, it is difficult to communicate. She thought it was really important to have strategies ahead of time and also to really think about when you communicate with the public how you communicate with them in ways that they understand.

Madam Chair Dunning also appreciated the discussion by the BOR Commissioner, Brenda Burman, regarding the Farm Bill. She believes there are a lot of opportunities for farmers in the Farm Bill. They discussed that farm bankruptcies are the highest that they've been since The Depression, as well as the real problem of farmer suicide (stemming from the financial issues).

Director Moore added a side note about farmers and farming. As an example, she explained that alfalfa prices have not changed in 20 years; however, every type of support to produce the alfalfa has skyrocketed. The average age of farmers is now 63 because the children do not want to come back and run the farm. This is why Director Moore is always worried about "the family farmer." She was happy that they discussed this at the conference.

g. Schedule Finance Committee Meeting - David Fergeson, Secretary-Treasurer

David Fergeson is requesting a Finance Committee meeting to be set to go over the first quarter financials, amending the budget due to Corps of Engineer final repayment, investment of a couple of bank accounts that are not earning interest, so that it can all be presented at the next Board Meeting on December 9th.

The meeting was set for Monday, November 18th, at 2:30pm.

h. Notice of the MRG Conservation Action Plan Symposium, November 14, 2019 - Yasmeen Najmi, MRGCD Planner

Yasmeen Najmi had a prior commitment, so Mike Hamman reported in her place. A flyer was distributed through the Board packets for this symposium. There are limited slots available; the interested Board Members that would like to attend were informed to contact Ms. Najmi very soon. Director Moore would like to attend to represent the farmers, and Director Baca would like to attend as well. Director Russo Baca stated she will be attending in her professional capacity.

i. Notification of the Middle Rio Grande Flood Control Association (MRGFCA) Annual Breakfast Meeting, December 10, 2019 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

Mike Hamman reported that this breakfast is usually well attended by the different flood control agencies in the Bernalillo/Sandoval area, as well as the Corps of Engineers and many consulting engineering firms. Mr. Hamman requested that any Board Member wishing to attend this breakfast to notify him as soon as possible so that an RSVP can be sent with the headcount.

Madam Chair Dunning encouraged the new members to attend. Director Moore also encouraged attendance and will also be attending this year's breakfast.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) - Chief Water Counsel and/or General Counsel

a. Update on the Blue Buffalo/City of Santa Fe Water Rights Transfer Application Protest - Dr. Charles DuMars, Chief Water Counsel

Tanya Scott is here today representing Dr. DuMars. She reported that our side has been approached by opposing counsel (for the City of Santa Fe and the Blue Buffalo), asking if we can come to an agreement on the protest. They were eager to get this done prior to the pre-hearing Scheduling Conference, which was to take place this week. Dr. DuMars felt that he needed more details; however, Dr. DuMars and Ms. Scott are hopeful that we can reach an accommodation, much on the same template that was used in the Rio Rancho settlement. The Scheduling Conference has now been postponed until December 10th. A meeting is currently being set up late this week or early next week for all counsel of record to discuss the issue to reach agreement.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

a. Report on the Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting, October 24, 2019 - Vice Chair Baca

Vice Chair Baca reported that Audubon came out with their habitat assessment, along with their plans. They put some dates on the table of when they will start producing deliverables. Vice Chair Baca had to leave that meeting early.

Although Mike Hamman was not in attendance for this session, he added that we are making great progress from the standpoint of going through a brainstorming educational process that we started months back, now honing in on actual pilot projects that folks are wrapping their arms around. Certain ditches have been identified as possible project areas for conservation improvement and infrastructure that this grant will fund.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 24, 2019**. Director Sandoval seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

b. Report on District Urban Issues Committee Meeting, October 28, 2019 - Madam Chair Dunning, Vice Chair Baca, and Director Baca

Madam Chair Dunning reported that the main issue that was discussed at this meeting was the Resolution that was introduced today (Item 7) and what direction we should take. Director Baca felt that the sub-committee coming together helped get the draft of the resolution together and their process works well. The other topic discussed at the meeting was the charges for filming on MRGCD lands. Vice Chair Baca will reach out to the State Film Office to find out if someone can make a presentation to the Board on ideas of how to move forward with the fee structure.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE DISTRICT URBAN ISSUE COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 24, 2019**. Director Sandoval seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

c. Report on Legislative Committee Meeting, October 31, 2019 - Madam Chair Dunning, Directors Kelly and Baca, John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist, and Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

Madam Chair Dunning reported that we will be requesting the following projects:

- Acequia Atrisco Project - We will be asking for planning money from the capital outlay.
- Alameda Boat Launch – area near the Alameda intersection is very dangerous to get in and out of, especially with a trailer (proposed by Director Kelly)
- Socorro Project - Save the Bosque Taskforce is in collaboration with the town of Socorro to make improvements to the riverine parks. We would be asking for capital outlay for \$20,000-\$30,000.
- District-Wide Improvements - Money is basically needed for access control and recreational access, gates, signage etc.
- Valencia – Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area

Director Moore made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 31, 2019**. Director Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED (Vice Chair Baca was not present for this vote)**.

d. Report on Congreso de las Acequias! Event in Taos, NM November 2, 2019 - Director Russo Baca

Director Russo Baca reported that the event was wonderful, as always. MRGCD was recognized as being a sponsor, and they were happy to have representation at the Congreso. Director Russo Baca had a chance to speak with the Executive Director, Paula Garcia, who would like to set up a meeting with Director Russo Baca and any other MRGCD Board Member that is interested to just discuss current hot topics. Director Russo Baca noted it would be a good idea to possibly discuss with her the initiative in the South Valley with the Acequia Madre.

Director Moore made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS! EVENT IN TAOS, NM, NOVEMBER 2ND**. Director Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED (Vice Chair Baca was not present for this vote)**.

e. Report on Six Pueblos Coalition Meeting at Isleta Pueblo, November 12, 2019 - Director Russo Baca

This topic was covered under Item 8.e. Since the meeting occurred today, no board approval is needed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was not needed at today's meeting.

With no further comments, questions or concerns, Vice Chair Baca made the **MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**. Director Moore seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of November 12, 2019.

ATTESTED:

David M. Fergeson
Secretary/Treasurer

Karen Dunning, Chair
MRGCD Board of Directors