

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
JANUARY 28, 2019**

Directors having been duly notified, Acting Chairman Romero called the regular meeting to order at 3:00 pm at the MRGCD General Office. The following Directors and Staff were present:

<b>DIRECTORS</b>			<b>STAFF</b>	
Glen Duggins	Chairman	Absent	Mike Hamman	Chief Engineer/CEO
Joaquín Baca	Director		Dr. DuMars	Chief Water Counsel
Karen Dunning	Director	Absent	Bruce Wiggins	General Counsel
John Kelly	Director	Absent	Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Beverly Romero	Director		David M. Fergeson	Secretary-Treasurer
Valerie Moore	Director		Jeanette Bustamante	Administrative Officer/CPO
			Jason Casuga	Engineer Manager
			Christine Nardi	Human Resource Director
			Judy McSweeney	Accountant
			Rebecca Thompson	Assessment/Collection Clerk II
			Doug Strech	GIS/Mapping Manager
			Sloan Washburn	Division Manager III
			Daniel Arquero	Cochiti Division Manager I
			Yasmeen Najmi	Planner/RRA
			Sandy Ontiveros	Records Specialist

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

Ernest Marquez, AWS	Nadine Ulibarri-Keller, Polvadera, NM
Eli Lovato, AES	Viola Sanchez, BIA
Thomas Abeyta, La Joya	Isaac Benton, ABQ City Councilor
Marcel Abeyta, La Joya	Rick Rennie, ABQ Street Connect
Angelo Metzgar, City of Albuquerque	
Michael T. Sandoval, Pueblo of San Felipe	

**IT IS NOTED THAT CHAIRMAN DUGGINS AND DIRECTORS KELLY AND DUNNING WERE ABSENT FOR TODAY'S MEETING. A quorum was not established, and everything presented today will be for "Informational Purposes Only". There will be no action taken by the Board of Directors at today's meeting. Mr. Hamman stated that he spoke with Director Beverly Romero and asked if she could Chair today's meeting and she accepted.**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Angelo Metzgar, from the City of Albuquerque, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

Mike Hamman recommended, due to there not being a quorum established for today's meeting, that the following items be deferred: 4, 5, 7.a., 7.b., 7.c., 7.d., 7.f., 9, and 10.

Director BACA made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA WITH THE ABOVE DEFERMENTS**. Director Moore seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – PRESENTATION OF MAYOR'S TASK FORCE REGARDING HOMELESS SUPPORT - ABQ City Councilor, Isaac Benton, and Angelo Metzgar, Family and Community Services**

**a. City of Albuquerque's Homeless Support Programs – Angelo Metzgar, City Councilor Isaac Benton and Rick Rennie of ABQ Street Connect**

Angelo Metzgar opened up the discussion by explaining the program that the City of Albuquerque has started. Mr. Metzgar and other staff will visit the encampments and find out what the homeless individuals needs are in terms of resources. Staff logs into a mapping system that the City developed, and, within that system, they get the information out to the service providers, i.e., Veterans would be connected with the Veterans Integration Center and/or the VA, mental health individuals would be connected with mental health resources. One key component is to get them into transitional housing.

The winter shelter is now a year-round shelter. It can house 400 individuals on any given day. Some individuals, when approached to be transported to the shelter, resist due to them having a bad experience in the past, but the City's thought is to get them to the shelter so that they can connect with the resources they need.

The program works with the Good Shepherd, Workforce Solutions, and other resource providers in Albuquerque. Bus passes are handed out to homeless individuals to assist in getting them to resources, i.e., check their mail, assist with obtaining IDs, birth certificates, etc.

If MRGCD's Bosque Patrol is out and they encounter individuals, the best way to get it addressed is to email Mr. Metzgar, as he can address the issue usually within the same day. He can be reached at [ametzgar@cabq.gov](mailto:ametzgar@cabq.gov) or (505) 288-2003.

Mr. Metzgar believes things are moving in a positive direction insofar as homeless in the Albuquerque area. Director Baca noted that he had seen an improvement in the downtown area.

Mike Hamman will coordinate with Mr. Metzgar to set up a training session with MRGCD staff.

Isaac Benton arrived later in the meeting and reported that he is happy to work out a way for MRGCD to coordinate with the city programs regarding the homeless problem in the Bosque. He is mostly here today to listen. He discussed his background and reported that the homeless problem usually strikes people who have drug addiction and/or mental illness. He introduced Rick Rennie who is the coordinator of the ABQ Street Connect and Heading Home Taskforces.

Rick Rennie has been involved in some capacity with the homeless issue in Albuquerque for the past 14 years. He reports statistics are improving on housing individuals, as well as keeping them housed after homelessness. He is extremely happy to work with MRGCD to work towards helping the homeless crisis. Mike Hamman will coordinate with Mr. Rennie on scheduling meetings, trainings, and possibly further Board presentation.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – REPORT(S) FROM THE 2019 ELECTION DIRECTOR - Ernie Marquez, Automated Election Services**

**b. Consideration/Approval of 2019 Election Poll Worker Compensation Rates**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – UPDATE 2019 NM STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION - John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

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

Marcel Abeyta

Mr. Abeyta is the secretary/treasurer for the La Jolla Acequia. He would like to have a preliminary meeting to discuss integration of La Jolla Acequia into MRGCD since he believes the Conservancy is a master at farming in the valley. It would entail expansion of 1,500 acres, 640 of which are under current cultivation.

Chuck DuMars added that he and Mike Hamman would love to meet with him to discuss these plans.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD CHIEF ENGINEER - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

**a. Report on Water Supply Conditions - David Gensler, Water Operations Division Manager**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**b. Consideration/Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**c. Report on Progress Regarding the MRGCD/NFWF Water Conservation and Leasing Agreement - David Gensler, Water Operations Division Manager**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**d. Update on Title Transfer Process - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**e. Notification of the Reclassification of Land to the MRGCD Official Plan and Appraisal Record and MRGCD Methods and Procedures - Doug Strech, Mapping/GIS Supervisor**

Mr. Strech notified the Board of a property in Socorro County that has been administratively reviewed and found to be receiving benefits that allow for its inclusion into the benefitted area of the District.

Under the authority granted by the District's enabling legislation, the Board may, at its discretion, include property, treating it as District benefitted lands through settlement with the property owner. By resolution filed in 2015 M-04-13-15-137, this Board granted the Chief

Engineer the authority to review new requests for inclusion and to make settlement and to ensure prompt notification to the Board at its next regular meeting. This is the first time since 1927 appraisal and 1941 reappraisal, the District has developed a method to handle the reclassification of such properties. Because of the unbenefited status of these properties, about 93 letters were sent out in the past month. Many of these properties have been placed on the water bank in the past, when no water rights have been severed. This process aims to correct that. The draft methods and procedures were sent out to Board members in their packets for today's meeting. It lays out the process that we've been using to make this determination for the inclusion of these lands into the benefitted area.

This property that you have in your notification for property that's owned by Ms. M. Nadine Ulibarri-Keller and Mr. Nicholas Keller in Socorro Division is a 5.67 acre tract, parcel A. A majority of that property has been unbenefited; however, for decades it has been irrigated. This notification today is the first of its kind, and it's a historic day to recognize and allow for the correction of omitted or excluded properties that receive benefits from our works.

Ms. M. Nadine Ulibarri-Keller was present at today's Board Meeting. She gave some background on her parcel of land is happy that they are being included in the District. Director Moore added that the Kellers grow wonderful things on their property, run the Farmers Market, and are very involved in the agriculture community.

Doug Strech added that a total of 93 letters (a total of 500 acres) were sent out to landowners for this project, and he has heard back from 21 of them. They will do another sweep of unbenefited properties and send out more letters in the near future.

**f. Meeting with Albuquerque Mayor Keller and Administration - February 14, 2019 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**g. Announcements - Family Farm Alliance in Reno, NV, February 21-22, 2019, and NWRA in WDC, April 1-3, 2019**

Mike Hamman just wanted to keep these two conferences on Board Members' radar. The announcements went out in the Board packet for today's meeting. Board Members are asked to contact Mike Hamman or Jeanette Bustamante if they want to attend either or both conferences.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) (Chief Water Counsel and/or General Counsel)**

There were not reports from either Water or General Counsel.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**a. Report on Presentation to Sierra Club on January 7, 2019 - Directors Baca and Dunning**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**b. Report on Meeting with the La Joya Acequia Board on January 10, 2019 - Chairman Duggins and Director Moore**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

This item was deferred for today's meeting.

**ADD-ON ITEM - REPORT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Ms. Viola Sanchez, Designated Engineer**

Viola Sanchez has been out for five weeks due to the Government shutdown and resultant furlough. She reported that just before furlough, she and Jason Casuga met with Cochiti Pueblo, worked through all of their structures, and came up with an agreement as to dividing responsibilities. One of hers and Mike Hamman's goals is to figure out who is responsible for everything, especially bridges and pedestrian crossings.

She had no other information to report since she was just returning from furlough but will be here to provide a full report at the next Board Meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of January 28, 2019.

**ATTESTED:**

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David M. Ferguson  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Beverly Romero, Acting Chair  
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District