

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 21, 2019**

Directors having been duly notified, Chairman Duggins called the regular meeting to order at 3:02 pm at the MRGCD General Office. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS

Glen Duggins	Chairman
Joaquín Baca	Director
Karen Dunning	Director
John Kelly	Director
Beverly Romero	Director
Valerie Moore	Director

STAFF

Mike Hamman	Chief Engineer/CEO
Dr. DuMars	Chief Water Counsel
Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
David M. Fergeson	Secretary-Treasurer
Jeanette Bustamante	Administrative Officer/CPO
David Gensler	Water Operations Manager
Becky Burnham	Budget Analyst
Alicia Lopez	Engineer 1
Adrienne Martinez	Engineer 1
Sarah Avallone	Water Bank Program Manager
DeAnna Phillips	Mapping/GIC Technician
Jason Casuga	Engineer Manager
Lorenzo Benavidez	Socorro Division Manager
Rebecca Thompson	Assessment Clerk II
Doug Strech	GIS/Mapping Manager
Joe Brem	Albuquerque Division Manager

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

Larry Ortiz, Albuquerque South Valley
Ray Ortiz, Albuquerque South Valley
Edmund R. Chavez, San Felipe Pueblo
Neri Holguin
Jeff Falance, Pueblo of Santa Ana
Cody Walker, Pueblo of Isleta
David Bradley, Albuquerque North Valley
Judy Griego, Los Ranchos
Jessica Tracy, Pueblo of Isleta

Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo Pueblo
Eugene Abeita, Isleta Farmer
Margaret Jaramillo, Isleta Pueblo
Anthony Wagner, Wagner Farms
Jose A. Sanchez, Pueblo of Sandia
Jim Wagner, Wagner Farms
Susan Selbin, North Valley
Richard Bernal, Pueblo of Sandia

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Eugene Abeyta led the Pledge of Allegiance. Eugene Abeyta was a former Director for the MRGCD

Chairman Duggins welcomed the guests and declared a quorum.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the draft Agenda presented.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – INTERVIEWS OF THE TWO (2) TOP FINALISTS FOR THE MID-TERM BOARD POSITION NO. 7, SANDOVAL COUNTY, VACANT SEAT

The top two finalists for interviews are Jimmy Wagner and Michael Sandoval. The candidates were asked to draw cards. The highest card chosen decides if he would like to go first or second. Jimmy Wagner drew the higher card and chose to go second. To be fair, candidates were asked to wait in the lobby while the other candidate was being interviewed.

Lorna Wiggins moderated the interviews and asked each candidate the same questions:

1. Can you tell us what motivated you to apply for this position with the District?
2. What particular skills and experiences do you bring that will promote the MRGCD's mission?
3. What do you see as the greatest challenge(s) the MRGCD faces?

Each candidate answered the Board's questions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are held to six (6) minutes)

Frank Chavez

Mr. Chavez lives on Sandia Pueblo Reservation. He has spoken many times in the past during the Items from the Floor portion of the MRGCD meetings regarding accountability, transparency, finances, elections, etc. He pays attention to everything that is going on around him and is extremely informed. He is speaking up tonight in support of Candidate Michael Sandoval. Mr. Chavez believes that Mr. Sandoval is the strongest candidate for the position.

David Bradley

Mr. Bradley has been a resident of the North Valley since 1943. He was born on the Navajo River and still ranches and farms from his birthplace on the Little Navajo. He has built several irrigation projects and has been irrigating and raising vegetables on the family farm since he was in grade school. He is speaking up tonight in support of Candidate Jim Wagner. He urged Board Members to vote for Jim Wagner for the position.

Stewart Paisano

Mr. Paisano is the Governor of the Pueblo of Sandia and serves in the capacities as tribal council member. He is also the Chairman of the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos. He is speaking up tonight in support of Candidate Michael Sandoval. He was here in the past supporting Mr. Sandoval. Tonight, he is here again, supporting Mr. Sandoval on behalf of himself and the Water Coalition.

Richard Bernal

Mr. Bernal is a member of the Sandia Pueblo Tribe, Former Governor, and currently council member of the Pueblo. He has been farming since he was six years old. He is a graduate of UNM and has been in business for a number of years but continues with farming. He recognizes the importance of the work being done in looking after our resources. He is

speaking up tonight in support of Michael Sandoval and believes that his fresh ideas will benefit the Board.

Jose Sanchez

Mr. Sanchez, Lieutenant Governor and Former War Chief of Sandia Pueblo, is here on behalf of Sandia Pueblo. The Governor could not be here today due to tribal activities. Mr. Sanchez (on behalf of Sandia Pueblo) believes that Michael Sandoval's technical expertise is best for the Board. He is speaking up tonight in support of Michael Sandoval for the board position.

Eugene Jiron

Mr. Jiron is the First Lieutenant of Isleta and is here today on behalf of Governor Max Zuni of Isleta Pueblo. He is speaking up tonight to endorse Michael Sandoval.

Larry Ortiz

Mr. Ortiz believes that Jim Wagner understands the use of water and the flow. Mr. Ortiz did not like a comment that was raised during Mr. Wagner's interview and felt it was unfair and should have been taken care of prior to the interviews. He is here tonight in support of Jim Wagner.

Cody Walker

Mr. Walker is from the Water Resources Department of the Pueblo of Isleta. He feels it is an honor working for the Tribe for the past 16 years. He also believes that there is a good mix on the Board of the MRGCD with representation from urban, farming, endangered species, etc. About three-quarters of the irrigation system is on tribal lands, and he feels it is important to have tribal representation on the Board. He is speaking up tonight in support of Michael Sandoval for the Board position.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – FINAL VOTE AND SELECTION OF MID-TERM BOARD VACANCY CANDIDATE TO SERVE THE REMAINING TERM OF POSITION NO. 7, SANDOVAL COUNTY SEAT

Lorna Wiggins reminded everyone that at the February 11th Regular Board Meeting, the Board decided to do a public vote for transparency. It was decided today to do a rollcall vote.

Director Dunning: **Vote for Michael Sandoval**, noting that she was voting for Mr. Sandoval in honor of Derrick Lente and what he fought and stood for.

Director Baca: **Vote for Michael Sandoval**, noting that he appreciated Mr. Wagner's time and effort.

Director Kelly: **Vote for Michael Sandoval**, noting that he is listening to the people, although this is a tough call.

Chairman Duggins: **Vote for Michael Sandoval**, noting that one cannot ever replace a person, but he thinks you should replace "as like" as you can find.

Director Moore: **Vote for Jimmy Wagner.**

Director Romero: **Vote for Jimmy Wagner.**

Vote was 2 to 4. Michael Sandoval wins the seat.

Lorna Wiggins noted that the Board had decided that the new Director would be installed at the special meeting on February 25th; however, MRGCD would need a District Court or Appellate Judge for the swearing in. She believed it was too short of notice to get a Judge to Socorro on such notice.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO INSTALL MICHAEL SANDOVAL AS THE SANDOVAL COUNTY DIRECTOR AT THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2019.** Director Moore seconded the motion, and the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously

Director Romero made the **MOTION BY ACCLAMATION FOR MICHAEL SANDOVAL TO BE INSTALLED AS POSITION NO. 7, SANDOVAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE.** Director Baca seconded the motion and the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously

Mike Hamman invited everyone for refreshments at the end of today's meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of February 21, 2019.

ATTESTED:

David M. Ferguson
Secretary/Treasurer

Glen Duggins, Chairman of the Board
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District