

**MINUTES OF THE  
2147<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
APRIL 8, 2019**

Directors having been duly notified, Chairman Duggins 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		Mike Hamman	Chief Engineer/CEO
John Kelly	Vice Chair	Absent	Lacy Daniels	Chief Water Counsel
Karen Dunning	Director	via Telephone	Bruce Wiggins	General Counsel
Joaquin Baca	Director		Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Beverly Romero	Director		David M. Fergeson	Secretary-Treasurer
Valerie Moore	Director		Jeanette Bustamante	Administrative Officer/CPO
Michael T. Sandoval	Director		David Gensler	Water Operations Manager
			Becky Burnham	Budget Analyst
			Alicia Lopez	Engineer 1
			Sandy Ontiveros	Records Specialist
			Yasmeen Najmi	Planner/RRA
			Christine Nardi	Human Resource Director
			Jason Casuga	Engineer Manager
			Joe Brem	Albuquerque Division Manager
			Rebecca Thompson	Assessments Clerk II
			Sloan Washburn	Belen Division Manager
			Doug Strech	GIS/Mapping Supervisor

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

Ernie Marquez, Election Director AES	Gary Stanifer, Office of the State Engineer
Martin Haynes	Cody B. Walker, Pueblo of Isleta
Jeff Willis, AMAFCA	Viola Sanchez, BIA Designated Engineer

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

Mr. Derrick Lente, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Duggins welcomed the guests and declared a quorum. Director Dunning joined the first portion of today's meeting via telephone.

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

Director Moore asked if an item could be added to today's agenda for an update on "Dominic Chavez." Mike Hamman asked an item to be inserted after Approval of the Meeting Agenda for a recognition/celebration of Former Chairman Derrick Lente.

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

**INSERTED ITEM - RECOGNITION/CELEBRATION OF FORMER CHAIRMAN DERRICK LENTE**

Mike Hamman said some fine words about Derrick Lente and thanked him for all the hard work that he has done with the District.

Chairman Duggins presented Derrick Lente with a gift which he felt was symbolic of the District and the pueblos coming together, as well as shows their friendship.

Derrick Lente thanked everyone for their kind words, shared a few words of wisdom for the future, and also said that he is only a phone call away should anyone need his help.

Chairman Duggins called for a ten-minute break for refreshments in honor of Former Chairman Lente.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – APPROVAL OF MRGCD PAYMENT RATIFICATION AND ATTORNEY INVOICES**

#### **a. Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification for April 8, 2019**

No discussion or comments ensued for the April 8, 2019, Payment Ratification.

Director Moore made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MRGCD PAYMENT RATIFICATION FOR APRIL 8, 2019**. Director Romero seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

#### **b. Consideration/Approval of March 2019 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins**

No discussion or comments ensued for the March 2019 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins.

Director Moore made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2019 INVOICE FOR WIGGINS, WILLIAMS & WIGGINS**. Director Romero seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – APPROVAL OF MRGCD MEETING MINUTES**

#### **a. Consideration/Approval of Minutes for Regular Board Meeting - March 11, 2019**

No discussion or comments ensued for the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of March 11, 2019.

Director Romero made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, MARCH 11, 2019**. Director Sandoval seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

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

#### **Martin Haynes**

Mr. Haynes is an irrigator in Bernalillo County. He just wanted to thank Mr. Gensler and Mr. Brem for his positive experience while irrigating. He asked if he could address the Board again, if he feels necessary, during Item 10 and El Vado storage. Chairman Duggins assured him that he could.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – REPORT FROM THE MRGCD ELECTION DIRECTOR - Ernie Marquez, Automated Election Services**

**a. Announcement of Candidates for the 2019 MRGCD Board of Directors Election**

Ernie Marquez reported that they drew for positions on the ballot this morning. The candidates are listed in order on the upcoming ballot: Position One (Member At-Large): Barbara Baca, Glen Duggins. Position Two (Bernalillo County): John Kelly. Position Five (Valencia County): Les Gibson, Stephanie Russo-Baca, and Michael Lundmark.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – REPORT(S) FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**a. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Ms. Jennifer Faler, Area Manager**

Neither Ms. Faler nor a representative from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was in attendance of today's meeting.

**b. U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs – Ms. Viola Sanchez, Designated Engineer**

Viola Sanchez reported that they received the April 1 forecast. The runoff at Otowi is the number used to compute Prior & Paramount storage. Based on the April 1 forecast, the amount of storage required for Prior & Paramount lands remains the same at 13,845 plus 500-acre feet for evaporation, for a total of 14,345-acre feet. This amount has already been stored at El Vado, during Article 7 Restriction. By mid-March, they had stored approximately 15,000-acre feet. Unless something big happens, it will remain unchanged. We will fine tune once the May 1 forecast comes in. Currently Otowi is sitting at 148% of average. As far as she knows, the folks down south are not starting until June 1<sup>st</sup>, so there is a chance of coming out of Article 7 Restriction, but she will let David Gensler go over that.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 22, 2019, AND MAY 27, 2019, BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

Due to Director Sandoval's tribal duties as a tribal elder of the tribe, he is required to stay in the Village because of Easter ceremonial duties. Therefore, the meeting that was scheduled to occur in Sandoval County on April 22 was cancelled.

Due to the Memorial Day, the regularly-scheduled Board Meeting cannot occur on that day. David Fergeson reminded the Board that he would prefer that, due to the budget review and approval process, he would like for the meeting to be rescheduled prior to the 27<sup>th</sup> and not later in the month. After much discussion, it was decided that there would only be one Board meeting in May, which will occur on May 20, at the main MRGCD building.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 – FY 2019 BUDGET - David Fergeson, MRGCD Secretary-Treasurer**

**a. Consideration of MRGCD Finance Committee Recommendation for FY20 COLA**

David Fergeson reported that the Finance Committee is recommending a 2% across the board cost of living increase for all employees, effective the first full pay period of July.

Director Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE MRGCD FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY20 COLA**. Director Sandoval seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**b. Consideration of Board Member Budget Requests**

David Ferguson reminded Board members to give him a call soon to put in their requests for the budget (items in the past have been swim passes, signage, and Escondida bridge project).

**c. Set Board Meeting Dates in May for Budget Review and Approval**

This item was covered earlier in the meeting, under Item 8.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD CHIEF ENGINEER - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

**Inserted Item regarding Dominic Chavez**

Dominic Chavez had an on-the-job accident. Director Moore ran into his mother and wanted to report to the Board and staff how he is doing. Per Dominic's mother, Dominic is doing very well. He is at home and is healing nicely. He will begin various therapies soon.

Mike Hamman asked Christine Nardi to give the Board a snapshot of Dominic's coverages and also what she has been doing to help his family. Christine Nardi reported that Dominic has coverage through New Mexico Mutual Insurance Company. A senior claim adjuster is managing his claim, and Christine feels Dominic's case is in very good hands with this particular claims adjuster. Dominic is on family medical leave, so his job is protected while he is out. MRGCD offered a new voluntary group accident insurance for a nominal fee this year, and Dominic did take advantage of that, which will cover out-of-pocket expenses (co-pays or shared insurance for the air evacuation, travel to/from therapies, etc.). Christine has also been to Dominic's home to assist the family insofar as filling out forms and walking them through the insurance processes. Dominic's wife, Brandy, had expressed to Director Moore how much she appreciated Christine helping them. Everyone wishes Dominic a speedy recovery.

**a. Report on 2019 NM State Legislature - John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist**

John Thompson wanted to call to attention to the Board that when he sent over the information that was sent out in the Board packets, the Governor had not acted on two bills. One of them was House Bill 501 (PERA contribution), which she signed. She also pocket vetoed Senate Bill 5 (in the Board packets) which has to do with the Interstate Stream Commission (formation and membership).

Mr. Thompson reported that this legislative session has been the most strenuous and active session he has been involved with, from the first day to the last day. Part of this had to do with the rocket docket (legislative measures that had been vetoed by the previous administration but passed usually unanimously), and the other part is because there is a new Governor and new House of Representatives.

Mr. Thompson sent the list in the Board packet, which included bills on water planning, healthy soil, elections, PERA, state NEPA, water data, trapping, forest and watersheds. He wanted to highlight a few of the Bills. House Bill 174 (had to do with the Middle Rio Grande water planning) never advanced. Because House Bill 174 was not heard, Senate Bill 558 was

introduced by Senator Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez for Rio Grande water planning. The Bill was never voted on, but Mike Hamman spent a lot of time with the proponents of this Bill and formed a much more reasonable and realistic piece of legislation. This is something likely to be discussed further this year. House Bill 266 (Forest and Watershed Restoration Act) was signed. MRGCD initially had concerns with the funding mechanism, but they were able to make it better. Senate Bill 100 (dealt with sending money to Valencia County for flooding issues) was introduced but was not heard in committee. It wasn't a perfect plan, but Mr. Thompson has reached out to the Valencia County delegation. They all agree that next year, we will try to get a better plan together to make those funds more usable and to try to leverage some federal matches. Mr. Thompson thought he would see a piece of legislation on board composition from the South Valley; however, it did not come up.

Mr. Thompson anticipates this to be a very active interim legislative session and that there will be some things that he and Mr. Hamman will either have to present or attend.

Director Moore asked if there was discussion regarding a flood authority of any type for Valencia County. Mr. Thompson reported that he had not heard anything like that. She also asked about how data sharing played out. Mr. Thompson reported that on the second to the last day of the session, Bill HB-651 (distribution in the Board packets) died on the Senate floor, but someone brought up a Motion to Reconsider. The Bill went on to pass with a couple of simple amendments. Mike Hamman added that Mr. Gensler has agreed to sit on the group associated to Bill HB-651. Mr. Hamman has already talked to the bill sponsors, who said they will make sure MRGCD has good representation.

Director Baca wanted to thank John Thompson for being so quick to respond to his texts and calls. Director Moore reiterated the sentiment.

Mike Hamman followed up with HB-407 (tweaking of the local government election rules). They have, apparently, done away with billing the entities for election services. Elections will be completely funded by the State. On the downside, it will still be consolidated in November and will be a long ballot that may not bode well for MRGCD candidates. Mr. Hamman met with the Secretary of State, and she assured him that there will be a four-county workshop with the assessors and the county clerks to familiarize everybody with the new rules.

**b. Water Report and Projected Water Operations for 2019 - David Gensler, Water Operations Manager**

David Gensler reported that 2019 continues its favorable trend water-wise. Since the last full report, the mountains have continued to accumulate snow. NRCS released the April 1 forecast last week, and it is a significant increase in water supply from the March forecast. El Vado Reservoir inflow is now forecast at 320,000-acre feet, March through July, which is 70,000-acre feet more than the March number. Rio Grande at Otowi is now 1,020,000-acre feet, March through July, which is 265,000-acre feet more than the March 1 forecast. Those numbers are a little over 140% of average runoff.

Of course, Mr. Gensler said that you never know how much of the snow will actually show up in the river. Things may change from the April 1 forecast numbers. Any way you slice it, it looks like we are going to have a lot of water moving through the middle valley this spring. We are also going to have record high temps today and tomorrow, followed by a cold snap, which is kind of the way it goes. It warms up, cools down, warms up, cools down, and the river goes all over the place for about two months here in the spring.

The big question remains now what will that do for storage? Well, probably not all that much. MRGCD is still deep into Article VII restrictions. Rio Grande Project storage is about 270,000-acre feet today, but it's going up rapidly. At the moment, the districts down south are still planning on a June 1 start date. Rio Grande Project storage is currently rising at about 3,000-acre feet per day, and the fill rate should be increasing rapidly from here on out. So, if things stay on track, it looks like there is a good possibility MRGCD will be out of Article VII Restrictions in mid to late May for a time.

We still won't get a lot of storage. The Chama will be on a descending limb of the hydrograph by then; however, Mr. Gensler is holding out for the possibility of over 40,000-acre feet free and clear, without having to use credit and saving that credit for future years. If plans down south change, and the start date gets pushed up, well, we should still be able to get the expected 40,000-acre feet, but we'll just have to use our credit to do it.

All the stream gauges around the state are starting to rise now, even up at Del Norte, Colorado. We've got about 700 CFS on the Rio Grande at Embudo currently. It's starting to rise daily. About 700 CFS on the Chama, above El Vado. We are not storing, instead sending everything on down the river in an effort to fill the Butte as quickly as possible. Ojo Caliente is running at over 400 CFS. We have over 2,000 CFS at Otowi today. Cochiti has been releasing about 1,900 CFS, and that will probably increase this week. Even the good old Rio Jemez is making pretty good water, over 300 CFS coming out of Jemez. That's what's turning the river red today or sort of that ugly reddish-brown that it gets in the springtime.

But, as far as operations go, everything is kind of settled into a normal routine. There has been a bit of a slow start this spring, but, now, everything is up and running. We're starting to get a lot of calls for water. Cochiti is diverting 125 CFS. Angostura is diverting about 65 CFS, and we will be increasing tomorrow up there. Isleta has really ramped up. They were about 420 CFS this afternoon, probably a little bit more than they need. Down at San Acacia Dam, the dam is still unchecked, and Mr. Gensler expects it to remain that way, at least until the end of July. Delivery from Belen to the Socorro Main is more than adequate now, between 180 and 200 CFS.

Mr. Gensler is looking forward to reporting again in May and seeing what the weather has done. The Rio Grande always surprises us, and it looks like in 2019 the surprise is favorable.

Mr. Gensler wanted to share that he and Jason Casuga attended the Rio Grande Compact Commission meeting in Alamosa last week. After the meeting, as they drove home from Cumbres Pass, they stopped on top and took a picture. The snow was deeper than Jason can reach up on top of the pass and the road cuts. That is what is coming at us this spring and summer.

**c. Report on the Rio Grande Compact Meeting and Related Discussions, April 3-4, 2019 - David Gensler, Water Operations Manager, and Jason Casuga, Engineer Manager**

David Gensler reported that he and Jason Casuga drove to Alamosa, arriving at 4:30. There was an evening get-together, which was a nice time. There were a lot of old, familiar faces, in particular Rolf Schmidt Peterson and John D'Antonio, whom we will be seeing a lot more of soon. Mr. Gensler was introduced to the Texas Commissioner, Pat Gordon. The evening talk was mostly about what a lousy year 2018 was and what an exciting year 2019 is shaping up to be. There was a lot of kudos during the reception and also during the following day's meeting for virtually all water management entities in New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas. There was a

lot of talk about how everybody got through such a tough year. There was general agreement that it was a challenging year last year, but we all pulled together and made it.

The next morning, they had a brief breakfast meeting with EBID and El Paso Water Utility to discuss 2019 operations and to just get a feel for what they're planning to do this year. They assured Mr. Gensler that they are still planning to stick to a June 1 start date. They did mention they are going to be meeting with their farmers this week to discuss possible changes to their plans.

Probably the biggest point of that meeting was to continue to plant the seed, as Mr. Hamman has tried to do for a number of years, for better coordination with the Districts down south of MRGCD. We discussed Rio Grande Compact Restrictions, Article 7, climate change, etc., and how imperative it is that we all work together and find clever and strategic ways to move water around.

The Compact meeting was predictable. They are essentially just recaps of the past year's events in accounting. Generally, there is agreement on the year's accounting, although there still are two separate books of kept, stemming back from a disagreement in 2012 about credit water at Elephant Butte and it being relinquished to Texas without a formal procedure.

The other issues that came up were generally minor. Texas Commissioner offered an accounting addendum that immediately the New Mexico Commissioner wanted to see before he could commit to supporting it in the record. There was considerable questioning directed at Reclamation by the Texas Commissioner regarding San Juan-Chama water and the loss rates applied to it. This was certainly the result of so much San Juan-Chama water moving last summer, when almost the entire flow of the river was made up of water. It was explained by various people there (Jennifer Faler and other Reclamation staff) that the loss rates work pretty good under average conditions, but extremely dry, extremely wet conditions, San Juan-Chama loss rates are probably not an accurate reflection of what's actually happening in the water. There were some comments directed towards BIA by the New Mexico Commissioner regarding P&P ops last summer, specifically about the swap between the District and the Pueblos, between Rio Grande and San Juan-Chama water. The New Mexico Commissioner questioned Fish and Wildlife Service about plans for the meadow jumping mouse. The Service responded by saying that BDA water right will be used to provide water for the mouse. Also, Fish and Wildlife Service pledged to respond quickly to Reclamation and ISC regarding any kind of clearance issues involving sediment plugs that might develop this spring. There is some concern that the high water moving could result in sediment deposition and require some emergency actions on the river. The Service said that they would be monitoring and responding very quickly if any kind of environmental species clearance is needed for those. Finally, there was discussion from the Texas Commissioner about New Mexico deliveries and the need to coordinate this with the Districts down south.

Director Moore asked where the jumping mouse is located. Mr. Gensler explained that it is located at various places around the state. Within the middle valley, the only resident population is actually on Bosque Del Apache.

**d. Review and Approval of El Vado Storage Plan - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO, and David Gensler, Water Operations Manager**

Mike Hamman reported that he and David Gensler just wanted to set the stage for the upcoming runoff period. Mr. Gensler has already laid out the approach to managing El Vado this year.

Our goal really is to manage in such a way that we hopefully do not have to use any of our relinquished credits in order to preserve those for a year when we really might need them.

How it happens day to day is anybody's call, but the obvious thing we're hoping for is to ring the bell as much as we can down at Elephant Butte, get right over 400,000 so we can close the gates a little bit at El Vado. There may also be some flood storage held up at Abiquiu. Nonetheless, we're going to see a high snow runoff peak, which we might start to feel already. Then, we will have a really good, prolonged runoff. Based on soil conditions and the growing snowpack, we should see a little bump upwards on total snowpack again after this-coming storm this weekend. Predictions by the Weather Service are that we are going to see some moisture, even in late May, June, and July.

David Gensler added that they plan to store about 40,000. Even if we were to get out of Article VII, Mr. Gensler does not expect we will store much more water than that this year. All the models right now show us running a pretty serious Compact debit by the end of the year. If we were to go and attempt to fill El Vado, say something crazy happened (we got out really early, and there was still lots of snow), if we attempted to park a lot of water this year, we'd wind up dumping it all at the end of the year. Therefore, we probably will not try and capture much water, maybe 45 or 50, but certainly no more than that.

Prior and Paramount number is something a little bit less than 14,000-acre feet this year. That water is already all in storage. It probably will sit there this summer and probably will not be released. We do expect a full allocation of San Juan-Chama water this year. Due to the upcoming El Vado Rehab, we probably will ask Reclamation to waiver that water. It would be our normal practice to take it in November and December in El Vado. We probably will ask them to keep it in Heron this year, just to help keep the reservoir storage volume low.

Mr. Gensler reminded the Board about the debt to the City of Albuquerque that is approximately 35,000-acre feet. We did not make a payment on that loan last year because of the dire conditions. He would really like to see us continue to whittle away at that debt this winter, if Mother Nature is as good to us as it looks like it is.

Martin Haynes (speaker during the public comment) asked if we are able to store 40,000-acre feet, whether it's debit water or not? Mr. Gensler responded that he believes it is very likely that we will have a full season this year. The models show the river running pretty high all the way into July. The Weather Service outlooks look good for reasonable precipitation this summer, and 40,000-acre feet ought to comfortably see us through the summer.

**e. Report on Meeting with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Mr. Fisher, March 28, 2019 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

This is the second meeting that we've had with high-ranking officials of the Corps of Engineers. Ryan Fisher is deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Public Works. He does all the work out in the field, working with all the Districts and regional officers within the Corps of Engineer in the Public Works sector. He is a conservative guy in the context of wanting to make sure that the resources that are provided to the Corps are put to the highest and best use on the ground. He made it a point that he does not like to see resources spent on unnecessary planning and prolonged delays. He stated that the Bernalillo to Belen levee project is a high priority for the Corps, which was the main focus of his visit.

Mr. Fisher wants to make sure that we are not going to be asked for additional money due to delays. He was very complimentary of us as a local partner (formerly, we were called sponsor),

as being a very responsible and very responsive local agency. He noted he hasn't always experience that in other districts that he's worked at.

Mike Hamman shared with Mr. Fisher that our capacity for managing additional levee projects and other environmental projects has run out. We are at the limit of what we can handle in terms of being the main sponsor. It is crucial that we get the City of Albuquerque, County of Bernalillo, and AMAFCA and others to be the lead in regard to the Albuquerque Reach Levee.

We also discussed the Mountain View Reach and its cost benefit ratio analysis. There were also discussions about how important it would be to continue to keep that reach in the plan because if it goes out, one of our funding partners won't be available to participate in this project or we'll have to build it ourselves to Corps standards at a significant direct cost. We discussed that MRGCD can probably do it cheaper than the Corps did.

We went on a site visit, and Mr. Fisher saw the problems. He understood the risks, and we admitted that years of deferred maintenance is part of the problem. One of the components that we're going to negotiate with the Corps for this project is to reconstruct the drains and deal with armoring the riverside slope of the drain itself.

The other pending matter that he's going to eventually rule on is whether the Isleta component of the project should be paid 100% federal. We've asked for that waiver. They see it as a longshot, but, if we have our congressional delegation pushing on it, which we did discuss when we were in DC; maybe they'll see a different way through it.

Director Moore asked if Mr. Hamman could take everyone on a tour of the Mountain View Levee to see the erosion firsthand. Mr. Hamman reported that the most vulnerable and probably most eroded or sloughed off area is south of Highway 6. He will try to schedule something for 1:00 on a board meeting day.

**f. Report on NWRA Conference, April 1-4, 2019, and Congressional Delegation/Agency Meetings - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

Mike Hamman reported that he, Chairman Duggins, and Directors Moore and Dunning attended the NWRA Conference. The focus of the conference really was to preserve the funding from the agencies in the budget cutting arena. These issues are bipartisan in nature. Everybody likes good water infrastructure, whether it's the city or an area that's being flooded. There are a lot of infrastructure problems all over this country. That was a big focus of the conference. They had speakers lined up from the agencies and from the congressional staff. There is a big push to get a number of things through, including title transfer legislation, in order to make it easier for the government to seed interest in the facilities that have been paid off by water agencies (such as MRGCD).

Our trip consisted of the conference, as well as visits to the Hill. We visited all of our congressional delegation offices and the Corps of Engineers. We had a pretty good conversation about the projects we're working on with them at the high staff level, as well as with the Bureau of Reclamation. We had a deputy commissioner there, Ms. Habanar, who seemed very amenable and appreciative of our efforts of working together with the local Reclamation office. We also met with a representative of the BIA.

Mr. Hamman would like to set up a meeting with Director Sandoval and maybe some pueblo representatives and BIA, possibly others. We really pushed hard on the pueblo funding.

Representative Lujan, who is now running for Senator, wants to do everything he can to help us in that regard.

**g. Approved Licenses for March 2019 (For Informational Purposes Only)**

Since this topic was for informational purposes only, no discussion ensued.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) (Chief Water Counsel and/or General Counsel)**

Neither Chief water counsel nor general counsel had anything to report this meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**a. Report on Personnel Committee Meeting, February 20, 2019 - Directors Dunning, Romero, and Moore**

Director Romero reported that this meeting was to discuss the Secretary-Treasurer's position and if we are going to go out and start looking for replacement. David Fergeson advised the committee he would stay probably until the end of the year.

Director Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 2019**. Director Sandoval seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**b. Report on Los Padillas Acequia Assoc. Meeting, March 13, 2019 - Director Baca**

Director Baca reported this meeting was their annual kickoff meeting to set their budget, elect their board members, etc. They asked me if we could have someone come to give a water report, as well as report what we're expecting for the season. David Gensler provided Director Baca with the information, and he relayed it at the meeting, as well as Director Baca talks to them about what their needs may be.

There are some acequia repairs that need to be done. Director Baca contacted Jason Casuga, who started looking into it.

Director Sandoval made the **MOTION TO APPROVE REPORT ON LOS PADILLAS ACEQUIA ASSOC. MEETING, MARCH 13, 2019**. Director Moore seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**c. Report on MRCOG Executive Board Meeting, March 14, 2019 - Director Dunning**

Since Director Dunning was not in attendance of today's meeting, she provided her report in writing via the Board packets that were distributed to Board members. Directors had read the report prior to the meeting and had no questions or comments.

Director Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE REPORT ON MRCOG EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, MARCH 14, 2019**. Director Romero the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**d. Report on Meeting with Old Town and West/Downtown Residents, March 15, 2019 - Director Baca**

Director Baca reported that the topic of this meeting was involving a ditch that runs between Zearing and Campbell Streets near Old Town. Residents there, for quite some time now, have been asking Director Baca to open it up for recreation. There had been an accident there quite a long time ago, and it was fenced off by the City. The City is supposed to upkeep it, but they have not been. Director Baca asked Jason Casuga to take a look at it.

Jason Casuga reported that he met with the City because it has a license to maintain that area. The plan is to essentially follow our gate policy and install a normal equestrian gate. Signs will be hung up, and then there will be a public comment period with a recommendation to follow for going forward.

Director Baca asked if the signs had gone up yet. At this point, Jason Casuga was not sure the status of the signs, but he will check with Matt.

Director Romero made the **MOTION TO APPROVE REPORT ON MEETING WITH OLD TOWN AND WEST/DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS, MARCH 15, 2019**. Director Sandoval seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**e. Report on Kick-Off Pilot Water Leasing Conservation Committee Meeting, March 26, 2019 - Directors Baca and Moore**

Director Moore reported that she and Director Baca met with the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. They talked about water conservation projects. They discussed how big this Commission should be but did not come up with a solid number. They have a cooperating agreement with a \$9M grant from Bureau of Reclamation with the funds going to NFWF, and then NFWF will fund MRGCD through a sub-grant. The committee will meet a couple of times a month. Suggestions were made of some individuals for this Commission. Mike Hamman was given those names and was going to see if the individuals would be interested in serving.

Director Baca asked Mike Hamman if he had an update on those folks yet. Mike Hamman responded that of the people he has talked to so far, four have committed. He has yet to speak to three or four more. He will set the initial meeting by the second week in May.

Director Romero made the **MOTION TO APPROVE REPORT ON KICK-OFF PILOT WATER LEASING CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 26, 2019**. Chairman Duggins seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**f. Report on MRCOG Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting, March 26, 2019 - Director Dunning**

Since Director Dunning was not in attendance of today's meeting, she provided her report in writing via the Board packets that were distributed to Board members. Directors had read the report prior to the meeting and had no questions or comments.

Director Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE REPORT ON MRCOG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 26, 2019**. Director Sandoval seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**g. Report on NWRA Conference, Washington, April 1-4, 2019, and Congressional Delegation/Agency Meetings - Directors Duggins, Moore, and Dunning**

Since Director Dunning was not in attendance of today's meeting, she provided her report in writing via the Board packets that were distributed to Board members. Directors had read the report prior to the meeting.

Director Moore added that everywhere Mr. Hamman went, he really pushed the pueblo funding for the maintenance and kept trying to make that point; we need to get more appropriations so that the pueblos will be able to take care of their maintenance in a timely manner. The deputy commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation made it a point that MRGCD is the largest supplier and maintenance of water in the United States. The BOR produces 40-billion kilowatts per year on the various hydroelectric sites. They also discussed Colorado River Basin drought and how it is affecting Lake Powell, and Mead. They discussed that this has been one of the driest periods on record, and the drought has been in effect since 2007.

They made a point they wanted to increase funding for new science on water issues in place and talked about title transfer. They also made a point in we need to push water infrastructure with legislature, as water is seldom discussed. They also talked about how some of the fires have caused a whole lot of problems in the watershed basins. One thing we need to work on is healthy forests because all that flows down into our watersheds and causes problems. There was a lot of talk about the drought contingency plan.

Chairman Duggins added that hydroelectric is under a lot of pressure. It's cheaper to produce electricity by gas than hydro right now, due to regulations. Chairman Duggins understands the benefit of the drought contingency, but he does not want to paint the future with black paint. He believes we are going to make it. We need to be prepared, of course, but he believes good days are headed towards us. We could see ten years of wet coming at us, just as easy as ten years of dry.

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 4:53

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of April 8, 2019.

**ATTESTED:**

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David M. Ferguson  
Secretary/Treasurer

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