

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
MAY 21, 2018**

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

<b>DIRECTORS</b>			<b>STAFF</b>	
John P. Kelly	Chairman	Absent	Mike Hamman	Chief Engineer/CEO
Glen Duggins	Vice-Chair		Tanya Scott	Chief Water Counsel
Joaquín Baca	Director		Brue Wiggins	General Counsel
Karen Dunning	Director		David M. Fergeson	Secretary-Treasurer
Derrick J. Lente	Director		Jeanette Bustamante	Administrative Officer/CPO
Beverly Romero	Director		David Gensler	Water Operations Manager
Valerie Moore	Director		Becky Burnham	Budget Analyst
			Alicia Lopez	Engineer 1
			Adrienne Martinez	Engineer 1
			Yasmeen Najmi	Planner/RRA
			Rick Altenberg	GIS/Mapping Technician
			Jason Casuga	Engineer Manager
			Rebecca Thompson	Assessment/Collection Clerk

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

Marc Bluett, Belen, New Mexico  
Adriene Madrid, Belen, New Mexico  
Mike O'Dell  
Viola Sanchez, BIA

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

Director Lente led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Duggins welcomed the guests and declared a quorum.

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

Director Baca added 8.c., Report on MRCOG Water Resources Board Meeting, May 2, 2018.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA**. Director Lente seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF FY19 BUDGET – David M. Fergeson, Secretary-Treasurer**

## M E M O R A N D U M

To: MRGCD Board of Directors  
 From: David M. Ferguson CPA, CGMA – Secretary/Treasurer  
 Date: May 14, 2018  
 Subject: FY 19 Operating Budget

For the second consecutive year, the budget is balanced meaning the District will not have to draw from surplus funds to balance the budget. The budget reflects a surplus of \$69,617 with revenue estimates of \$ 25,651,630 and expenses of \$25,582,013. This budget includes ad valorem and water service charges that we discussed and approved by the Board with Resolution M-05-22-17-150 dated May 22, 2017.

	FY 18	FY 19
Revenues	\$ 22,568,377	\$ 25,651,630
Expenditures	22,106,447	25,582,013
Surplus	\$ 461,930	\$ 69,617

Efforts are continuously being sought to improve the budget and the budget process to make it more efficient, to involve the managers and to capture their needs as well as the needs of the District. It is important that the budget is balanced and does not 'draw from' reserve funds. This year, we emphasized the need to ensure all managers were involved in the process. Becky Burnham, Budget Analyst, met individually with each manager to gather their budget data and then she pulled all the needs into a consolidated document that allowed for the detailed review by David Ferguson. Clarification of the Division Managers' needs was sought and several meetings were held with Mr. Hamman and Division Managers to gather input for budget items and to go over the Divisions' requests. Revenue projections were determined and then the budget underwent a final review with Mr. Hamman, David and Becky. The budget was then presented to the Finance Committee in two separate meetings. The first meeting, April 19, 2018, presented the projections and the District needs. Based on comments from the Committee, additional changes were made and presented in a second meeting on May 2, 2018. The final revisions were added to the budget and a summary budget was presented to the full Board on May 7, 2018. Based on a few comments the budget was again modified. David reviewed the budget one more time and found some areas that could be adjusted. The budget is now ready to be presented and discussed with the full Board on May 21, 2018.

During the budget process, Mr. Hamman ensured the District's overall goals were being met and that the capital improvement plans he has for the District are being advanced. Mr. Hamman presented the District's broad program goals as follows:

1. Preparing MRGCD Water Conveyance System for Efficient Operations and Drought Resiliency
2. Water Operations Improvement Planning and Implementation
3. Protecting the District's and its Constituents' Water Rights
4. Carry out the District's Commitments to the 2016 Biological Opinion in Partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
5. Title Transfer to District Works and Associated Lands
6. Constituent Services
7. Improving Employee Services and Morale/Performance
8. Internal Resources Management

9. Legislative Agenda
10. Other Major Projects
  - a. Corrales Siphon
  - b. El Vado Dam
  - c. Southern Valencia northern Socorro County Storm Water Control Project
  - d. Bernardo Siphon
  - e. Levee projects

The resources needed to achieve these goals are interspersed throughout the budget and some of these areas will be discussed in the following pages and during the budget discussion.

On another front, the District recognizes the need to improve its aging fleet of vehicles and equipment. For years, money was spent trying to replace the fleet, \$1 million at a time. While this helped in some areas it was not making headway so while exploring options to lease, lease/purchase or to buy equipment, it was discovered that the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) could assist with meeting these needs. Upon direction of the Board, an application to borrow \$2.5 million from NMFA was made and approved on April 26, 2018. These funds have been included in the FY 19 budget and will allow the District to replace 24 light duty vehicles and 9 pieces of heavy equipment. This will allow the District to make a big leap forward in replacing the aging fleet. The first payment on the loan is due in May 2019 and will be based on the final interest rate that will not be determined until early June. The maximum payment amount is estimated (on the high side) at \$384,000 but it should be less once the final interest rate has been determined. This leaves \$600 to \$650 thousand for purchase of new equipment. The final amount will be known once the final interest rate is set by NMFA for the loan.

The District continues to work on centralizing processes around the GIS/Mapping functions. Therefore, investment in infrastructure, hardware and software is included in this budget. Continuing down this path will ultimately allow us to fully integrate the District from the field to assessments to finance. This will help with customer service. It will also benefit us in the area of work orders, allow us to streamline the Irrigation Systems Operators, the Assessments Department and the property owner's communication. As part of this process, we need to integrate the Assessment Office processing to the MUNIS product. This will allow us to also start taking electronic payments for water service charge bills. When this is complete, we can cut processing time, maximize office resources and ensure payments are processed timely and accurately.

The District is looking to leverage 'the cloud' to help with overall IT infrastructure. Options are currently being explored for these services. This is part of the overall high level strategy of the District.

We continue to look at automating work orders with the field offices. We plan to incorporate GPS information into the work orders and to use this data to free up the staff from being required to 'write' work orders for someone else to process. We have incorporated funds to secure tablets (or a similar device) to assist in this process.

We continue to refine a plan to replace computers in a systematic manner by looking at the age of the equipment and the needs of the person using the computer to develop a plan that can be included as part of the annual budget. This will allow us to maintain equipment that is functional and prevent us from reacting when a computer passes its useful life and stops working.

#### Highlights of Changes in the FY 19 Budget

1. Each area of the budget was reviewed and adjusted up or down based on the historical information or the justifiable request of the division manager. In several cases, the budget has been reduced from the prior years as historical costs do not justify the higher amount.
2. As part of refining the budget, some costs have been shifted from one category to another to place the cost in the proper category. This is an initiative that has been undertaken to provide better year to year comparisons going forward.

3. This budget also includes approximately \$300,000 for the upcoming elections. \$275,000 is anticipated for the voting precincts and the costs of the workers, \$10 K was added for postage for possible mail outs, and \$15,500 for legal ads related to the election.
4. Gasoline and diesel are up slightly to reflect the increases in prices at the pump. We did however, offset the diesel increase slightly to reflect the anticipated agreement with the City of Albuquerque that will allow us to purchase diesel from them at a reduced price.
5. Herbicide costs have been reduced based on historical data.
6. Costs for tree removal have increased due to known upcoming projects.
7. As part of the securing newer equipment the District needs to embark on an improved preventative maintenance program and funds have been included in the budget to move this forward.
8. The upcoming budget reflects a significant increase in the payment to the Bureau of Reclamation for the San Juan Chama contract. The BOR is starting to collect funds to make significant repairs to four (4) areas that are deteriorating, and this increase reflects the maximum amount the District will incur. The BOR is finalizing these calculations but they were not available at the time the budget was finalized.
9. Insurance costs have been budgeted about the same as FY 18. The exact amount of the cost of insurance will not be known until mid to late June when the final budget is completed and the application for insurance for the upcoming year is finalized.

Additional detail that will explain revenues or costs have been included throughout the budget. As always every effort has been made to identify all the known costs in this budget but there will always be issues or costs that arise during the fiscal year that will require funding. We believe this budget is responsive to the needs of the District for the upcoming year and respectfully request approval by the Board.

Three or four years ago, we were running in significant deficits, anywhere from \$2 to \$4-million a year and drawing funds up from our reserves in order to just meet normal operating expenses throughout the year. There was a decision made by the previous Board to go ahead and make the difficult decision of gradually increasing the rate structure in the director that brought it back to where it was prior to 2008, when the decision to cut the ad valorem taxes back in those days.

In addition, there was a decision made to follow the statutory authority that was provided to gradually increase the water service charges at a comparative rate. So, we've done that. We have dug ourselves out of a deep hole. We have put together a capital improvement program that discusses bringing our equipment and our vehicles up to safe and good operating standards so we can become more efficient, and have less down time. We also have pulled together a capital improvement plan that looks at all of the big projects that we have coming our way, and we have an 85-year-old system. We have a lot of deferred maintenance.

The other thing that we've worked on is to try to keep our annual operating costs down. Mr. Hamman thinks they have done a lot of work to try to accomplish that directive, which this budget reflects. We are pleased with the budget we're presenting here today.

Director Dunning asked Mr. Ferguson regarding his comments when he said the Bernalillo County non-residential and the centrally assessed valuations are down this year, is it because of the tax abatement that they're giving for economic development that decreases the MRGCD revenue? Mr. Ferguson responded that as per GASB 77 the state is required to notify the District.

Mike Hamman clarified and asked Mr. Ferguson regarding what he said earlier, last year Mr. Ferguson did a projection and increased the valuation, and this year, he is not? Mr. Ferguson responded, yes, that is correct. Last year, he did an analysis, a historical analysis, from FY12 over and looked at the growth pattern, and applied that percentage. He commented that he is taking a more conservative approach this year over concerns that valuations may be flattening out.

Director Dunning asked about the BIA contract that when the ad valorem taxes water service charge fees went up, did the amount that BIA paid also went up. Mike Hamman responded that is true, after a certain threshold is reached. We have a formula that follows the ad valorem increases. The formula averages amounts over all the different ad valorem rates throughout the District. The increase in water service charges and the latest calculation we are right at a likely increase in our next adjustment. Mr. Hamman advised the Board he will provide them with a calculation sheet.

Director Duggins asked if we stalled the 4<sup>th</sup> Water Service Charge rate increase. Mr. Hamman stated this will be the last change, and Mr. Ferguson commented that after this last increase going forward they will have to look at the CPI. Mr. Hamman stated we would have to make that decision next year.

Mr. Ferguson continued with the expenditure side, and salaries went up and certain contractual areas went up. The retiree premium contribution has gone up, and will continue to go up based on how many employees retiree. Mr. Ferguson continued his discussion item by item.

Director Dunning asked why the amount for pesticides went up \$8,000. Mr. Ferguson stated he would research that increase amount, it should be a lesser amount.

Director Moore asked why herbicides went down, it is a substantial drop when there are so many weeds. Mr. Ferguson stated when he analyzed the usage and we have used 55,000. Mr. Hamman responded that they are developing best management practices so that all of our divisions will spray the weeds hard, early, and often so that we get ahead of it. Mr. Mike Lopez will head up that effort to mow together with two or three mowers, whatever it takes, and get the whole ditch. Then, do the next section, and then come back with that herbicide application after the weeds start to return. That way we knock them down hard in the early part of the season, and then they are not going to be as much of a problem as you move forward in time.

Director Romero asked why uniforms went up \$20,000. Mr. Ferguson said the increase was due to work boots. Every employee who works in the field gets boots, and we are on a two year replacement cycle.

Chairman Duggins asked about the cycle of weed control, and suggested it may be better to spray first. As a farmer, it's much cheaper to spray than to mow. When you spray early in the spring, the risk of drift is not that much and we don't use those types of chemicals that are known to be a risk. In the spring, you are not going to hurt anything if it drifts there's nothing's growing. Chairman Duggins asked how Sandia Pueblo is doing with their weed problem. Director Lente responded that they wait for the mower to come by, and that is usually one time before feast. Then, they ask the staff when it gets worse.

Mr. Ferguson proceeded with discussion on employee benefits, salaries, cost of living, and insurance. He stated that they will be paying overtime, and had budgeted \$20,000. We are also budgeting for retirements for the year, there are 5 employees that will be eligible to retire and will be paid off for their annual leave and sick leave as per policy.

Director Lente asked Mr. Hamman and Mr. Ferguson if they conducted an analysis to see what types of cost benefits or savings we are seeing since implementing a 4/10 work week schedule for the past year-and-a-half? Mr. Hamman responded that we are collecting quite a bit of information. We have not done a complete analysis yet, but it is on the to-do list. Director Lente stated that he thinks it is important that we keep track of whether or not we are being more efficient as employees, and our employees are being more efficient with their time. If it shows our budget, that will be a win for all of us. However, if it is causing our operations to be inefficient or we are spending more for salaries, or work is not getting done, then we need to take a closer look at it. He then asked how many more years of data they needed to do comparisons.

Mr. Hamman thinks we are in a position now to analyze what we have done for the last year or so. They have collected quite a bit of information with our GPS. Mr. Hamman will ask the HR Department to take a look at absenteeism and see if that's improved, which preliminary indications are that it has, as people are using their Friday to take care of personal business on their own time rather than having to take leave to

do that. Just by running the numbers in terms of hours of people that are on the work site, we gained four hours per pay period that way, because of the travel times and getting set up and all that.

So, there's some preliminary information that four 10s are helping us; however, Mr. Hamman wants to take a look at productivity. Director Lente responded that he looks forward to seeing the data coming out.

Discussion ensued led by Chairman Duggins regarding the ISO utilizing tablets instead of a paper book. Mr. Ferguson reiterated that is the goal. Mr. Hamman added that after that goal is achieved, each turnout will be rated, so that one could go by time, quantity of water for each field, etc. Mr. Ferguson stated that the goal is that when there is a stop sign and the property owner pays his water service fees it will automatically update.

Director Lente asked if more money was budgeted for the program that Mr. Hamman and Mr. Ferguson highlighted at the Bernalillo meeting, for the concrete lined forms for the turnouts. Mr. Hamman replied that they had.

Director Dunning said that technology is great, but one of the things that have kind of kept us back in the past has been the slowness of the rural areas to get broadband. She inquired if there is now internet connection throughout the District. Mr. Hamman responded that there are still a few dead spots. However, once the connection is back in, the data will automatically update.

Mr. Ferguson discussed On-Call Services; Engineering Services @ \$90,000 for fixing problems that occurred during the storm event in 2017, for other projects that will come up. The Belen Division Highline Disaster Management Plan @ \$100,000 was highlighted.

Chairman Duggins asked if Mr. Hamman had a chance to look at the life insurance for the Board Members. Mr. Hamman explained that Director Duggins had raised the possibility of offering life insurance to the Board to take advantage of our life insurance program.

Chairman Duggins wanted to make it clear that the Board Members do not receive a salary. They are elected to serve. He did not want to give the impression that they were getting benefits from the District.

Director Dunning commended and thanked Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Burnham, Mr. Hamman, and all the staff for their hard work on this budget process. She compared it to prior year budget presentations, and just wanted to thank staff for how improved, detailed and transparent it was presented. Director Lente echoed Director Dunning's sentiments. Director Moore said she was very happy and proud to be on the finance committee, and appreciated all the information that was provided. Chairman Duggins also expressed his appreciation to the staff and finance committee.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

##### **Michael O'Dell – Valencia County**

We use Water Bank water and inquired when it will be cut off. Mr. Hamman advised MR. O'Dell that Mr. Gensler will be providing the water report and can ask questions at that time.

##### **Nettie Jones – Socorro County**

Ms. Jones is from Luis Lopez, and she farms there. She is one of the farms that got flooded in '05, '06, and last year. She stated that the railroad and the MRGCD were complacent. She provided the Board a hand out of pictures and notes. She says there are other projects that need to be tended to. She is also against the District protesting the transfer of water rights. It is usurping private property rights, she stated she is 76 years old, and can't always use her farm and now can't even transfer it.

##### **Marc Bluett – Valencia County**

Mr. Bluett provided the Board a packet of photographs and documents. He explained the documents and photos that he provided. Mr. Bluett advised the Board that 13 judges had looked at this case and trying to

take my land, the judge ordered that he cannot use his own ditch. What is the policy, they blocked me and you're shutting my water off. Director Duggins asked Mr. Bluett if he was in a Civil Suit and Mr. Bluett responded he was. Chairman Duggins advised Mr. Bluett that this Board cannot discuss legal matters that are on-going. Mr. Bluett stated that his neighbor is harassing him. General Counsel Bruce Wiggins directed Mr. Bluett to discuss his matter with Mr. Hamman.

Director Romero stated that she has spoken with Mr. Bluett and it appears to be an issue with his neighbor.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF FY19 BUDGET RESOLUTION BA-05-21-18-74**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BUDGET ADOPTION FISCAL YEAR 07-01-18 TO 06-30-19**

**No. BA-05-21-18-74**

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**WHEREAS**, the staff of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, State of New Mexico (the "District"), has prepared a budget for fiscal year 2018/2019; and

**WHEREAS**, said budget was developed on the basis of need following consultation with all departments, department supervisors and a committee of the Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors, being the Governing Body of the District, discussed and evaluated the budget at a regular meeting held on May 21, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors determined that the assessed property tax mill rates need to be increased 5% and the Water Service Charge increased by \$3 per acre to meet the Middle Rio Grande District's fiscal 2018/2019 budget and such rates shall be set at 5.0693 mills for residential property and 6.3334 mills for non-residential property, and the Water Service Charge increased to \$ 43 per acre,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors, being the Governing Body of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, hereby adopts the fiscal year 2018/2019 budget as presented, and directs the Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer of the District to request approval from the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration to levy mill rates of 5.0693 mills for Residential Property and 6.3334 mills for Non-residential Property to be effective for FY 2018/2019 and the Water Service Charge of \$ 43 per acre to be effective January 1, 2019.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2018.**

**MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glen Duggins, Vice-Chair

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John Kelly, Chairman - Absent

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Joaquin Baca, Director

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Karen Dunning, Director

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Valerie Moore, Director

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Derrick Lente, Director

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Beverly Romero, Director

**ATTEST:**

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David M. Fergeson, Secretary/Treasurer

Director Romero made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY19 BUDGET**. Director Lente seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD CHIEF ENGINEER – Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

Mr. Hamman thanked the Board for their support and moving forward and getting this budget approved, it is a milestone. First time we illustrated a surplus in our budget, and we are also moving forward with future planning and catching up with our maintenance and equipment replacement.

**a. Water Report – David Gensler**

Natural flows, of course, are unusually low this May. The main stem at Embudo is now about 300 cubic feet per second, and the Rio Chama up at La Puente is only about 170 cubic feet per second. In a normal year, it would be just past its peak right now and might be several thousand CFS. However, both of those numbers are still higher than what the URGWOM modeling done earlier this year had anticipated.

The District has been releasing from storage. We currently have about 1,200acre-feet a day now coming out of storage up at El Vado. Total of El Vado storage this afternoon is 67,000acre-feet. Again, though, the release and storage numbers are better predicted by those early season URGWOM modeling efforts.

Not intending to sugarcoat the outlook. It's still a tough year for us with potential for running out of water. He wanted to make clear that, so far at least; we're staying a little bit ahead of the curve and doing better than what some of those initial models that looked so bad said we were going to be doing.

Today, there's about 970 cubic feet per second entering the valley below Cochiti. He thinks that is probably our spring peak right there. We won't go down much from there for a while, but neither will we go up. Of that inflow, about 520 of it is making it to Central Avenue here in Albuquerque. There are a lot of losses from where it comes in to the valley down to Central Avenue. With more losses and some return flows below that point, and the return flows include the Water Utility Authority's waste water treatment plant outfall, we are seeing about 500 CFS arrive at Isleta Dam. We are bypassing 80 of that for the fish right now and diverting the rest.

Belen returns are supplying the Socorro Division at San Acacia through Unit 7 or through the lower San Juan riverside drain outfall. That leaves us a little bit of water leaking below San Acacia Dam still, not the most comfortable year we've ever been, but it seems to be working okay so far. The people are getting water, generally when and where they need it.

A number to be aware right now is total District storage. As of this afternoon, going through the numbers, we should be right around 108,000-acre feet of water stored at Heron, El Vado, and Abiquiu. Abiquiu because there's been a little bit of discrepancy in the El Vado release versus what we're calling for out of Abiquiu. We're labeling that San Juan Chama. So, we're starting to put some San Juan Chama water in the District's space in Abiquiu right now.

Still a lot of water for us; 108,000-acre feet is a lot of water. But we're starting to draw on it pretty heavily. At some point in the near future, he expects Reclamation will tag a portion of it for the P&P reserve. He also reminded everybody that 700acre-feet is locked up for Rio Grande Compact obligations. Seven hundred acre-feet isn't much, and glad it is a small number.

He also wanted to mention that as of yesterday, under the method one, we are now back under Rio Grande Compact Article VII restrictions and we can't store. Probably under method two, we will be back under in a day or two. There's not much difference right now in the two methods.

The water bank storage trigger is 91,000 acre-feet total storage. So, we're starting to look at that. Right now, that's 17,000-acre feet away from a curtailment, using water at about 1,200 acre-feet per day. You can do the math and see that we're headed there pretty quickly for potential curtailment if things do not change.

Earlier this spring, we discussed the use of the 2018 San Juan-Chama water. Typically, we reserve any year's annual San Juan-Chama allocation up in Heron until the end of the year and then move it to El Vado over the winter and use it the following year. However, given the water situation this year, he is recommending that we just go ahead and plan to consider that 2018 SJC allocation as part of this year's supply to use as needed.

Finally, we are diverting 135 CFS at Cochiti, 135 CFS at Angostura, and about 420 at Isleta Dam this afternoon. We've got about 190 CFS in the Socorro main canal, which only about 45 of that is diversion from the river. Most of it is coming down via Unit 7. And that little bit that we're diverting down there is actually delivered through the lower San Juan drain into the river, just above the dam. We're bypassing about 80 CFS below Isleta Dam, and we have about 60 CFS leakage through San Acacia Dam, really a lot more than we'd like. But, until we get some sediment moving in the river, there's nothing to plug up that leakage.

Reclamation is providing us with 80 CFS supplemental minnow water. The third of four planned minnow jiggles will occur tomorrow.

Mr. Hamman then reviewed Minnow Jiggles, which is part of our BO commitments to provide some opportunity for egg production in years without a natural runoff. The jiggle is just a brief cessation of diversions to produce a spike in the river and give the fish the flow cue it needs to spawn. The jiggle at Isleta tomorrow will involve a 12-hour reduction in our diversion by about 200 CFS to produce a sharp rise in flows below the dam. Hopefully, this will give the minnows that are spawning. It's being coordinated with the egg collection people from the Bio Park and Fish and Wildlife Service, and they will be out in the river to collect eggs for their captive propagation facilities. The first jiggle occurred May 7th below Isleta Dam. We cut our diversions by about 120 CFS on that day for 12 hours. The second occurred over the night of May 14th and 15th at Angostura Dam in conjunction with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. The final jiggle will be May 28th, 29th, again up at Angostura and the Water Utility Authority.

Now, the above given report has now changed due to the rain that has occurred in the last three hours. He just checked the gauges, and we are getting water out the concrete arroyos in Albuquerque right now, approximately 3,000 CFS coming out the North Channel.

So, probably, tonight, early tomorrow morning, there will be a lot of water at Isleta Dam, and we probably will not actually reduce diversions. We will wind up with a lot more water going past the dam for a short period of time than what was planning. Hopefully, that will be good for the fish, and it will make life a little easier for us to not have that 12-hour suspension.

Director Moore requested that Mr. Gensler provide the Board a written report at each meeting so that she can email the report out to her farmers. Chairman Duggins was concerned that putting something in written could be construed as "advisement" of the MRGCD to the farmers. Mr. Gensler reported that he had been posting reports to the web sites, but with this chaotic season, he has not been as diligent as he has been. He said he will get reports posted to the site. Director Moore suggested adding some type of disclaimer (this is just an estimate) to the report but to still post to help curb the rumors.

- b. **Water Operations Manager Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. M-05-21-18-154 Regarding the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption – Yasmeen Najmi, MRGCD Resources Planner**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
ADOPTING THE 2018 SOCORRO COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL  
NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

**M-05-21-18-154**

**WHEREAS**, all jurisdictions within Socorro County have exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, undertaking hazard mitigation actions before disasters occur will reduce the potential for harm to people and property and save taxpayer dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Socorro County has, in the last two decades, experienced several extreme events, including: drought; hail; heat and freezing temperatures; wildfires and flooding from the Rio Grande, tributaries and arroyos that damaged MRGCD lands and facilities and impacted constituents, water operations, habitat and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, many natural hazards addressed in the Mitigation Plan are predicted to increase in frequency and/or intensity with the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the MRGCD has worked proactively with Socorro County Emergency Management, Public Works, New Mexico Forestry Division and other partners to mitigate natural hazards but additional coordination, planning and resources are required; and

**WHEREAS**, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, an adoption of a hazard mitigation plan is required as a condition of future grant funding of mitigation projects; and

**WHEREAS**, a coalition of Socorro County agencies, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Group, with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Socorro County; and

**WHEREAS**, the group has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, the MRGCD participated in developing the Socorro County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and MRGCD Division and General Office staff developed priority projects and cost estimates to address natural hazards in Socorro County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the MRGCD Board of Directors hereby adopts in its entirety, the “2018 Socorro County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan” (the “Plan”) as the jurisdiction’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and will work to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction, subject to available funding in approved budgets, and will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors directs and authorizes the Chief Executive Officer and staff to fulfill the obligations of MRGCD in the implementation of the Plan to achieve the following objectives:

- Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority;
- Will continue its support of the Mitigation Planning Group as described within the Plan;
- Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan;
- Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operation; and
- Will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2018.**

**MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

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Glen Duggins, Vice-Chair

**ATTEST:**

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David M. Fergeson, Secretary/Treasurer

Yasmeen Najmi reported that the Resolution is substantially the same as when we gave it to you last board meeting. A couple of very minor changes were made to clarify that this resolution is going to be given to Socorro County and other partners in this plan. We are working to execute the actions identified in the plan that it is our choice what we choose to implement and which projects and that is it subject to our approval and subject to available funding and approved budgets. Mr. Hamman added that it is a good resolution to pass.

Chairman Duggins asked if there was some “clean up the Bosque money” through the fire department. Ms. Najmi responded that we did get some FEMA funding for Bosque work. Unfortunately, we cannot use it on conservancy land until we get the title issue worked out with the Bureau of Reclamation because that federal FEMA money cannot go on federal lands. In the future, we will have an opportunity towards that. In the meantime, we’ve gotten a lot of other funding through the state for our property. Socorro County, at least the southern part, is in pretty good shape. We need to work a little bit on the northern county. She added that staff is planning projects to propose in this mitigation plan. One of them was to look at a hydrologic study in Socorro County to look at the impacts of especially arroyos and tributaries on our facilities and particular areas that we wanted to focus on.

Director Moore made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. M-05-21-18-154 REGARDING THE FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN ADOPTION.** Director Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

**c. Discussion on Cutting Wood Along River Banks – Director Romero, Mike Hamman, CE/CEO and Yasmeen Najmi, Resource Planner**

Director Romero would like Valencia County and all the Bosque to be considered for constituents to be able to cut wood along the river banks because it will not only help in clearing the dead trees, but it will help the people who cannot afford wood. Mr. Hamman added that he would like to do more of a broad briefing for the June 11<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to open discussion on topics such as this one. We can get into detail about how we designate an authorize access points to the public. Mr. Hamman also suggested getting with the Board committee and possibly drafting a policy with the help of Ms. Namji.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - REPORTS FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) - CHIEF WATER COUNSEL AND GENERAL COUNSEL**

Neither counsel had anything to report at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**a. Report on MRCOG Executive Committee Meeting, May 10, 2018 – Director Dunning**

We have been a member of the Executive Committee for MRCOG; one of the items that was on the agenda was the approval of the budget for next year. They also discussed the dues that are paid by all the entities, i.e. municipalities and the counties. Dues are based on your population however, for special districts dues are not based on anything. They have kept dues flat because municipalities were doing so poorly budget-wise. This year, however, they are going to raise dues. Director Dunning brought up at the MRCOG meeting that she understands dues being raised, but there has to be some type of fair calculation that is applied to come up with the amount. They responded that they cannot come up with that rationale for this year's budget, but next year they will come up with the rationale for how they charge special districts and schools. So, next year, they will have an explanation, and it may change our dues, based on what they use for their criteria.

Another item on the agenda was to have a taskforce to deal with fracking in the member counties. That is kind of controversial because some people in MRCOG, like the City of Rio Rancho, may see it as an economic development opportunity. They had a big discussion about what it would mean to have a taskforce. They ended up saying the task force would just be a technical resource.

Director Romero made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON MRCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY 10, 2018**. Director Moore seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

**b. Report on Personnel Committee Meeting May 18, 2018 – Directors Dunning, Moore, and Romero**

On May 18, Directors Moore, Romero, and Dunning met with staff (Becky, Dave, and Christy) to discuss making changes to the retiree health policy, and we came up with some recommendations. However, we will not report back on them today because they are undergoing legal review, and our General Counsel is involved in a federal court jury trial, and advised the Board they would report back when legal review is completed.

Director Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY 18, 2018**. Director Lente seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

**c. Report on Quarterly Meeting for the Water Resources Board of MRCOG, May 2, 2018 – Director Baca**

Director Baca reported that this was a quarterly meeting for the MRCOG Water Resources Board. There were two very interesting presentations, one by New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Minerals, the Water Resources Branch. They went over some of the hydrogeologic studies that they have going on by counties and also some of the 3D maps they are making. They do not have the resources to really do the entire state, but very interesting work from a hydro water work perspective. This information and reports is also posted on their website.

The other item was from the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority. Carlos Bustos did a report on the numbers they crunched for the last decade of how water is being used, what type of efficiencies, how it's worked out, and what their plans are for the future. That discussion was very interesting and really impressive on how they break down the numbers.

Director Romero made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON QUARTERLY MEETING FOR THE WATER RESOURCES BOARD OF MRCOG, MAY 2, 2018**. Director Moore seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of May 21, 2018.

**ATTESTED:**

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David M. Fergeson  
Secretary/Treasurer

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John P. Kelly,  
Chairman, MRGCD Board of Director