

**MINUTES OF THE  
2,182nd REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**DECEMBER 13, 2021, 3:00 P.M.**

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Dunning called the regular meeting to order at 3:18 pm at the MRGCD General Office. The following Directors and Staff were present:

<b>DIRECTORS</b>		<b>STAFF</b>	
Karen Dunning, Madam Chair	Present	Mike Hamman	Chief Engineer/CEO
Stephanie Russo Baca, Vice Chair	Present	Dr. Chuck DuMars	Chief Water Counsel
Barbara Baca, Director	Present	Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
John Kelly, Director	Present	Jason Casuga	Chief Operating Officer
Joaquin Baca, Director	Present	Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Glen Duggins, Director	Present	Anne Marken	Acting Water Operations Mgr.
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present	Mike Lopez	Water Distribution Div. Mgr.
		DeAnna Philips	GIS Tech / Board Liaison

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

Andrew Hautzinger, Valencia SWCD	Willie West, MRGCD
Ashley Martinez, Wilson & Company	Elaine Hebard, NM OSE
Tricia Snyder, Wild Earth Guardians	Yasmeen Najmi, MRGCD
Santiago Maestas	Trevor Birt, NM ISC
Anders Lundahl, NM ISC	Jennifer Faler, USBR
Carolyn Donnelly, USBR	Viola Sanchez, BIA
Julian Avalos, MRGCD	Judith McSweeney, MRGCD
Craig Hoover, Bohannon Huston Inc	Michael Lundmark, Hummingbird Farms
Estella Gamboa, MRGCD	Nolan Meadows, Mc Farms
Gabriella Coughlin, MRGCD	Mike Padilla, MRGCD
Doug Strech, MRGCD	Matt Chavez, MRGCD
Alicia Lopez, MRGCD	Francesca Shirley, MRGCD
Danielle Feygin, MRGCD	Matt Martinez, MRGCD
Sloan Washburn, MRGCD	Daniel Arquero, MRGCD
Marie Vandergeest, MRGCD	Mike Apodaca, MRGCD
Rita Padilla Gutierrez	Ricardo Dow y Anaya
Gail Goodman	

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

Mike Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Madam Chair Dunning declared a quorum, and the hybrid meeting was publicly noticed.

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

Director Joaquin Baca stated he and family were ill and didn't attend the meeting under Item No. 13b.

Director Duggins made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA with the above changes**. Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification - December 13, 2021
- b. Consideration/Approval of November 2021 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins
- c. Consideration/Approval of November 2021 Invoice for Law & Resource Planning Associates
- d. Consideration/Approval of the minutes for the Special Board Meeting - November 8,
- e. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting - November 8, 2021
- f. Discussion/Approval of 2022 MRGCD Holiday Schedule
- g. Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for November 2021 (For Informational Purposes Only)

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**. Vice Chair Russo Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – INTRODUCTION OF RECENT MRGCD NEW HIRES**

Jason Casuga announced Danielle Feygin as the new GIS Analyst, who will be working closely with Doug (Strech) and the Engineering/Mapping team.

He also announced that Matt Martinez will be the replacement for Mike Lopez's position as Water Distribution Division Manager. He stated that Mr. Martinez has much knowledge on our ditch banks and was a member of the hydrology team under David Gensler that developed and instituted many measuring devices we use.

Mr. Casuga announced that Julian Avalos has been hired for the Division Manager in Socorro. Lastly, he stated that Thomas Padilla, ISO Supervisor, has accepted to take on the additional role of being the supervisor over maintenance also in Socorro.

The Chair welcomed them all and Director Kelly had a few comments for Matt Martinez.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 - ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are limited to six (6) minutes)****Santiago Maestas**

Mr. Maestas thanked Mike Hamman for his service and support on behalf of the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias as well as the acequias in the north valley.

**Michael Lundmark**

Mr. Lundmark is the owner of Hummingbird Farms in Belen and stated he needed some clarification on Item No. 7. He asked if he was to put in an alfalfa field would he be able to get the second and third watering to get it through the year. Mr. Lundmark then stated that he believes the distribution of water last year was unfair and inequitable, and that he believes going from check to check promotes poor practices and discourages people that manage their fields well. He said the people that use their water efficiently are getting less water and not getting water as often.

Mr. Lundmark's time ran out and Director Kelly suggested giving him extra time after Mr. Hamman's presentation to readdress the Board, and Madam Chair agreed.

**John Thompson**

Mr. Thompson, the MRGCD's lobbyist, thanked Mike Hamman for his service and friendship and stated he looks forward to working with him in his new role.

**Director Duggins** offered condolences to Mike Lopez's family, the Rosales family, and the Greenwood families after a terrible accident in Socorro County. Madam Chair Dunning also offered condolences.

**Rita Padilla Gutierrez**

Ms. Padilla Gutierrez shared her frustration regarding people with wells are taking from their aquifer and getting more water more often than those who do not have wells.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****a. Bureau of Reclamation - Jennifer Faler, Area Manager**

Ms. Faler stated that Reclamation is gearing up. She stated they started this planning process a year ago to improve conveyance efficiencies. She mentioned they think some of the O&M dollars could be better spent with this planning effort. She said she wanted to assure people they are focused on improving the river channel. Ms. Faler stated if they remove a tree for the river channel, they are required to put at least seven trees back.

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

Ms. Sanchez stated she has spoken to the pueblos about the new O&M contract that is due at the end of February and told them she didn't think that was enough time to negotiate, recommended to them to consider extending the old contract. She reminded everyone that when irrigation starts late and ends early, that does not include pueblo lands, which requires permission. Ms. Sanchez also cautioned that guidelines should not be the same water guidelines for a dry year as it would be for a wet year. She also recommended looking through the old easement documents to make sure operation maintenance is being done on the ones they're supposed to be done on. She stated that even though she is retiring, that if anyone needs her for anything, to feel free to give her a call. Sandra Lucero will be the acting Designated Engineer until the position is filled. Ms. Sanchez thanked the Board and MRGCD staff for all their help and cooperation.

Director Kelly, Mr. Hamman and Dr. DuMars thanked Ms. Sanchez for her service.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE START, END AND OPERATIONS OF THE IRRIGATION SEASON WHILE NEW MEXICO REMAINS IN SIGNIFICANT DEBIT TO THE RIO GRANDE COMPACT - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

Mr. Hamman gave a recap of previous years and stated this is the third year in a row that they have had below average runoff. He stated that if they hadn't done the early shutdown, the debit would have grown even more. He expressed that it is a very difficult time for New Mexico and water users. Mr. Hamman stated he realizes they have to tighten up operations, work with farmers, and determine quality of operations and their goals to improve that. He also stated they were going to start enforcing the 1 acre per hour operational requirement. Mr. Hamman said they learned it is too difficult to squeeze the farmers on both ends of the season, so they have a proposal to continue

making Compact deliveries, but also set up the system earlier, so farmers can have winter crops and spring moisture to get crops irrigated. He stated that he expects and hopes to have enough water during the runoff period, and that the idea is to keep the river moving water south through the runoff. He expressed that even with all their efforts, they still did not meet the delivery requirement for this year because of the dry nature and the fact that the channel between San Acacia and Elephant Butte needs much work and that they need to come up with a strategy to get water to Elephant Butte more efficiently. However, he mentioned that El Vado is getting reconstructed, and that will give them a place to store water. Mr. Hamman said the goal is to have enough water to work with to meet the needs of the irrigators. He stated he is very confident they can meet the needs in the early season, and as the runoff ramps up, they will expand and add more irrigators and start scheduling the alfalfa crops that are mature.

- 1) Spring Operational Goals Based on Water Supply - Diversions for charging will be staggered in the March to leave approximately 50% of the baseflow in the river in order to provide Compact deliveries as well as providing irrigation deliveries for early crops starting the week of March 21st for the Socorro Division and March 28th for the Belen Division. The Albuquerque and Cochiti Divisions will be targeted for irrigation deliveries starting the weeks of April 4th and April 11th. Mature crops will be scheduled beginning in early April until all fields receive the first irrigation then scheduling on the rotational plan will begin and continue for as long as water is available above the prior and paramount flow for the Pueblos.

Dr. DuMars suggested trying to get federal funding to clean out the Low Flow Conveyance Channel to get water through easier. He also stated he thinks the Board should take a more affirmative role in saying they are going to solve the Compact delivery problem. Dr. DuMars asked how much it would cost to clean out the channel, and Mr. Hamman responded they are in the process of taking over the operation and maintenance of the Low Flow Conveyance Channel along with Drain Unit 7 and requested assistance to the Bureau of Reclamation's middle Rio Grande budget for an additional \$30 plus million to utilize.

Mr. Lundmark was allotted his extra time and made additional comments regarding the natural flow of the river and questioned the river's ownership. (Dialogue was not audible in the recording.) Dr. DuMars added that we are in compliance with the compact because we're allowed to fill the debit. He stated the more hole we dig, the greater the debit. At some point, we won't be able to repay or utilize any water. Mr. Hamman added that there's an annual delivery requirement each year. The District has operational requirements in addition to those commitments.

Director Kelly requested posting a summary of the Rio Grande Compact on the District's website for people to see the annual delivery requirement and where they have to split the flows that favors New Mexico in a drought year and a short description of Article 6 and Article 7. Dr. DuMars responded he would make the summary available.

Mr. Hamman also added that he sent a letter to the irrigators which explained the challenges in the Article 6 issues.

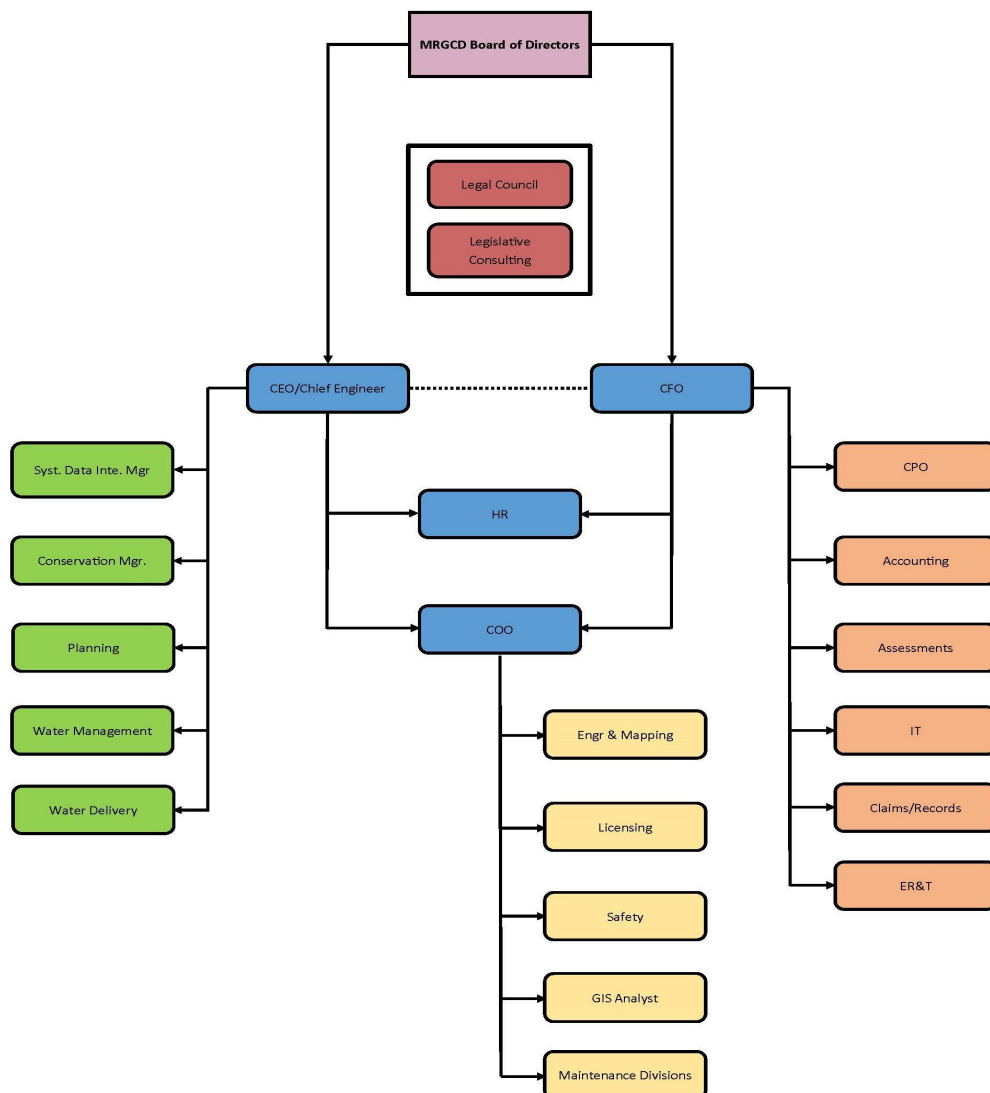
Director Duggins stated he would like the irrigation, agronomy, and agriculture committees to review the water distribution dates before setting them in stone, because he believes it can be improved. He stated he thinks Gabby (Coughlin) should be at all

the irrigation meetings and that the irrigation committee and agriculture committee should be combined into one.

Madam Chair Duggins agreed the agriculture and irrigation committee can combine since it has the same members.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER, NEW ORGANIZATIONAL CHART, NEW OR AMENDED CONTRACTS FOR ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, AND RETAINER FOR CEO.**

Chair Madam Dunning stated the staff prepared the reorganization chart and recommended to the Board that they approve a change in Pamela Fanelli's contract as she will now have more reports than she does currently. She stated they also made a recommendation for Jason Casuga, the current Chief Operating Officer, who was recommended by the personnel committee to be the acting CEO, which necessitated a contract.



Director Kelly on behalf of the Personnel Committee (Chair Dunning, himself and Director Barbara Baca) recommended to approve the revised organizational chart submitted which puts more duties on the CFO. The Chair also requested that Christine Nardi, HR Director, email the District employees a copy of the chart.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THE DRAFT PROVIDED TO US IN THE MAIL OUT FOR THIS MEETING.** Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly, also on behalf of the Personnel Committee, recommended to appoint Jason Casuga as the acting Chief Engineer/CEO with a pay increase that is included in a contract written by Lorna Wiggins which includes deadlines and the term of said contract is 120 days maximum.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE TO APPOINT JASON CASUGA AS OUR ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO, WITH A PAY INCREASE THAT IS INCLUDED IN A CONTRACT WITH A TERM OF 120 DAYS MAXIMUM.** Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly reported that the committee listened to Mr. Hamman's evaluation of Ms. Fanelli's performance over the last year and that Mr. Hamman recommended the maximum compensation increase per her existing contract and the Board has accepted his recommendation of the CFO's merit increase for calendar year 2021.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE MR. HAMMAN'S RECOMMENDATION FOR HER MERIT INCREASE BASED ON MS. FANELLI'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW.** Director Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

The committee also recommended that Ms. Fanelli's contract be modified to include those additional duties, be modified to clarify sick leave conversion upon retirement, the same as a 20-year employee, and to provide a 10% increase for her additional duties going forward.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO MODIFY MS. FANELLI'S CONTRACT TO INCLUDE THE ADDITIONAL DUTIES, CLARIFIED SICK LEAVE CONVERSION UPON RETIREMENT, AND PROVIDE 10% INCREASE.** Director Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly reported the Personnel Committee discussed Mike Hamman's retirement date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the effective date of Mr. Casuga becoming the acting Chief Engineer/CEO, the committee recommended that the District retain their ability to consult with Mr. Hamman on various ongoing issues, including legal issues. Ms. Wiggins has drafted a contract and discussed the terms and conditions in the executive session. Mr. Hamman is agreeable to those terms and conditions.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO PUT MR. HAMMAN ON A 12-MONTH RETAINER.** Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 – HONORING MIKE A. HAMMAN, CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO FOR HIS 7 YEARS OF SERVICE AND MIKE LOPEZ, WATER DISTRIBUTION DIVISION MANAGER, FOR HIS 26 YEARS OF SERVICE - JASON CASUGA, COO**

Chair Dunning stated this is not good bye that they will be involved in the middle Rio Grande valley for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Casuga gave a background of his friendship with Mike Lopez. He then presented to him a plaque to show appreciation for his loyal and dedicated service of 26 years and a MRGCD black jacket. District employees pitched in and gave Mr. Lopez a generous retirement gift as well.

Mr. Casuga said a few words about Mike Hamman remembering how Mr. Hamman stated once that “we don’t manage people, we manage projects”. He then presented Mike Hamman with a plaque to show appreciation for his loyal and dedicated service of 7 years and a MRGCD black, light weight jacket as he already owned a heavy weight jacket. District employees also pitched in and gave Mr. Hamman a nice retirement gift as well.

Mr. Hamman thanked everyone and expressed his gratitude and respect for all the Board, former Board members, the staff and people he’s met up and down the river from Cochiti Pueblo down to Bosque Del Apache.

Madam Chair Dunning expressed they hope to have a reception to tell Mike Hamman goodbye, but they will try to wait until the Spring due to the rising COVID numbers.

*The reception break took place at 4:58pm. Director Sandoval left the meeting due to curfews on the pueblo at 5:16pm, which is when the meeting resumed.*

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO - Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM**

**a. Report of the Exit Interview for Fiscal year 2021 Audit with Ricci & Company, December 10, 2021 - Pam Fanelli, CFO and Director Kelly, Chair Dunning and Director Barbara Baca and Approval of the Finance Committee Report**

Ms. Fanelli reported that the District accounting staff, CEO, COO, and two members of the Finance Committee attended the Audit Exit Conference. Ricci & Company are the auditors that performed the annual audit. The District received an unmodified opinion, which means our financial statements are materially correct and fairly stated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The previous year’s finding was resolved but received one additional finding this year related to take home vehicles. She stated they have implemented additional processes and procedures, such as, developing a form for when employees are given a vehicle that will go to HR to calculate the imputed income. Ms. Fanelli said the audit was submitted Friday and they hope to have the report within one month.

Chair Dunning also reported that the auditors had nothing but praise for the District. Director Baca concurred. Director Kelly noted he was not in attendance.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**. Vice Chair Russo Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**.

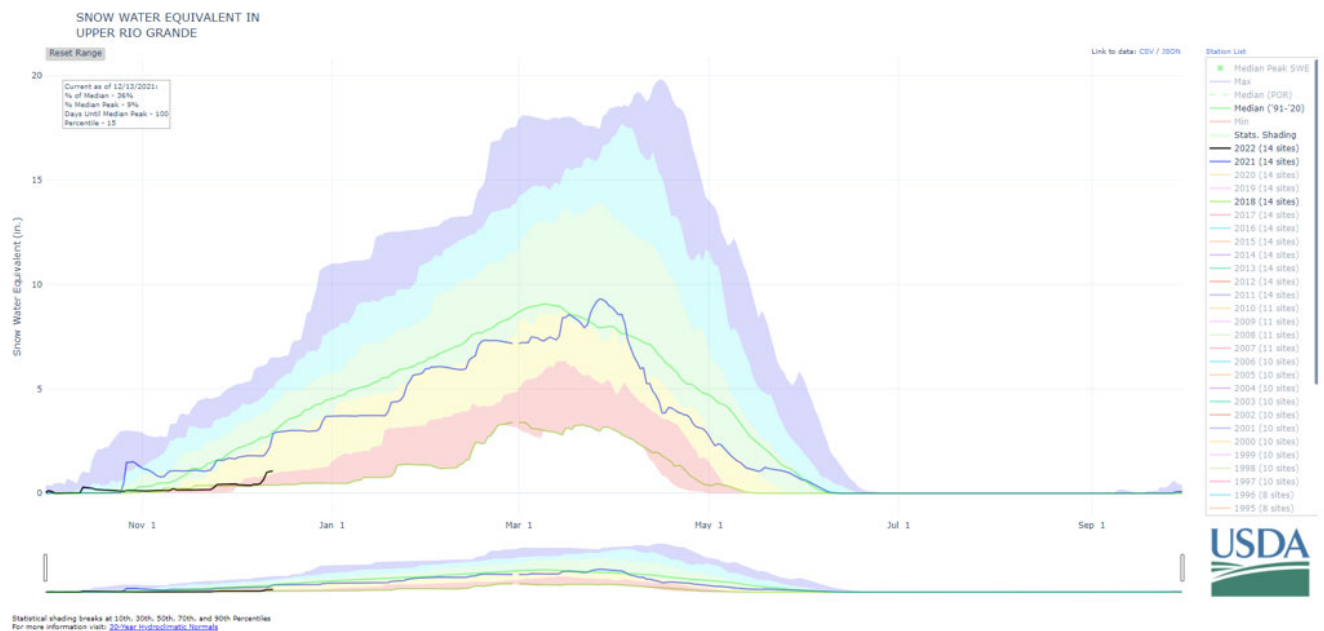
## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 – REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO - Mike A. Hamman, PE**

### **a. Water Supply Conditions Report - Anne Marken, Water Operations Division Manager**

Ms. Marken reported that, “MRGCD ended non-pueblo irrigation season on October 1<sup>st</sup> this year due to our need to deliver water to Elephant Butte for compact purposes and limited supplies. Since the beginning of October, Elephant Butte has risen over 40,000AF, despite these deliveries the estimated compact debt as of the end of November is about 140,000AF and the projected debt for the year is now expected to end up being about 130,000AF.

Rio Grande Compact Articles 6 and 7 will be in place in 2022 but we wouldn’t be able to store in El Vado any way due to storage restrictions from the construction that will begin after the 2022 runoff. The only storage water available to the MRGCD in 2022 will be the 2022 San Juan Chama allocation, which will likely be less than a full allocation.

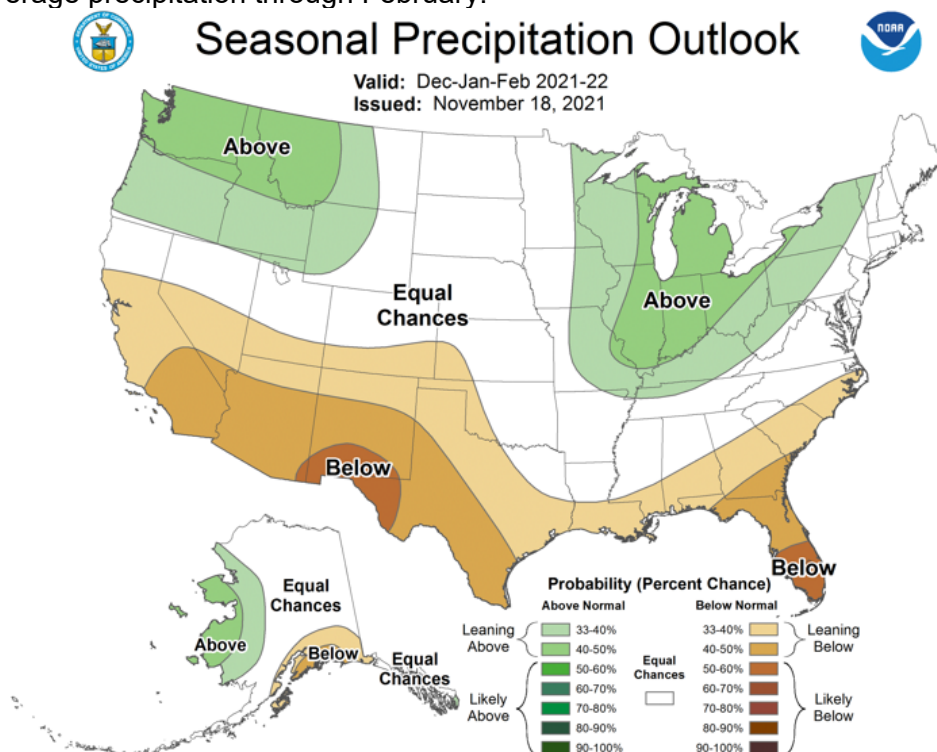
The news on snowpack conditions is similarly dismal, the upper Rio Grande basin is at 36% of median and the headwaters are doing slightly better at 51% of median. She presented a graphic of current snow pack conditions in the Upper Rio Grande from the NRCs SNOTEL network. She explained that the lime green line is median snowpack, the purple line represents 2021 conditions, and the olive green line is the 2018 snowpack conditions. The black line represents this year, there has been some accumulation in the basin in the past couple days but are well below where we were this time last year.



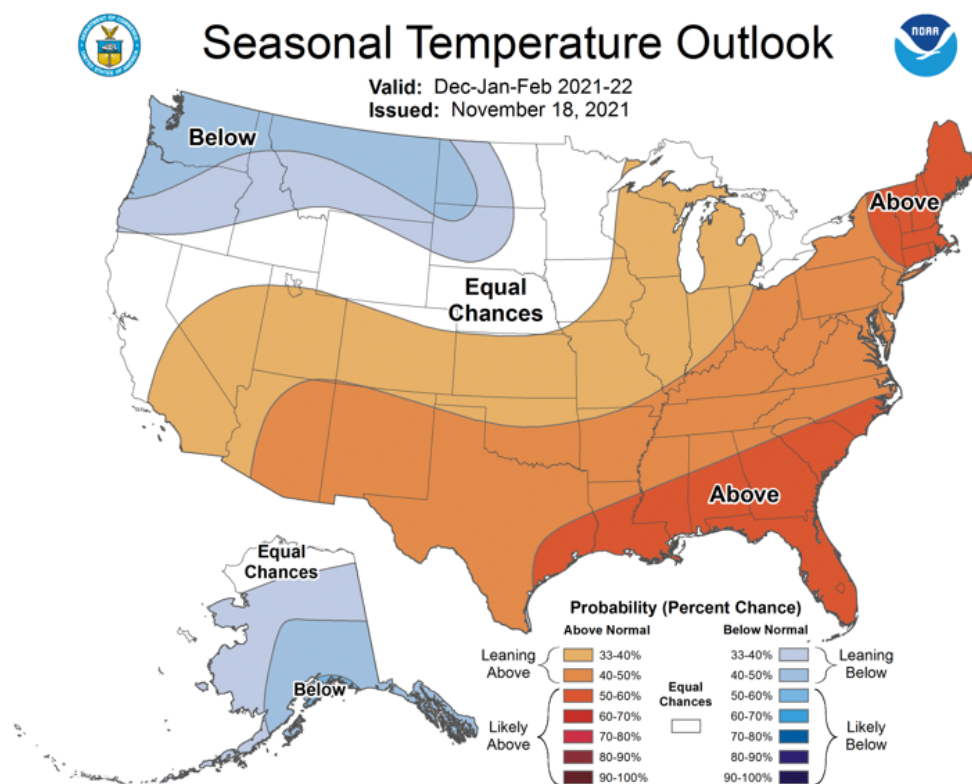
She then included a graphic of the NWS three-month precipitation outlook. The outlook for the MRGCD service area and the Rio Grande headwaters range from a 33-50% chance of below



average precipitation through February.



The next graphic is the three-month temperature outlook with the same story as the precipitation outlook, 33-50% chances for above average temperatures.



Given current conditions, compact and construction restrictions and weather outlook, the 2022 irrigation season will likely be challenging. She felt it is early on in the water year and conditions can change.

**b. Request to Perform a Study to Determine Methods for Delivery of Irrigation Water South of Feeder No. 3 Under Restricted use of the Belen Highline Canal - Jason Casuga, COO**

Jason Casuga supplied a letter from Bohannon Huston, Inc. (BHI) to the Board who provided a proposal for professional engineering services under their on-call engineering and surveying agreement (August 2019). BHI will provide services as described in the scope of work, Exhibit A. Their fees for these services are detailed in Exhibit B. Work will be completed on a lump sum basis in the amount of \$63,469 plus applicable gross receipts

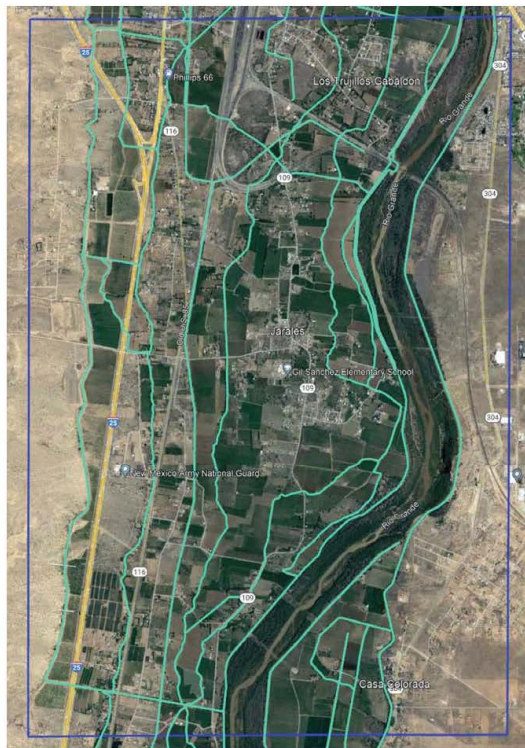
**EXHIBIT A  
GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK AND FEE STRUCTURE  
BELEN HIGHLINE CANAL ALTERNATIVES STUDY  
DECEMBER 8, 2021  
PAGE 1 OF 4**

**Introduction:**

The purpose of this task order is to develop and evaluate alternatives to convey irrigation water apart from the Belen Highline Canal (BHLC) in the Belen area west of the Rio Grande due to repeated exposure to lawsuit and claims of damages.

**A. Project Kickoff and Data Gathering**

This task involves obtaining and reviewing design and record drawings and normal operating flow rates for MRGCD facilities in the general area shown below.



B:\Middle Rio Grande Conservancy-MRGCD (43439)\05-OnCall\2020\024 - MRGCD On-Call Engineering Services\TO 11 - BHLC Alternatives Study\MRGCD BHLC Alternatives Study SOW.docx

tax.

**EXHIBIT A  
GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK AND FEE STRUCTURE  
BELEN HIGHLINE CANAL ALTERNATIVES STUDY  
DECEMBER 8, 2021  
PAGE 2 OF 4**

Available information for the following facilities will be obtained from the MRGCD:

- Belen Highline Canal
- New Belen Wasteway
- Tibo Feeder
- Garcia Acequia
- Sanchez Feeder
- Sanchez Acequia
- Feeder No. 3
- Lower Arroyos Acequia
- Old and New Jarales Acequias
- Olguin Acequia
- Sabinal Acequia
- Lower Old Jarales Acequia

**Assumptions:**

- MRGCD will provide all available data following a data request from BHI.

**B. Conveyance Capacity Analysis and Normal Operations Understanding**

This task involves estimating the original conveyance design capacity of each of the facilities identified in Task A, based on available design or record drawing information and developing an understanding of how the MRGCD typically operates their facilities in the study area. For purposes of this study, it is assumed that if over time sedimentation has occurred that has reduced their current flow capacities, the facilities will be rest to their original conveyance design capacity, at a minimum. Conveyance capacities be estimated using Manning's equation based on controlling/limiting canal sections longitudinal slopes. Conveyance capacities will be compared, where available from previous Belen Highline Canal Stormwater Management Plan project, and if existing conveyance capacities from that study (which included limited field survey) show capacities more than the original design capacities, then the larger existing capacities will be used.

BHI will meet with MRGCD, at MRGCD offices, to understand normal operations of irrigation facilities in the study area in terms of typical flow rates and facility connectivity. In addition, BHI staff will join MRGCD for up to 2-1/2 days of site/field investigation to further understand the operation of the area irrigation facilities. BHI will also develop simplified schematic plan view illustrating system connectivity and normal operation flow rates.

**Deliverables:**

- Tabular and graphical summaries of the facility conveyance capacities

**Assumptions:**

- MRGCD will provide detailed system operations data typical flow rates and facility connectivity for all the facilities within the study area.

**EXHIBIT A  
GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK AND FEE STRUCTURE  
BELEN HIGHLINE CANAL ALTERNATIVES STUDY  
DECEMBER 8, 2021  
PAGE 3 OF 4**

- Field survey of existing MRGCD facilities is not included.
- Preparation of a dynamic wave model, such as a SWMM model, that reflects routing and attenuation of flows throughout the irrigation system network is not included. Capacity analysis will be based upon stand-alone steady state hydraulic calculations using Manning's equation for each facility.

**C. Development of Conveyance Alternatives**

This task involves developing alternatives to convey irrigation water to the project area and downstream without use of the BHL south of the Tibo Feeder. A half day Alternatives planning session/workshop with MRGCD engineering and operations staff, Mike Lopez, and BHI staff will be conducted to brainstorm potential conveyance alternatives. Possible alternatives may include increasing the capacity of existing conveyance facilities (such as improving the Tibo Feeder or removing the choke point in Garcia acequia), adding new conveyances, and the use of pump station(s). Following the workshop, BHI will further evaluate up to 3 or 4 alternatives identified in the workshop and develop conceptual plans for each alternative. Conceptual plans will include plan view schematic layouts, typical canal sections, and pipe sizes (as appropriate). Planning level cost estimates will be prepared for each alternative and all alternatives will be reviewed with MRGCD staff. Alternatives will be refined based on MRGCD input and a recommendation made of a preferred alternative for further study.

**Deliverables:**

- Conceptual designs for each alternative.
- Planning level cost estimates for each alternative.

**Assumptions:**

- Conceptual designs will be very schematic in nature but sufficient to assess potential viability and feasibility of each alternative and to allow relative planning level comparisons between the alternatives.
- SWMM modeling is excluded.

**D. Alternatives Report**

This task involves preparing a brief technical report summarizing the alternatives development and recommendations. BHI will prepare and submit a draft report to the MRGCD for review and comment. And meet with MRGCD to review the report and agency comments. MRGCD comments will be addressed and we will publish a final Alternatives Report.

**Deliverables:**

- Draft Alternatives Report
- Final Alternatives Report

B Middle Rio Grande Conservancy MRGCD (834305-OrCall-2020024 - MRGCD On-Call Engineering Services) 011 - BHL Alternatives Study/MRCD BHL Alternatives Study (2020)doc

2 Middle Rio Grande Conservancy MRGCD (834305-OrCall-2020024 - MRGCD On-Call Engineering Services) 011 - BHL Alternatives Study/MRCD BHL Alternatives Study (2020)doc

**EXHIBIT B**

MRGCD Belen Highline Canal Alternatives Study 12/8/2021										
	Engr 1 Hours	Engr 2 Hours	Engr 3 Hours	GIS/Prof 2 Hours	Asst 6 Hours	Total Hours	Fixed Costs	Subconsultants	Total Cost	
	PG/PM	QC	Engineer/ Mechanical		TBD					
Fee Schedules Rates	Craig \$240.00	Rika \$160.00	Justin \$120.00		Andrea \$105.00					
<b>A. Project Kickoff and Data Gathering</b>										
1 Project setup, kickoff, and task management	2	1	1		1	5				\$685.00
2 Obtain and review design and record drawings from MRGCD for existing irrigation conveyance facilities in study area	1		8			9				\$1,200.00
<b>TOTAL TASK A</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,085.00</b>
<b>B. Conveyance Capacity Analysis and Normal Operations Understanding</b>										
1 Calculate conveyance capacities for existing irrigation facilities	5	2	18			25				\$3,720.00
2 Meeting with MRGCD to understand normal system operations	3		3			6	\$8.80	\$950.00		\$1,748.80
3 Fieldsite investigation with MRGCD staff to understand normal system operations	2		20			22	\$28.40	\$3,300.00		\$6,728.40
4 Develop schematic of system operations	2		2	8		12				\$5,625.00
5 Task management	3				1	4				\$825.00
<b>TOTAL TASK B</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>\$ 35.20</b>	<b>\$ 3,950.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 13,540.20</b>
<b>C. Development of Conveyance Alternatives</b>										
1 Alternatives workshop - prep, conduct, and attend	6		6	1	1	14		\$950.00		\$3,025.00
2 Conceptual design of 3 to 4 alternatives	15	8	60	36		119		\$2,640.00		\$16,460.00
3 Alternative cost estimates	5	2	24			31				\$4,440.00
4 Review alternatives with MRGCD (virtual meeting)	2		2			4		\$330.00		\$1,050.00
5 Refine alternatives	4	1	15	9		29				\$3,840.00
6 Task management	8				2	10				\$2,130.00
<b>TOTAL TASK C</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,830.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 32,965.00</b>
<b>D. Alternatives Report</b>										
1 Prepare draft Alternatives Report	8	2	30	8	8	56				\$7,520.00
2 Meet with MRGCD to review draft report	3		3			6				\$1,060.00
3 Review report to address MRGCD comments	3	1	10	3	3	20				\$2,715.00
4 Task management	4				1	5				\$1,065.00
<b>TOTAL TASK D</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 12,360.00</b>
<b>E. Board Presentation</b>										
1 Prepare MRGCD board presentation	3		4		2	9				\$1,410.00
2 MRGCD Board presentation	3		3			6	\$8.80			\$1,088.80
<b>TOTAL TASK E</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$ 8.80</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,498.80</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>\$ 44.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,590.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 63,469.00</b>
NMGR @ 7.875%										\$4,998.18
<b>TOTAL FEE WITH NMGR</b>										<b>\$ 68,467.18</b>

BHL Alternatives Study

Bohannon Huston, Inc. Confidential

Page 1

Director Kelly recognized that Bohannon Huston's Water Resources Group Senior Vice President, Craig Hoover, who was in attendance. Director Kelly stated it says they are not building a hydraulic model within this contract, but he expressed they are going to need that model.

Jason Casuga stated as part of the Storm Water Management Plan, they have a SWMM model built for much of this area.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE BELEN HIGHLINE CANAL ALTERNATIVE STUDY AS PRESENTED**. Vice Chair Russo Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**.

**c. 2021 Legislative Session Update and Related - John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist**

John Thompson stated the session was a redistricting session and has been going on for a week and the only maps that have made it to the governor's office are the congressional maps and past awaiting their signature. Senate bill 2's stuck in the senate awaiting a hearing, and House Bill 8's awaiting hearing in the Senate Rule Committee. He reported he has been up there every day trying to talk to anybody willing to listen regarding drought funding. Mr. Thompson also explained the ARPA funds were added to special session when Supreme Court ruled the government did not have authority to appropriate funds near the Constitution. He informed the Board the \$10 million for the Water Project Fund was removed. He expressed the remaining half of the \$480 million appropriated from House Bill 2 will be divvied up. Mr. Thompson said he would plead with people to get ARPA funding to go to water. He's not sure the election bill will be heard or not.

Madam Chair Dunning asked what date the governor had to issue the call, to which Mr. Thompson replied, it is the last day for introductions, which is around Valentine's Day.

Mr. Thompson stated he had a great meeting with Senator McKenna at the Loretta intersection and received full support for the project. Also, Mr. Hamman suggested an emergency following program to help make our Compact delivery obligations. People would voluntarily sign up with the understanding that they would be helping and allowing farmers that are trying to make a living have a better shot with the available water. Also understanding that whatever water is set aside with the leasing program will make it down to Elephant Butte.

**d. Report on the Harris Farm Tour, November 10, 2021 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO, Jason Casuga, COO, Chair Dunning, Vice Chair Russo Baca, Directors Kelly and Duggins**

Mr. Hamman thanked the Harris' for setting up the event. He felt it was a good opportunity to see his operations, but especially get everyone's ideas and thoughts.

Chair Dunning added that it was a good turnout and felt it was very helpful.

Director Duggins suggested having farm tours in the southern parts of Valencia and Socorro Counties.

Director Joaquin Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE HARRIS FARM TOUR**. Vice Chair Russo Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**.

**e. Report on the Meeting with Senator Lujan, November 10, 2021 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO, Director Duggins and Vice Chair Russo Baca**

Director Kelly didn't attend, but Vice Chair Russo Baca had.

Mr. Hamman stated Senator Lujan was very gracious and intent on finding out exactly what was going on. He stated they focused on NRCS policy and Department of Ag issues in general.

Vice Chair Russo Baca discussed her visit. (Dialogue was not audible during recording)

Director Duggins reported they discussed ailments of farmers. He was very impressed with Gabby (Coughlin) and requested that she have all the tools she needs.

**f. Report on Meeting With Corrales Residents Concerned About Drought Impacts to Riverside Drain Flows, November 15, 2021 - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO and Chair Dunning**

Mr. Hamman stated they had a pretty attentive audience including Ron Curry, Administrator of the Village of Corrales. He said they discussed why the riverside drain was dry. He stated they have concerns of where things are going from here. He expressed informing them of the need for people to engage from the village side as well as others who work with programs to stabilize the river at the elevation it is or help it come back up some. Mr. Hamman also stated the Harvey Jones Outfall Project is going well and have a water source there. Mr. Hamman explained there are some ways to work with various entities to come up with offset water if they need to do some enhancement at the riverside drain. He explained there are pressures on the farming community. He said where there used to be 3000 acres in that area, it's not down to 900 acres, and that for every new home in Corrales, another well hits the groundwater table.

**g. Report on the Six MRG Pueblos Coalition Meeting, December 2, 2021 -- Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

Mr. Hamman stated it was a pretty straight forward conversation. He stated they made a recommendation that we go into February and extend the existing contract one more year. Mr. Hamman explained it's his experience that you need at least two good storms every month throughout the winter to get anywhere near last year or close to normal.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) - Chief Water Counsel or General Counsel**

Dr. DuMars updated the Board on what's going on at the State Engineer's Office. He stated John D'Antonio and his general counsel are leaving, as well as Marianne Singer. He stated John Romero said they were at a zero-budget increase. He stated that a lot of the lawyers they're getting have no water law experience.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 – REPORT(S) FROM THE BOARD**

**a. Report on Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting, November 18, 2021 - Vice Chair Russo Baca and Gabriella Coughlin, Agronomist/Agroecologist**

Vice Chair Russo Baca stated it was a great meeting. She stated none of the board members were there, but their staff was. Vice Chair Russo Baca suggested a tour for individuals who aren't familiar with Valencia County Soil and Water Conversation District.

Director Joaquin Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON VALENCIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING.** Director Duggins seconded the motion. **The MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Report on the District Urban Issues Committee Meeting, November 19, 2021 - Vice Chair Russo Baca, Directors Joaquin Baca and Barbara Baca**

- 1) Introduction of Draft Resolution on Protection and Preservation of MRGCD Ditches & Facilities

Director Barbara Baca stated ditches were originally built for irrigation drainage and flood control, but they are also a network of green spaces and riparian habitat. She stated it is possible some of these ditches are vulnerable for abandonment. She said they are trying to direct staff to create a process by looking at our land sales, land disposition of real property, and current policy.

Vice Chair Russo Baca made a comment. (Dialogue was inaudible on recording.)

Director Kelly stated ditches are the fabric of the valley that are persevering where it is open for future uses. He said keeping it available for licensing to the city, county, our partner agencies, and additional recreational improvements is huge. Director Kelly also stated a lot of our facilities are on prescriptive easements from old acequias.

Dr. DuMars agreed with Director Kelly and stated he is in support of the Resolution.

Director Duggins stated it seems there are many cases where coming back to agriculture is completely hopeless. He said he seems like a waste of water. He then asked if they really needed or wanted this. Madam Chair Dunning stated the ones who represent Bernalillo County want it badly.

Director Kelly asked if the Committee would consider putting something where it says this resolution is not intended to initiate or approve construction of structural improvements for recreational use. He stated they will not put water down an abandoned ditch unless there is a farm there calling for water.

Director Joaquin Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE DISTRICT URBAN ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING.** Director Kelly seconded the motion. **The MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c. Report on Congreso De Las Acequias Meeting, December 4, 2021 - Vice Chair Russo Baca**

Vice Chair Russo Baca stated it was a nice meeting and was done via Zoom. She mentioned Yasmeen's beautiful digital image. She also talked about a skit that was given that was really good. Vice Chair Russo Baca stated that we need to continue to be helping these farmers.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS MEETING.** Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. **The MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**d. Report on the Personnel Committee Meeting, December 7, 2021 - Chair Dunning, Directors Kelly and Baca**

Vice Chair Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**. Director Joaquin Baca seconded the motion. **The MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

With no further comments, questions or concerns, Madam Chair Dunning adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of December 13, 2021.

**ATTESTED:**

---

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM  
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

---

Karen Dunning, Madam Chair  
MRGCD Board of Directors