

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

FEBRUARY 14, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.

Directors having been duly notified; Vice Chair Russo Baca called the special meeting to order at 2:09 pm at the MRGCD General Office. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS		STAFF	
Stephanie Russo Baca, Vice Chair	Present	Jason Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Barbara Baca, Director	Present	Dr. Charles DuMars	Chief Water Counsel
John Kelly, Director	Present	Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Glen Duggins, Director	Present	Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present	Anne Marken	Water Operations Div. Manager
Karen Dunning, Chairwoman	Absent	DeAnna Philips	GIS / Board Liaison
Joaquin Baca, Director	Absent		

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

Martin Haynes	John Fleck, Utton Center
Tibo Chavez	Anders Lundahl, NM ISC
Steven Chavez, MRGCD	Craig Hoover, BHI Inc.
Judith McSweeney, MRGCD	

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Russo Baca led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Vice Chair Russo Baca declared a quorum, and the meeting was publicly noticed. She also stated who was in attendance noting Chair Dunning and Director Joaquin Baca were absent.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA**. Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - WATER AVAILABILITY REPORT - Anne Marken, Water Operations Division Manager

Anne Marken gave an update on the water supply conditions, that water supply conditions will be difficult this upcoming season. Snowpack levels in the upper watershed are tracking between 85% and 91% of median level. The three month outlook put out by the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center, predict warmer and drier conditions through April. The MRGCD does not have the ability to store native Rio Grande water to augment the lower summer flows after the spring runoff is over. In addition to these difficult supply conditions, New Mexico carried approximately 127,000 acre feet of Rio Grande Compact Debt in 2022. Going into the season, the water bank will be closed to all properties that have severed or do not have a water right as per the water bank curtailment policy on accrued Rio Grande Compact debt. Except for properties that have an approved alternate curtailment, irrigators have up until their first irrigation to complete their alternate curtailment.

Vice Chair Russo Baca asked if taking up the 50% of the river was for this season only. Ms. Marken answered yes, it is just specific to this irrigation season. Mr. Casuga concurred.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - MRGCD IRRIGATION/WATER BANK COMMITTEE REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS ON WATER BANK LEASE RATES & FEES - Vice Chair Russo Baca and Directors Sandoval & Duggins

Vice Chair Russo Baca stated the administration fee at \$100 per lease for five years, subject there are no changes to the water bank contract. She also said the water service charge per acre would be staying \$43.82 per acre per year, and lease rate per acre is \$50 per acre per year. Vice Chair Russo Baca mentioned that if someone has a water right they can transfer to water bank property, that is an option.

Director Kelly inquired on the number of Alternate Curtailments for 2021. Estella Gamboa, Assessments Clerk, reported that there were 46 constituents enrolled.

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

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION M-02-14-22-179 FOR THE ADOPTION OF WATER BANK RATES & FEES FOR 2022 IRRIGATION SEASON

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
ADOPTION OF WATER BANK RATES & FEES FOR 2022 IRRIGATION SEASON

M-02-14-22-179

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (District), has reviewed a recommendation from the Board's Water Bank Committee for the fees for the 2022 irrigation season; and

WHEREAS, at a Special Meeting of the Board held February 14, 2022, called for the purpose of establishing Water Bank Rates and Fees, the Board approved the following for the 2022 irrigation season:

Administration Fee
\$100.00/per lease
(for 5 years subject to "NO" changes to Water Bank Contract)

Water Service Charge (per acre)
\$43.82 per acre / per year

Lease Rate (per acre)
\$50.00 per acre / per year

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, hereby approves the fees and lease rates for the Water Bank hereinabove described.

RESOLVED: in session this 14th day of February 2022.

Director Duggins made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE WATER BANK RATES AND FEES FOR THE 2022 IRRIGATION SEASON**. Director Kelly seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

With no further comments, questions or concerns, Vice Chair Russo Baca adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of February 14, 2022.

ATTESTED:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Karen Dunning, Madam Chair
MRGCD Board of Directors