MINUTES OF THE 2,188th REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

JUNE 13, 2022 - 3:00 PM

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Dunning called the regular meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS STAFF

Stephanie Russo Baca, Madam Chair	Present	Jason M. Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Karen Dunning, Vice Chair	Present	Charles T. DuMars	Chief Water Counsel
Barbara Baca, Director	Present	Patty Williams	General Counsel
John P. Kelly, Director	Absent	Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Joaquin Baca, Director	Present	Anne Marken	Water Operations Division Mgr.
Glen Duggins, Director	Present	Matt Martinez	Water Distribution Division Mgr.
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present		

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

Natalie McCue, SunZia Southwest Transmission

Christine Nardi, MRGCD Danielle Feygin, MRGCD Rhett Spencer, MRGCD Derek Jarner, MRGCD Hector Garcia, BOR

Travis Day, Chile Assoc.

Raina Johnson, ECSource Services Tori Gruenwald, ECSource Services

Ashley Veihl, MRGCD Arcelia Isais, ReNew Mexico

Margarita Sanchez Louie Lovato Ignacio Torres Greg Bacon

Monette Hardern-Lopez, Lopez Farms

Page Pegram, NMISC

Hannah Riseley-White, NMISC Anthony Wagner, Wagner Farms Judith McSweeney, MRGCD

Julian Avalos, MRGCD

Mark Tafoya Neal Hurley Brent Levi Adam Estacio

Alicia Lopez, MRGCD

Ray Hartwell, Summit Conservation Chelsea Benjamin, Western Resources

Francesca Shirley, MRGCD

Mark Sanchez

Jessica Regensberg, MRGCD Marie VanDerGeest, MRGCD

Julia Maccini

LeeAnn Corwin, MRGCD April Ash, MRGCD Max Henkels S. Guiterrez

Liza Yazzie, BOR

Theresa Davis, ABQ Journal John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist Larissa Gordon, Ag New Mexico

Anders Lundahl, NMISC Jessica Lindsey, MRGCD Adam Lauer, Farm Credit NM

Annalise Porter

Mike Apodaca, MRGCD

Leon Chiwewe

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Madam Chair Dunning led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Madam Chair Dunning declared a quorum, and the meeting was publicly noticed. This meeting was a hybrid meeting. Rollcall votes will no longer be necessary for regular motions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Madam Chair Dunning made a recommendation to have the presentation on the canal crossings after the approval of the agenda since Director Duggins and Vice Chair Russo Baca were still on their way.

Vice Chair Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA WITH THE ABOVE CHANGES.** Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Barbara Baca	Yes	Director Joaquin Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Duggins	Absent
Director Dunning	Yes	Director Kelly	Absent
Director Russo Baca	Yes		

<u>AGENDA ITEM NO. 3</u> - REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD - Lorna M. Wiggins, MRGCD General Counsel

Ms. Wiggins was absent; Patty Williams, her partner, led the elections. Chair Dunning nominated Vice Chair Russo Baca for Chair.

Madam Chair Dunning made the **MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR OF THE BOARD.** Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Madam Chair Dunning made the MOTION TO ELECT STEPHANIE RUSSO BACA AS CHAIR BY ACCLIMATION. Director Joaquin Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Barbara Baca	Yes	Director Joaquin Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Duggins	Yes
Director Dunning	Yes	Director Kelly	Absent
Director Russo Baca	Yes		

Director Joaquin Baca nominated Director Karen Dunning as vice chair.

Director Sandoval made the MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR OF THE BOARD. Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. The MOTION CARRIED ON A 5-1 VOTE.

Madam Chair Dunning made the **MOTION TO ELECT STEPHANIE RUSSO BACA AS CHAIR BY ACCLIMATION.** Director Joaquin Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, the **MOTION CARRIED 5-1.**

Director Barbara Baca	Yes	Director Joaquin Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Duggins	No
Director Dunning	Yes	Director Kelly	Absent
Director Russo Baca	Yes		

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification June 13, 2022
- b. Consideration/Approval of May 2022 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins
- c. Consideration/Approval of May 2022 Invoice for Law and Resource Planning Associates.
- d. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting May 9,
- e. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting May 31,
- f. MRGCD's Irrigation Committee's Review and Recommendation for Reimbursement of 2021 Environmental Water Leasing Program Payment to Lillie Chacon - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO
- g. Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for May 2022 (For Informational Purposes Only)

Director Barbara Baca made the MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Seconded by Vice Chair Dunning. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 - REPORT(S) FROM HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

a. Introduction of MRGCD New Hires - Christine L. Nardi, MBA

Christine Nardi announced the new hires and promotions. She said they hired a new division clerk for Albuquerque and an ISO irrigation systems operator. She stated they also gave out two promotions, one for a warehouse specialist position and an irrigation systems operator out of the Albuquerque service area.



Memorandum

MRGCD Chair Dunning and Board of Directors

Through: Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO

From: **Human Resources** June 13, 2022 Date:

Re: Introduction of New Hires

Albuquerque Division

GOMEZ-VALDEZ DIVISION CLERK DARLENE 6/27/2022

General Office

KEVIN CHAVEZ IRRIGATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR 5/23/2022
CHRISTOPHER NELSON WAREHOUSE SPECIALIST 5/23/2022 Promotion
DANIEL BARRAZA IRRIGATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR 5/31/2022 Promotion

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - PRESENTATION ON CANAL CROSSINGS - Natalie McCue, SunZia **Southwest Transmission Project**

Senator Ryan, executive director of the SunZia Transmission Project, thanked MRGCD in regard to protecting water and infrastructure. He stated he had been working the project for 15 years, but they were close to finished. He stated they had partnered with Pattern Energy and Natalie McCue.

Natalie McCue gave a presentation on the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, which consisted of two nominal 500kV transmission lines. She said the substation originated in Torrance County would be the place for interconnecting with the proposed renewable energy wind farms. She said it ran 550 miles west to connect into the Canal Central Substation in Canal County, Arizona. Ms. McCue explained the project would be done in two phases, and that they were trying to promote grid reliability and allow alleviation of the transmission congestion. Ms. McCue discussed the process of the project with BLM as the lead agency and how the SunZia Project came to be. She presented a map that showed the 550-mile route and discussed the economic impacts. She said it was the largest clean infrastructure project in the US. She said she worked close with design engineers to ensure SunZia structures were aligned with Western Spirit structures.

She stated phase one would be seeking licenses for ten MRGCD crossings. Ms. McCue also mentioned that BLM's draft EIS was available for public review with public comment until August 1st and virtual public meetings would be on June 21, 28, and 29. She said they would be working closely with BOR on identifying mitigation to offset any impacts of vegetation or environmental concerns that would warrant discussion. She stated after vegetation cleaning activities were done, the project would immediately be reseeded with MRGCD approved seed mix, and the equipment brought on site would be inspected. She said all vehicles would be equipped with fire prevention tools to ensure proper fire protection mitigations were in place and implemented.

Ms. McCue spoke about implementation of bird diverters. She also said they would do vegetation clearing early next year, wait out the seasonal restriction, and then come back and finish the construction of the line.





SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

y District (MRGCD) Crossings



SunZia Southwest Transmission Project



SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) Crossings

- Rio Grande River Crossing:
 Self supporting HVDC tubular structure
 Typical height 140 feet
 Typical span 1200 feet (1292 feet all fiver cross
- SunZia structures to be aligned with Western Spirit structures



SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) Crossings







SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) Crossings

- SunZia is currently seeking licenses for Phase 1 of the Project 10 MRGCD crossings Valencia County Power lines must be installed a minimum of 30-feet above any ditch All clearances meet National Electrical Safety Code clearances: 0 30.3 feet Ground/Fload 0 28 lited Water areas not suitable for navigation.

CROSSING	CANAL NAME	MINIMUM LINE CLEARANCE (Feet)
1	Belen Highline Canal	61.2
2	Garcia Acequia Canal	51.2
3	Sabinal Lateral #1 Canal	56.0
4	Bosque Interior Drain	56.4
5	Sabinal Lateral #2	49.3
6	Luna Interior Drain	51.0
7	Upper Sabinal Riverside Drain	96.0
R	Rio Grande River	87.O
9	Upper San Juan Riverside Drain	84.0
10	San Juan Main Canal	88.0

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

MRGCD License Agreement

- SunZia is seeking a License Agreement from MRGCD for their property west of Interstate 25.
- Interstate 25.
 MRGCD is reviewing a
 License Agreement
 submitted by SunZia in a
 substantially similar form as
 the Western Spirit
 Transmission Line.
- SunZia is currently awaiting MRGCD Board approval.



SunZia Southwest Transmission Project







SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Environmental Requirements

- Based on the Reclamation NEPA Handbook (2012), actions which have been sufficiently addressed by an earlier environmental document (EA or EIS) or actions that qualify for a Reclamation Categorical Exclusion (CE) do not require the preparation of an environmental assessment.
- Project DEIS has been prepared, including the MRGCD crossings, and is available at: https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2011785/570
- SunZia will coordinate with the BOR to determine if any environmental clearance review for the Licenses need to be obtained for the applicable canal crossings.
- SunZia will work closely with BOR and MRGCD on identifying appropriate mitigation to offset impact to vegetation.

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Best Management Practices

- Weed-free straw wattles, sediment logs, and/or silt fence will be installed in areas where runoff is of high concern.
- Once vegetation clearing activities have been completed, the Project area will be immediately re-seed with a MRGCD approved seed mix design. Waterways will be protected in accordance with the Project Stormwater
- Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- No equipment refueling within 100 feet of the Rio Grande River
- Spill kits and environmental monitor will be onsite to oversee fueling activities
- · No damaged equipment will be allowed access to MRGCD property.

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Best Management Practices - Fire Protection

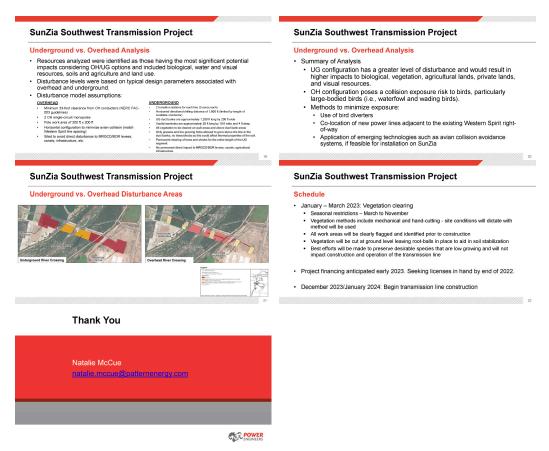
- Vehicles will be equipped with fire prevention tools (i.e., shovels, pulaskis, fire extinguishers).
- On Red Flag days, work will be limited to bare mineral soils, when fire rating is high. Fire backpack water pump cans and a 3,000-gallon water truck with water cannon/retractable hose will be onsite during tree cutting activities.
- Vegetation Management
- Remove trees that may interfere with conductor clearance
- Mulch spread and fallow reduces fuel load under the energized line SunZia will work with MRGCD to ensure property fire protection mitigations are implemented.

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Underground vs. Overhead Analysis

- · 2013 FEIS analyzed effects of an underground alternative and concluded that an underground river crossing would result in greater impacts than an overhead crossing.
- Placing the transmission line underground was also addressed in Section 2.6 of the Project DEIS (2022).
 - · SunZia Southwest Transmission Project Right-of-Way Alternatives
 - Development Report (SWCA 2021)

 SunZia Southwest Transmission Project Environmental Comparison of Overhead and Underground (POWER 2021)
- Results of the findings for the current proposed Rio Grande crossing are similar to the finding in the initial 2013 FEIS.



Madam Chair Dunning asked when they would be back to ask for approval of the licenses.

Ms. McCue stated they would probably put in applications within the next immediate weeks, so it would depend on how the schedule lined out.

Madam Chair Dunning asked Dr. DuMars if the license would have to be approved by the Board. Dr. DuMars stated yes. She then asked if BOR would have to also sign off on the licenses. Mr. Casuga stated he did not think they would.

Madam Chair Dunning then asked if people living near the transmission lines would be affected by the lights for the cranes. Ms. McCue said she understood the light to be UV and would not affect the humans.

Chair Russo Baca asked if SunZia had community outreach to the communities it went through. Senator Ryan stated they had an extensive outreach program where they brief elected officials, counties, environmental groups, etc. He said Torrance County had not approved a resolution yet, but that was scheduled to be on their agenda the next week.

Chair Russo Baca asked if they could do a community outreach session in conjunction with MRGCD since it would have to be approved through their ditches. Senator Ryan added the New Mexico State Land Office required a public meeting also.

Director Barbara Baca asked for a clarification of what red depicted on the presentation map. Ms. McCue stated the red was a permanent impact where the actual transition stations would sit. Director Barbara Baca also asked what bird diverters were, to which Ms. McCue responded they were markers to allow birds to see the lines.

Director Duggins asked if they would not heat when put underground. Ms. McCue responded yes. Directors Duggins also asked if the energy was 100% green. Ms. McCue stated the one they're seeking had a transfer capacity of 3500 mega watts from Pattern Energy's Wind Farms.

Jason Casuga said when they received the licenses, they would report and have a conversation at the board meeting or another process for approval.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7 - ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are limited to six (6) minutes)

Louie Lovato

Mr. Lovato stated he had a farm in La Joya. He said there was much nepotism going on. He said all the ditches had spillovers in all fields and the water that remained in the drainage ditch did not go to the river and needed to be taken care of. He also said he was wrongly accused of flooding a field. He left some pictures and deeds for his land to be looked at.

Margarita Sanchez

Ms. Sanchez thanked all the workers for being courteous and helpful. She expressed her displeasure in having to come out at 4 and 5:00 in the morning to get water. She also asked why they could not take a stand against the fracking in Valencia County and near the river, stating it was too dangerous and could cause earthquakes.

Greg Bacon

Mr. Bacon stated he was a property owner by Tomé. He expressed some issues with people not monitoring the ditches, so the levels would get high, overflow, and wash out roads and onto his property. He said they had put in requests to their ditch riders to fix it, but nothing been done in two months. He said they missed out on waterings because everything was wet from the breach, and now wouldn't be able to get anymore. He added the one of the farmers in his area was keeping a gate locked that was MRGCD property for an access road easement.

Madam Chair Russo Baca said she would have someone be in contact with him to see what they could do.

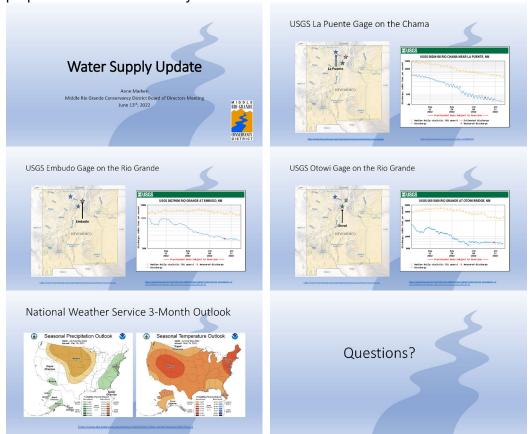
AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - Update on the 2022 Irrigation Season

a. Report on the Water Supply Conditions - Anne Marken, Water Ops Division Manager

Anne Marken stated the 2022 runoff was over and flows were low for that time of year. She discussed the CFS numbers for the gauges, including the Otowi Gauge that included the native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water. She said San Juan-Chama water was not subject to the Rio Grande Compact restrictions. Ms. Marken stated that on June 1st, they did make releases from San Juan-Chama storage to augment the declining native Rio Grande flows. She said they did gain early access to their June allocation to avoid interruption in releases from storage. Ms. Marken said MRGCD would be out of San Juan-Chama water by Saturday. She said releases from stored prior and paramount water would be made if BOR determined available native inflows to the Middle Valley were less than what was needed to meet demands of the prior and paramount lands. She said MRGCD completed river channel drying in San Acacia and all water bypassing the dam to the river was San Juan-Chama water

released by BOR. She said MRGCD was using Reclamation's leased water to manage river channel drying and would continue bypassing BOR's leased water below diversion dams and distributing limited natural supply to its irrigators as available.

Ms. Marken said the National Weather Service's three-month outlook projected above average chances for hotter than average temps. She did say precipitation outlook had improved. She said they undelivered to Texas in May, which was normal for that time of year. She reiterated that native inflows were minimal and MRGCD was days away from being out of started water with no more tools to continue to meet demands. She concluded by saying farmers should prepare for a difficult and dry summer.



Mr. Casuga added that if they had a 750 CFS release, only 300 would be native. He also said the discussions on what a controlled drying of the Albuquerque Reach would look like were active. He said short of getting rain, they would implement some sort of drying strategy through Albuquerque to limit the number of miles dried at any one time.

Dr. DuMars stated BOR did not have to release water early and did not have to be cooperative but did to avoid interruptions in service. He also asked where the drying of the Albuquerque Reach would begin and end. Mr. Casuga guessed it would be from the point ABCWA released and moving north. Anne Marken confirmed that was correct.

Director Duggins said he had not received any complaints in his area. He said he did still get them out of Valencia. He said it ran smoothly and better than last year.

Madam Chair Russo Baca asked what was being told to the people calling in asking when they would run out of water. Jason Casuga stated it was difficult to tell because the seasonal outlooks change after every meeting, but they expected to be out of San Juan-Chama water by the end of the week.

Director Sandoval asked if there had been an official call for the P&P water. Jason Casuga replied there had not. He said they were getting updates from BIA on the measurement of P&P demand versus the supply in the river and there had not been a call by BIA yet, but said they were headed in that direction.

Vice Chair Dunning asked Dr. Duggins if most of his neighbors had internet access to communicate. Director Duggins said he thought so. Director Duggins said if they could communicate with a few leaders, that would get the word out. He said getting them to check email would be pretty tough.

Ms. Casuga stated there was not a medium they wouldn't explore when it came to communication. He said they had used text messages, mailers, website. He said he did not turn down a phone call, but it would be unrealistic to think they could reach everybody by word of mouth only, so they would keep exploring options. Dr. DuMars said it would maybe be useful to purchase ad space in the journal once a week explaining what would happen with the water.

b. Status Report on Water Distribution - Matt Martinez, Water Distribution Division Manager

Matt Martinez congratulated Madam Chair Russo Baca and Vice Chair Dunning. He said with the attempts to double crop and summer plant with higher than average temps and limited supply, diversions and deliveries still continued in all four divisions. He reiterated that if water was turned down when it was available, irrigators should not expect deliveries to be made up. He stated he had received very few complaints. He stated they were not in prior and paramount operations yet and water over P&P demand would be shared as fairly as possible with non-P&P irrigators. He said Bureau of Indian Affairs would provide notice if supply dropped below P&P demand. Mr. Martinez stated they had been able to continue pumping longer than expected with the Corrales Pumping operations and were hopeful the river would hold up long enough to complete the current delivery cycle. He said the speculation that MRGCD was shutting down was not true and that would continue as long as there was water to deliver. He mentioned upcoming forecasts were encouraging, and that if the rain produced runoff, they would divert what they could. Mr. Martinez asked farmers and irrigators to use caution with double cropping and summer planting. He stated not to expect water would get to new seed. He stated ISOs were being asked to work more efficiently than ever before and to please be patient with them. Mr. Martinez said he met with the ISOs regularly and showed them what was going on with the water supply conditions so they're informed and can explain it to their farmers and irrigators.

Director Duggins expressed how much stress farmers and irrigators had been under and to be patient with them too. Mr. Martinez apologized for not recognizing that in his presentation. Director Duggins did share that he had one of the best first cuts he had in several years. However, he did say the insects were ravaging the Socorro Valley. He shared his displeasure in the federal government taking away the good chemicals that kept the insects away.

Jason Casuga reiterated that they would not shut down for business. He stated if there was no water to deliver, they would not be able to deliver water. He said if they got rain, they would divert what they could and distribute the best they can.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- a. Bureau of Reclamation Jennifer Faler, Area Manager
- b. Bureau of Indian Affairs Sandra Lucero, BIA/SWRO/Water Resources

Neither Ms. Faler nor Ms. Lucero attended the meeting.

<u>AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - REPORT(S) FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO</u> - Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM

a. Consideration/Approval of a Modification of the Endowment Resolution replacing BA-07-27-92-26 with BA-06-13-22-86 - Pam Fanelli, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Ms. Fanelli stated the Endowment Resolution needed to be approved. She said it was a rewrite of the old endowment policy with the only change being that it would allow the endowment funds to be invested according to the investment policy.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

ENDOWMENT FUND INVESTMENT POLICY

BA-06-13-22-86
WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (District) established a separate Endowment Fund by resolution on July 27, 1992, for the purpose of separating revenues obtained through the sale of real properties and other sources as the Board may direct from the General Fund, and
WHEREAS, the revenue from the sale of District real property and such other sources as the governing body may direct, will be deposited in the accounts of this fund; and
WHEREAS, the funds may be invested according to the revised Investment Policy adopted by the Board of Directors on June 13, 2022; and
WHEREAS, the withdrawals from this fund will be limited to the direct expenses associated with the sale of property and any earnings from investments; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District hereby authorizes the Chief Engineer/CEO and the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO to manage the inflows and the investments of the Endowment Funds according to the Investment Policy.
DATED AND RESOLVED: in session this 13th day of June 2022.
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
Stephanie Russo Baca, Chair of the Board
ATTEST.
Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Vice Chair Dunning made the MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENDOWMENT RESOLUTION. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

 b. Consideration/Approval of the new investment policy replacing the investment policy adopted July 25, 2005 - Deanne Woodring, CFA, Government Portfolio Advisors

Ms. Fanelli said they submitted the investment policy for review last month and rewrote the introduction paragraph to better fit the District's mission statements. She said that she also added that any investments would be in alignment with the District's mission. She said after it was approved, they would move forward with connecting the strategy with the policy and decide which funds would be invested with the Finance Committee. She also stated that funds would go in and out of the investment policy as cash was needed.

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (herein referred to as "District") was formed in 1925 to operate, maintain and manage irrigation, drainage, and river flood control in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, promote efficient and responsible water management, protect the environment, wildlife, and endangered species in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies.

The average monthly balance of funds invested in the district's general portfolio, project and reserve funds is between \$7,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The Endowment Fund balance is expected to be maintained at approximately \$7,200,000Policy statement: the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District has unrestricted general reserve funds and endowment funds. It is imperative that the District forecast cash flow needs to ensure that liabilities can be paid in a timely manner. Managing investments requires the District to protect these financial assets from material loss by minimizing market risk, interest rate fluctuations, credit risk and liquidity. Once sufficient liquidity is ensured and risk is minimized, the District can focus on maximizing total return on invested assets. Governing Authority: the District's investment program shall be operated in conformance with applicable state and federal law. Specifically, this investment policy is written in conformance with NMSA §6-10-10 and §6-8-7 (i) (1978). All funds within the scope of this policy are subject to laws established by the State of New Mexico. Any revisions or extension of these sections of the New Mexico Statutes will be updated to be part of this investment policy upon being enacted into law.

Scope: the investment policy applies to all financial assets of the District with regard to investing the financial assets of in both cash and allowable investments.

The following funds, and any new funds created by the district, unless specifically exempted by the Finance Committee and this policy, are defined in the District's Financial Report and includes general funds, endowment fund, levee project funds, capital project funds, and any other funds dedicated as cash and investments.

Investment objectives: funds will be invested in a manner that is in conformance with federal, state, and local laws. Investments will be consistent with the goals of the District. The objectives of the District shall be based upon a risk tolerance analysis adopted annually by the Board of Finance which shall balance the three following objectives:

A. Safety:

Preservation and protection of the principal of the funds to be invested. Risk elements include duration, credit soundness and liquidity.

B. Maintenance of liquidity needs:

Sufficient availability of cash, or the capacity to obtain it without sacrificing principal loss, in order to satisfy the reasonably anticipated, continuing operational requirements of the specific funds invested; and

C. Return on Investments:

To achieve optimal investment return, consistent with the higher priorities accorded to the safety and liquidity of principal. Return may only be considered a priority when safety and liquidity have already been ensured.

Identification of Funds: The District's unrestricted general reserve funds are used for ongoing liquidity needs of the District and held at the bank account. Remaining balances are held in the Local Government Investment Pool or Invested. The District maintains a consistent balance in the Endowment fund that holds the revenue from the sale of District real property and such

other sources where withdrawals from this fund are limited to direct expenses associated with the sale of property and earnings from investments. The District will invest these funds to achieve optimal returns based while practicing sound investment on investment from the endowment fund practices.

Liquidity Funds: Investments that are needed for ongoing disbursements for the operations and project funds of the district.

Investment Funds: Intermediate to Short Duration Portfolio of allowable investments that is funded by excess liquidity balances of the district.

Endowment Funds: Longer-term Portfolio that is invested to achieve optimal investment returns over longer term investment horizons.

Vice Chair Dunning made the MOTION TO APPROVE THE INVESTMENT POLICY IN PLACE OF THE INVESTMENT POLICY THAT WE ADOPTED IN JULY OF 2005. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

 Introduction/Discussion of the Budget Policy - Pam Fanelli, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Ms. Fanelli stated that the District started submitting annual and quarterly reports to DFA, which was a project that went smoothly. She said they wanted to see a budget policy. She said she could not locate one, so they created one. However, she said if they ever needed to increase appropriation, they would be required to be submitted to the board through resolution. She said she was not asking for a vote, but for submission and review.

Vice Chair Dunning stated the Finance Committed reviewed it and approved all of the wording.

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Budget Policy

Budgets for the general fund are adopted using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Expenditures of the general fund may not legally exceed the budget. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level. Budgets are created on a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles/Budgetary basis where open purchase orders at year end create a carry forward budget amount and a budget adjustment in the new year is added to cover the expenditures.

Adjustments to increase the budget must be submitted to and approved by DFA in the form of a "budget adjustment request" accompanied by a board approved resolution.

The District follows defined procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the budgetary comparison schedule. Each year the District and then adds in other non-operating expenditures required to successfully operate the District and then adds in other non-operating expenditures related to debt, projects, requirements under the Biological Opinion and infrastructure and equipment purchases. Revenues are expected to cover budgeted expenditures unless the Board has decided to use funds from the Capital Reserve Fund. All budget appropriations, except for those amounts encumbered, lapse at year end.

The District submits a proposed budget for the general fund to its Board of Directors and to the Local Government Division of the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration ("DFA") for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. DFA must approve the budget prior to its legal enactment. The District does not adopt a legal budget for the special revenue fund as this fund only receives revenue from land sales which are infrequent and therefore difficult to budget. The Board of Directors approves the budgetary reports in the board meeting following the quarter. On a quarterly basis, the District submits its budgetary reports to DFA through the LGBMS system.

As of 5/22/17, the District passed resolution M-05-22-17-150 to move any surpluses of the fiscal year to a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding capital projects identified in the Districts Capital Improvement Plan.

d. Update on the Triadic to Truebill Conversion - Pam Fanelli, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Estella Gamboa, Assessments Clerk III Ms. Fanelli shared that the District went live with their new assessment software on June 1st, and asked Estella Gamboa to give an overview of the attributes to the system.

Ms. Gamboa presented a slide show that gave a brief overview of the conversion. She stated they could view customer information, account history, balance, alerts, claim of lien, etc. She said it would help them keep up with things like the three-letter process, auditing, monthly reports. She said they have ISO log ID numbers so they can communicate with the ditch riders. She also mentioned that land sheets replaced the process of revisions. Ms. Gamboa said you could view prior owner's irrigated acreage and new owners irrigated acreage. She said the account would not update automatically after a payment. She said that would be available in the next week or so and all the customers would need to do is request a sign on and they would approve the sign on and have direct access to their account.

<u>AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO - Jason M. Casuga, PE</u>

a. Presentation and Request for Sponsorship for the New Mexico Chile Taste-Off - Travis Day, Executive Director, NM Chile Association

Travis Day, executive director of the New Mexico Chile Association, stated they were a nonprofit organization made up of farmers, processors, distributors, manufactures, and anyone involved in the chile industry in New Mexico. He said they wanted to make sure the chile industry was not only sustainable but thriving. He stated that New Mexico was the number one chile producer in the country and get involved in any local, state, or federal issues that impact their memberships. Mr. Day discussed the New Mexico Certified Chile Program and the New Mexico Chile Taste Off, which consisted of the chile parade through Socorro, taste off event, live music, fireworks, etc. Mr. Day also discussed the sponsorship for the event.

Director Barbara Baca stated that they traditionally did the \$5000 hot sponsorship, so she made a motion to continue that in support of the event. Madam Chair Russo Baca added to that by stating their agronomist would like to attend and have a booth as well.

Director Barbara Baca made the MOTION TO CONTINUE THE HOT SPONSORSHIP OF \$5000 TO THE NEW MEXICO CHILE CERTIFIED CHILE PROGRAM. Seconded by Madam Chair Russo Baca. The MOTION CARRIED 4-1.

b. Upgrade on the Big Hole and Simona Fires along with Future Plans in the Belen Division - Yasmeen Najmi, Planner.

Yasmeen Najmi gave updates on the two major fires they had in Valencia County, Big Hole Fire and the Simona Fire. She stated the Big Hole fire was a major bosque fire event with one house lost, and 18 outbuildings burned, and loss of trees and shrubs. However, she said there were signs of life and hoped the natives would come back. She said the Simona fire was a large fire that started in April and ended up being 165 acres. She said there was still no cause. She discussed different goals they had in rehabilitation after a fire. She showed slides of maps they had done treatments on. She said they had treated over 1000 acres in Valencia County so far. She said they lost 10% of the bosque with those two major fires. Ms. Najmi announced they had funding to do a restoration and rehabilitation plan for the Big Hole fire. '

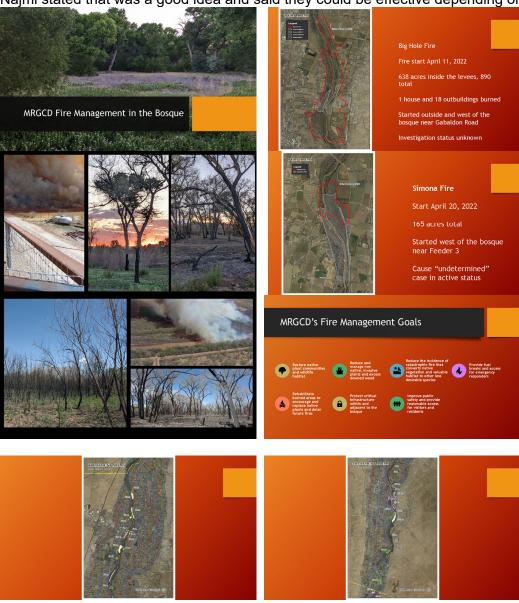
Madam Chair Russo Baca stated that she, Vice Chair Dunning, Director Baca, and Mr. Casuga attended the Soil and Water Conservation District and saw the impacts at the Whitfield Wildlife

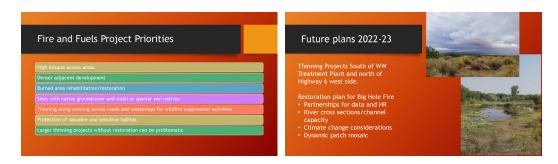
Area. She stated that she believed with Ms. Yasmeen's guidance, they could have great ideas to make the bosque fire defensible and climate resilient. '

Vice Chair Dunning brought up that it could be a potential issue that some trees weren't saved even after being treated because some people don't like them to take out any kind of vegetation. Ms. Najmi expressed that she believed it was less effective in that case because they had extreme winds.

Director Duggins asked why it was their responsibility when the bosque was federal. Ms. Casuga replied that the District actually owned a large portion of the bosque. He stated they did not bear the burden by themselves, including federal, state, and local.

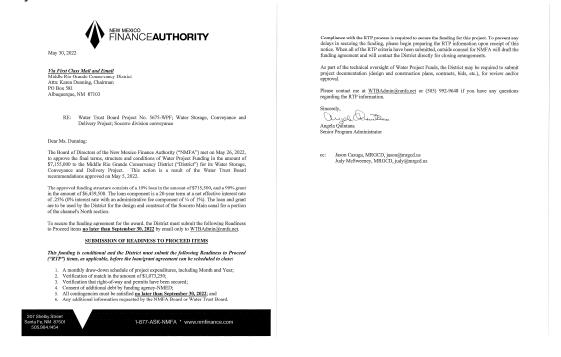
Madam Chair Russo Baca added that they received many questions about using goats and cattle in the bosque and suggested a presentation on how goats help clear the bosque. Ms. Najmi stated that was a good idea and said they could be effective depending on the situation.





c. Update of the 2022 Water Trust Board Award Letter - Project #5675-WPF; Water Storage, Conveyance and Delivery Project, S Vice Chair Dunning made the MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENDOWMENT RESOLUTION. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Socorro Division Conveyance - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO and Pam Fanelli, CFO

Jason Casuga stated that the Socorro Main Canal was picked. He highlighted that it was a 90% grant and 10% loan at a quarter percent interest rate. He said it was a great funding opportunity and strategic goal of theirs to allow them to move water in arteries north and south more efficiently.



d. Update on the NRCS Belen Watershed Study Grant Agreement - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO

Mr. Casuga said he officially signed the NRCS Belen Watershed Study agreement. He said he expected to proceed on that at the beginning of the fiscal year in July.

e. Report on the Valencia County Farmers Meeting, May 25, 2022 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Vice Chair Russo Baca, Directors Sandoval and Duggins and Consideration/Approval of the Report from the Board.

Madam Chair Russo Baca said they had a vocal crowd, and it was great to hear from them. She said she hoped to have another opportunity to continue hearing from farmers and maybe have it in a different area like Socorro.

Jason Casuga said he thought it was a good opportunity to be more informal than here where there wasn't really a time limit. He said he thought it was important to do things like that. He said they can't perform miracles but can be transparent and tell them what they're working on. He said that by the end of the meeting, there were no more hands raised for questions.

Madam Chair Russo Baca agreed it was a good forum for people to be seen and heard and not limited to six minutes. She said all the Belen Division ISOs showed up and there was a big showing by MRGCD staff, and she hoped it would continue every year.

Vice Chair Dunning apologized that she was not able to attend, but said it sounded like it was the right format and was successful.

Vice Chair Dunning made the MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE VALENCIA COUNTY FARMERS MEETING, MAY 25, 2022. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

f. Report on the MRG Six Pueblos Coalition Meeting, June 1, 2022 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO

Jason Casuga said there was much of the same topics and questions that came up. He said Bureau of Reclamation was able to communicate the advance of San Juan-Chama water would happen. He thanked Jennifer Faler for making that happen. He said even though they didn't always agree, he believed BOR was a strong partner and went to bat for them and the community. He said they talked about why it was important to stay out of P&P longer.

g. Report on the Corrales Council Special Meeting, June 8, 2022 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO

Jason Casuga stated that the forum was not the same. He said his presentation was pretty lengthy and involved document history. He explained the location of where the hole formed and explained it was a known location of a depression that formed in a similar location which then turned into a larger hole. He said he outlined the efforts to fix that and explained why they could not drain the siphon like in 2014. He said he answered a lot of questions from counselors, not the public. He invited them to their board meeting to ask questions. He said all orchards in Corrales would have received their third watering by the end of the next day based on his conversations with Matt Martinez and ISOs.

Vice Chair Dunning said she watched the YouTube video and told Jason he did a very good job. She talked about an analogy Mr. Casuga made that she thought was great.

Dr. DuMars said it had been suggested that because of the drought, there may be an opportunity to use an analogous circumstance for the siphon.

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

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

a. Report on the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Annual Conference, Washington DC, May 9-11, 2022 - Vice Chair Russo Baca

Madam Chair Russo Baca stated she attended the conference at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. She said it was a great opportunity.

b. Report on the AgriFuture Conferences - NM Dept. of Agriculture, May 17-19, 2022 - Vice Chair Russo Baca and Gabrielle Coughlin, Agronomist

Madam Chair Russo Baca and Gabi Coughlin attended. Madam Chair Russo Baca and Gabi Coughlin attended the conference. Madam Chair said it was also a great opportunity to do some networking, discuss new technologies and ideas for continuing agriculture in the future.

c. Report on the Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting, May 19, 2022 - Vice Chair Russo Baca

Madam Chair Russo Baca said she would send out a report on the meeting but did state it was a short meeting.

d. Report on the Making Climate-Smart Agriculture Work Conference, May 24, 2022 - Vice Chair Russo Baca

Madam Chair Russo Baca said the conference was a three-day digital conference that consisted of people from all over the world talking about climate issues. She said she would send out links to those videos.

e. Report on the Irrigation Committee Meeting, May 26, 2022 - Vice Chair Russo Baca and Directors Sandoval and Duggins

Madam Chair Russo Baca said they discussed the repayment and decided that Ms. Chacon would have to repay the full amount. She said the decision was due to the fact that the anti-donation clause MRGCD had to abide by under state statute stated they can't give anyone funds without asking for repayment.

f. Report on Tour Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area with Senator Heinrich and VCSWCD Board, May 31, 2022 - Vice Chair Russo Baca

Madam Chair Russo Baca said it was bittersweet because the Big Hole fire burned a huge portion of Whitfield.

Director Barbara Baca made the MOTION TO APPROVE ALL THE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD. Seconded by Vice Chair Dunning. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Russo Baca requested a motion to movie into Executive Session.

Director Glen Duggins made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Director Barbara Baca	Yes	Director Joaquin Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Duggins	Yes
Director Dunning	Yes	Director Kelly	Absent

Director Russo Baca Yes

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H)7
 - 1. Threatened or Pending Litigation

Director Glen Duggins made the **MOTION TO GET OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Chair Russo Baca adjourned the meeting at 5:57 pm.

Chair Russo Baca reconvened the meeting at 6:26 pm.

During Executive Session, updates were given on threatened or pending litigation. No decisions were made, nor any votes taken.

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Madam Chair Russo Baca adjourned the meeting at 6:27 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of June 13, 2022.

ATTESTED:	
Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM Secretary/Treasurer	Stephanie Russo Baca, Madam Chair MRGCD Board of Directors