

**MINUTES OF THE
2,198th REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

APRIL 10, 2023 - 3:00 PM

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Russo Baca called the regular meeting to order at 3:04 pm. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS		STAFF	
Stephanie Russo Baca, Madam Chair	Present	Jason Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Karen Dunning, Vice Chair	Present	Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Barbara Baca, Director	Present	Dr. Charles DuMars	Chief Water Counsel
John Kelly, Director	Present	Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Joaquin Baca, Director	Present	Eric Zamora	Chief Operating Officer
Glen Duggins, Director	Present	Anne Marken	Water Operations Division Mgr.
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Absent	Matt Martinez	Water Distribution Division Mgr.

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

Sara Newton Juarez	Zoe Economou	Doug Strech, MRGCD
Eddie Baca	Josh Hind, MRGCD	LeAnn Corwin, MRGCD
John Fleck, Utton Center	Ashley Veihl, MRGCD	Sloan Washburn, MRGCD
Ryan Gronewold, USACE	Rhett Sanders-Spencer, MRGCD	Richard DeLoia, MRGCD
Brian Sanchez, USACE	Yasmeen Najmi, MRGCD	Mitch Georgena, MRGCD
Jared Runge, USACE	Gabrielle Coughlin, MRGCD	
Stephanie McKenna, USACE	Michael Padilla, MRGCD	

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sloan Washburn led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Madam Chair Russo Baca declared a quorum, and this hybrid meeting was publicly noticed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Madam Chair Russo Baca stated Director Joaquin Baca was not able to attend on 14(d). Mr. Casuga stated they needed to remove the Joint Powers Agreement at 14(b) and to bring it back at next month's meeting. Vice Chair Dunning said to change Item 13 to (a) third-quarter financial, (b) consideration, and (c) to be the Finance Committee Report, and then add item (d) for the approval. Director Joaquin Baca also asked to have his name be added to 16(f).

Vice Chair Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA with the above changes**. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification - April 10, 2023**
- b. **Consideration/Approval of March 2023 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins**
- c. **Consideration/Approval of March 2023 Invoice for Law and Resource Planning Assoc.**

- d. **Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special Meeting - March 13, 2023**
- e. **Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Board Meeting - March 13, 2023**
- f. **Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for March 2023 (For Informational Purposes Only)**

There was no discussion or changes made.

Director Barbara Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**. Seconded by Director Kelly. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - MRGCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTION TO BE HELD OCTOBER 3, 2023 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO

- a. **Consideration/Approval of Professional Services Agreement for Automated Election Services for the Administration of the 2023 Election Management and Turnkey Services**

Mr. Casuga stated the original contract was brought before the Board in 2019 with the ability to pick up option years in 2021 and 2023. He said the purpose was to exercise that option year 2023. Mr. Casuga added that an updated version was passed out to show the change by the Board Liaison.

Mr. DeLoia stated 2023 would be the final year for Automated Elections Services contract to end out the original request.

Director Joaquin Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT**. Seconded by Chair Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

- b. **Consideration/Approval of 2023 Election Director, MRGCD Election Officer and List Compiler**

Mr. Casuga stated there was a memo in their packet that recommended Eli Lovato as the election director, Doug Strech as the list compiler, and DeAnna Philips as the election officer. Mr. Casuga added the Election Committee consisted of Director Joaquin Baca, Vice Chair Dunning, and Director Michael T. Sandoval and they would have more material before the Board in May.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION**. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 - UPDATE ON THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE) SAN ACACIA LEVEE - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO

Mr. Ryan Gronewold, Chief of Planning in Albuquerque District Corps of Engineers, talked about the San Acacia Levee, the Corps of Engineers, and the Bernalillo to Belen Levee Project. He stated there were two main items they needed to complete before they turned the San Acacia Levee over to the MRGCD, which were completing the O&M manual and doing the final levee inspection. He said they were looking at an August 18th date for finalization of the O&M manual and submittal package to MRGCD for turnover.

Mr. Bruce Jordan, Deputy Chief of Engineering and Construction and levee safety program manager for the District, stated part of the complicating factor associated with the inspection was that the San Acacia Levee, which is actually the Socorro Rio Grande Levee, and it is tied to the Socorro Diversion Levee. It is a two-segment system that they have to compile and inspect the entire system. He said they have sent out the pre-inspection form and are trying to get that completed with 30 days' notice. No inspection date at this time though.

Director Kelly asked if MRGCD would have all the inspection reports and density tests required to submit a letter of map revision to FEMA.

Mr. Jordan stated part of their intention was that the O&M manual include the embankment report to go with the data associated with the certification process. He said that all the data did not seem to match up with the embankment report so that was complicating the process.

Director Kelly asked if the levee was full of elm trees and rodent burrows and if anyone had done a windshield tour of it. Mr. Casuga answered that the levee is maintained. He stated that his greater concern related to the internal drainage on the lower end, but they did not know what degree that concern would be.

Director Kelly asked what their expectation was on getting the submittal into FEMA. Mr. Casuga answered their expectation would be to submit it prior to the end of the calendar year.

Director Kelly then asked if they had all the preparation for the letter of map revision submittal for Bernalillo to Belen. They answered they would and updated that they did receive federal funding to start the design of the mountain view portion of the levee and were looking to enter the designed agreement within the next two months. Mr. Casuga went on to explain that they were limited until they reached a construction contract that would be more favorable to get into construction.

Director Kelly asked if they were going to look at a typical design bid and build project or will it be a negotiated 8A contract. He also asked if the Isleta Pueblo Reach would be 100% federally funded. They answered they had not had that discussion yet, but the assumption was it would be a design and bid build. Mr. Casuga stated they had not settled whether or not there was any way to offset the Isleta Pueblo Reach cost.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - MRGCD RIO GRANDE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST (RGALT)
MOA 2022 ANNUAL REPORT - Cecilia Rosacker, Executive Director

Ms. Cecilia Rosacker touched on some items since their annual report was issues stating they hired two new full-time staff. She thanked Director Duggins for hosting the 25th Anniversary event. She discussed their outreach video and would love to share it on the MRGCD website. She stated they developed five new partners in their MRG conservation efforts which included the Land Trust Alliance, Western innovation folks, Thornberg Foundation and American Farmland Festival. Ms. Rosacker explained the fund legislation was passed and would provide \$100 million appropriation for the Land and Water Conservation that would fund conservation programs that were already in place and had not received funding for years. She mentioned that conservation easement transaction funding was one of their biggest challenges in accessing federal programs, so they had been focusing on ways to address that. Ms. Rosacker stated she visited the hill with the Intermountain West Joint Venture group where they discussed the new farm bill and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Vice Chair Dunning asked if their partnership with Bernalillo County and Albuquerque were about the transaction cost or if it would include more. Ms. Rosacker answered that for right now it would be just for covering transaction costs on projects. Ms. Rosacker also mentioned they would be doing a conservation workshop to be held on May 26th.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO SIX (6) MINUTES)

Santiago Maestas

Mr. Maestas, president of the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias, stated their commissioner was informed there would not be delivery of water down through the Rogers Lateral this season. He stated they had a damaged acequia last year by an irrigator who had been cited twice for interference with the acequia. He stated Mr. Eddie Baca filed a criminal complaint in accordance with the acequia statute. Mr. Maestas asked if the District would reopen the lateral so they could resume irrigating this season.

Eddie Baca

Mr. Baca added to Mr. Maestas comment, stating they received a call from the ditch rider, Anderson (Tolth), that the embankment had been compromised to allow water through and that the water would not be distributed to them until the embankment was reinforced. He wanted to know what could be done to get water back to the members of his community.

Mr. Casuga stated they were aware of the situation and had notified counsel of it. He said they would be taking their own action to serve the violator. He said much work had been done to destabilize the embankment that abutted that irrigator's property and the landowner believed MRGCD was a trespasser. He said it would take some time but were taking every step they could.

Director Kelly asked if the irrigator was a new owner in the neighborhood and how long of a reach it was. Mr. Maestas stated no, she was not new and was an elected official. He also said the reach was about 300 feet.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - REPORT(S) FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT - Christine Nardi, MBA

a. Honoring Sloan Washburn, Belen Division Manager, for his 26 Years of Service

Ms. Nardi stated Mr. Washburn would be retiring and they wanted to recognize him for serving the District for 26 years.

Mr. Casuga spoke of Mr. Washburn and congratulated him for all his hard work over the years. He's held a position as a laborer, which means he came to the District starting at the very entry level of our field division positions, he's been a light equipment/medium equipment operator. He's been a heavy equipment operator. He's been an ISO. He's been the equipment operations and maintenance supervisor. He's been the construction and maintenance supervisor and the position he currently holds as the Belen division manager. He has occupied every position from a field division standpoint.

He was also presented with gifts. Mr. Washburn thanked the board and spoke about his time at the District since he was 19 years old. Many board members also thanked him for his service.

b. Introduction of MRGCD New Hires

Ms. Nardi stated they hired a new field maintenance tech, Francisco Padilla, in the Albuquerque Division and had one promotion to Casey Ish as the conservation program supervisor. She stated the vacancy rate was now at 9%.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER - Richard DeLoia, CPO

a. Consideration/Approval for the Silvery Minnow Egg Monitoring

Richard DeLoia presented approval for the silvery minnow egg monitoring for the pumps at the Corrales Siphon. He said MRGCD staff recommended award to SWCA Environmental for \$66,830.30 and the project would be awarded through the New Mexico State Price Agreement.

Jason Casuga added that this is a part of the compliance to operate the pumps, the District has to monitor for silvery minnow; and to monitor for eggs. He said they have an operational plan that if we see certain plumes of eggs, to temporarily shut off of the pumps to allow those eggs to pass. This is the level of environmental monitoring within the river channel that we have to do to operate the pumps.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION.** Seconded by Vice Chair Dunning. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL FOR PROPOSED LAND SALES - Eric Zamora, COO

a. MRGCD Map 57 Tract 10A2 - Randy Sena

Mr. Zamora stated Mr. Strech and the GIS Department advised they had a box of property cards and thought it would be good to transfer that information to GIS. He said they asked their GIS analyst to prepare a summary to better analyze the properties that the District has which was shown in a web map. He said they asked the division managers to also take a look to see if there were potential sites for things like field maintenance offices to store equipment or stock pile material.

Ms. Ashley Veihl sought approval for the tract of surplus land to be sold with only water rights pertinent to MRGCD Map 57, Tract 10A2, which totals 0.46 acres, property owned by Mr. Randy Sena. She stated Mr. Sena applied for the sale of the land in February 2018 and paid the \$250 application fee. She said MRGCD staff determined there were no other adjacent landowners besides Mr. Sena. Ms. Veihl noted that the BOR continues to hold property interest in Albuquerque and Cochiti Divisions, which Mr. Sena was aware that the Bureau's easement would remain on this tract until the title transfer's completed for this property.

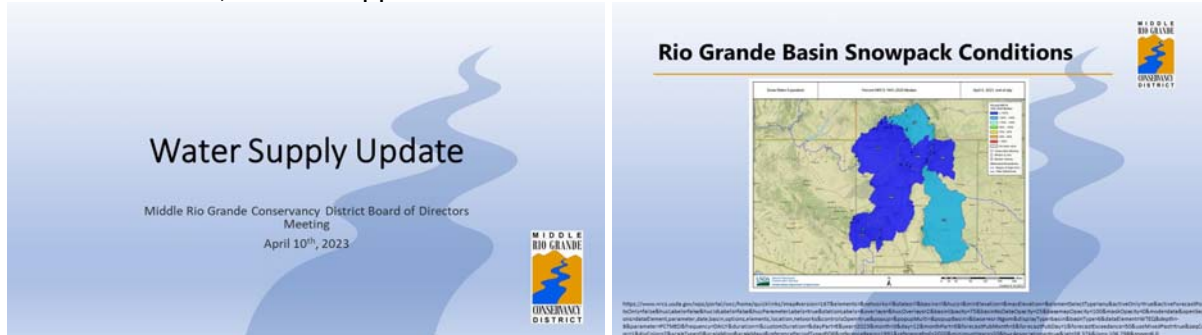
She stated after completing the preliminary determinations, the staff recommendation is the excess land be disposed of.

Chair Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION.** Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

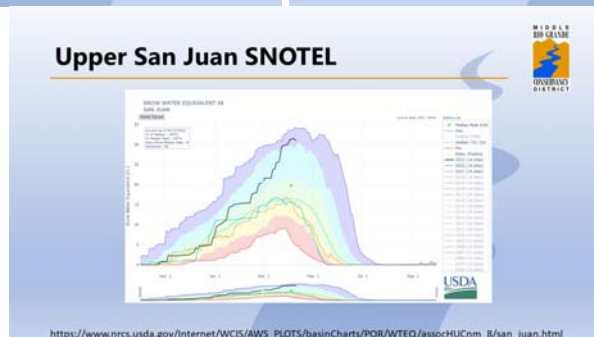
AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 - UPDATE ON THE UPCOMING 2023 IRRIGATION SEASON

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

Ms. Marken started off stating the snowpack conditions were well above median. She explained that snowpack is the measurement of the amount of moisture in the mountains held as snow and is measured as snow, water, equivalent (SWE). She said the Rio Grande Headwaters snowpack conditions was 136% of median, the Upper Rio Grande Rio Chama Watershed was 160% of median, and the Upper San Juan Basin was 177% of median.

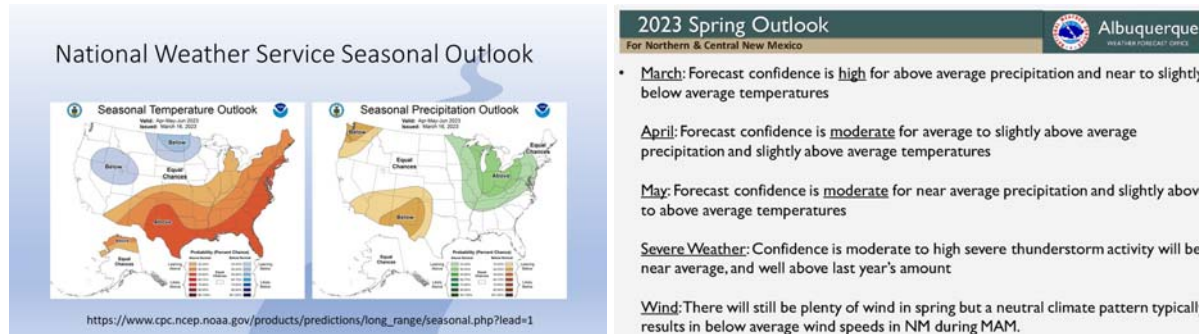


She said the SNOTEL graphs showed 16.2 inches SWE for Rio Grande Headwaters, 13.5 inches of SWE for Rio Chama-Upper Rio Grande Basin, and 31 inches SWE for the San Juan Basin to Rio Chama Basin. Ms. Marken said New Mexico was in Rio Grande Compact debt to Texas of about 90,000 acre feet and El Vado was not available to MRGCD for storage until 2025 due to construction on the dam. She said conditions indicated that the middle valley was likely to experience decent spring runoff in 2023 and expected to last through June. She stated the NCRS April 1 stream flow forecast showed the forecast for April to July for in-flows to El Vado were expected to be 190% of median and in-flows at the Otowi Gauge to be 166% of median.



Ms. Marken discussed that MRGCD was committed to a reduced demand curve in 2023 to maximize deliveries to Elephant Butte to minimize New Mexico's Rio Grande Compact debt. She stated a consequence of Compact restrictions were that MRGCD could not store native Rio Grande water to provide water delivery in summer and fall.

Ms. Marken said the National Weather Service's seasonal outlook was showing higher than average temperatures and below average precipitation for New Mexico, but the models did not include some recent changes in conditions, so they would have closer to average conditions through May.



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

Mr. Martinez said Socorro Division completed charging and flushing on March 17th. He stated they received an increase in water in north and central Socorro Divisions last week and completed deliveries over the week. He said two of the four zones in Socorro Division were done with their first delivery cycle. He said charging and flushing went according to plan in the Belen Division and irrigation deliveries started on March 24th. He said they encountered significant setbacks on the east side of Belen Division and irrigation deliveries did not start until March 28th. Mr. Martinez stated the Valencia Acequia was up and running so irrigators there should be able to get water soon. He said the Albuquerque Division startup plan was accelerated, charging, and flushing began March 16th and irrigation deliveries started March 29th. He stated they would begin their first rotation for the Bernalillo area tomorrow. He stated that things were going well with the updated pumping operation in Corrales. He stated Cochiti Division startup plan was also accelerated and charging and flushing was moved up to March 21st. Mr. Martinez said elevated river flow was making for more drain water which meant less water would need to be diverted to those areas to meet their apportion share of the supply.

Director Duggins expressed his concerns regarding a late start up. Mr. Casuga replied that the valley is feeling the consequences of owing water to the compact and cannot foresee a day that we will start like that and divert like the district did in our near future, and definitely not why we're in compact debt the hydrology doesn't support it, and even if the hydrology did in a short term like this year, the compact debt doesn't supply.

Mr. Martinez added that they were always open to feedback and would learn from their strengths and weaknesses of the startup plan. He did state that water in Socorro was available March 17th, and many people declined that water delivery, and he was confident Socorro had received their portion share of the supply consistently.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

- a. **Bureau of Reclamation** - Jennifer Faler, Area Manager
- b. **Bureau of Indian Affairs** - Roland Becenti, Acting Designated Engineer

Ms. Faler was not in attendance. There was no report given from the BIA.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 - REPORT(S) FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO - Pam Fanelli, CMA, CGFM

a. Report on the 3rd Quarter Financial

Ms. Fanelli stated actual expenditures year to date totaled \$17,910,565. She said they did expect revenues to come close to budgeted revenues by the year end with the exception of grant revenues. She stated they experienced delay with some of the grant projects and it would be moved to FY24. She stated the budgeted deficit for FY23 was \$2,189,477. She said they recommended the District purchase some much needed equipment with salary savings, which would keep the deficit at or around the budgeted deficit of \$2.1 million.

Director Kelly added the Finance Committee met to review the third quarter and recommended they take the portions from the salary savings and apply it to buy two new mowers, which would be about \$500,000.

Director Kelly modified his **MOTION TO ALLOCATE \$500,000 OF SALARY SAVINGS TO THE PURCHASE OF TWO MOWERS AND TO ACCEPT THE THIRD QUARTER FINANCIALS**. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Director Duggins asked about raising costs for the gopher tails. Vice Chair Dunning suggested having staff look into that when the budget was developed and presented in May.

b. Consideration to Develop the FY2024 Budget to Include the 1 Mill Increase

Ms. Fanelli presented the proposal to increase the budget by one mill. She stated if they were to move forward with that, the projected deficits would be around \$4 million per year and bring approximately \$17 million into the budget to supplement the District's \$26 million in grants and \$7.7 million in loans. She then asked the Board that the District be allowed to develop the fiscal year 2024 budget, with the premise that an additional one mill be included in the MRGCD ad valorem assessment to be used strictly for the capital investment fund, for capital investment projects, debt service and district match on grants.

Director Kelly stated the increase was important and that if they lost the Atrisco Siphon there would not be enough pumps to be able to pump that much water from the Rio Grande to feed the whole south valley. He stated being a member of the Finance Committee he supported including this in the budget prep.

Director Barbara Baca emphasized the problem they experienced with the Corrales Siphon and felt this was very forward thinking. She said as they're talking about the birth of the agency of a 100 years, some of these facilities are that old, and the District needs to be looking at a proactive mechanism by which to address these problems and avert those kinds of crises.

Vice Chair Dunning reminded the Board if they raised the mill rate, they could not do it again for another five years. She stated if they did not do it, it would constrain their ability to go after other funds because they would not be able to do the match for a grant.

Director Joaquin Baca said the priority list looks good. Regarding the five-year forecast, he was very much against lining their canals other than a few, stating it was great from an engineering standpoint but was bad for the system as a whole. He said he highly recommended saving money by not lining the canals. He stated John Thompson helped him out with Senate Bill 251 to help economic development and it looked to be a promising way to raise some funds.

Ms. Fanelli reminded the Board the only canal lining project in the five year forecast was for the Socorro Main Canal.

Director Barbara Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE OF THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**. Seconded by Director Duggins. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

- c. Approval of the Report on the Finance Committee Meeting, April 10, 2023 - Directors Kelly, Vice Chair Dunning, and Director Barbara Baca

Chair Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE OF THE REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**. Seconded by Vice Chair Dunning. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO - Jason M. Casuga, PE

- a. **2023 Legislative Session Update and Related - John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist**

Mr. Thompson stated the 2023 New Mexico Legislature's 60-day session ended March 18th, with 1,293 bills introduced and 220 passing. He stated that correlated to a high 17% pass rate. However, he stated they also had 35 bills vetoed for a 14% veto rate, which was also high. He said Senate Bill 335, the Local Election Act implementation delay, was passed and signed into law with an emergency clause without any dissenting votes. He stated the District was successful in obtaining and surviving veto authority on \$210,000 for siphon power funds. Mr. Thompson said House Bill 547, Water Trust Fund Projects, passed. He said 15 million of House Bill 2 was reauthorized this year to expand for usage in the Low Flow Conveyance channel operations and maintenance. Mr. Thompson also spoke about some bills that did not pass.

Mr. Casuga thanked Mr. Thompson for a job well done and felt it was a wonderful learning experience regarding the process. He felt the District was well supported by the senators and representatives within the benefited area.

- b. **Consideration/Approval for the MOA Between Bureau of Reclamation Technical Service Center, Fisheries and Wildlife Resources Group and the MRGCD - Anne Marken, Water Ops Division Manager and Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO**

Mr. Casuga stated the MOA was for funding they would be doing with BOR and tied to the infrastructure in the Low Flow Conveyance Channel (LFCC) at the southern end for gates. He stated the cost came in higher than his authority to authorize, therefore they needed to bring to the Board for consideration. He added it had been reviewed by counsel.

Director Kelly asked about the timing of the construction of the drop structure. Mr. Casuga answered the construction was ongoing but had slowed down due to the amount of water the river produced and more water in the LFCC but were still pushing to have the outlet structure put in before monsoon season.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MOA WITH THE BOR TECHNICAL SERVICE CENTER**. Seconded by Director Barbara Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c. Report on the Law of the Rio Grande Conference, Santa Fe, April 3-4, 2023 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Chair Russo Baca, and Directors Joaquin Baca and Sandoval

Mr. Casuga stated they were updated on Texas v. New Mexico settlement agreement. He stated Texas talked about the ability to settle and how they could do it without the federal government. He stated there would be another conference in November.

See attached written report from the Chair.

d. Upcoming Events

1. Farming in The Flyway Series, Soil Health Strategies for Salt-Affected Middle Rio Grande Workshops, 164 NM-116, Bosque, NM - May 12, 2023
2. NWRA Federal Water Issues Conference, Washington, DC - April 17-19,

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 - REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) - Chief Water Counsel or General Counsel

Ms. Wiggins reported that they received notice that the City of Belen filed a crossclaim against MRGCD for negligence in the maintenance of the Belen Highline Canal and the New Belen Acequia for damages they alleged MRGCD caused in connection with the flood event on July 6, 2021. She believed they would receive immunity from the claim under the Tort Claims Act but would keep them posted.

Dr. DuMars stated the Wild Earth Guardians (WEG) were unsuccessful in persuading the administrative office of the state engineer and the hearing examiner ruled WEG was improper. However, the judge stated that the reason the state engineer listed in their decision did not show it was in the public's best interest. He stated the state engineer and MRGCD would take the opportunity to put on a case as to why it was in the public's best interest to grant the extension of time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16 - REPORT(S) FROM THE BOARD

a. Report on the Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting, March 16, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca

See the Chair's attached written report.

b. Report on the 100-Year Celebration Kickoff Meeting, March 22, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca and Director Joaquin Baca

Director Joaquin Baca said they came to a fairly good decision on 1923 v 1925 and it was a great meeting. He mentioned the PIO, Brittany Bade, and John Fleck also in attendance.

See the Chair's attached written report.

c. Report on the Agriculture Appreciation Day, March 25, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca

See the Chair's attached written report.

d. Report on the Water Protection Committee Meeting, March 29, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca and Directors Joaquin Baca and Sandoval

See the Chair's attached written report.

- e. **Report on the Primera Aqua (Acequia Madre de Atrisco), April 1, 2023 - Directors Barbara Baca and Joaquin Baca**

Director Barbara Baca said it was a wonderful event and fed into the 100-year birthday of MRGCD. She stated they would all be working together moving forward to educate the public about the importance of what MRGCD and what their ditches and canals do.

- f. **Report on the Meeting at BlueFly Farm with Senator Martin Heinrich, Representative D-2 Gabe Velasquez, and Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack, April 3, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca and Director Joaquin Baca**

See the Chair's attached written report.

- g. **Report on the District Urban Issues Committee Meeting, April 6, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca and Directors Joaquin Baca and Barbara Baca**

See the Chair's attached written report.

- h. **Workshop to develop a climate-adapted revegetation design for Whitfield Complex lands along the Middle Rio Grande, April 7, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca**

See the Chair's attached written report.

Chair Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**. Seconded by Director Kelly. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H)2
 - 1. Limited Personnel Matters
- b. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H)7
 - 1. Threatened or Pending Litigation

Mr. Casuga did not believe the executive session was needed still; which legal counsel concurred.

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Madam Chair Russo Baca adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of April 10, 2023

ATTESTED:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary/Treasurer

Stephanie Russo Baca, Madam Chair
MRGCD Board of Directors