

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

OCTOBER 6, 2023 - 10:00 AM

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Russo Baca called the special meeting to order at 10:09 am. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS

Stephanie Russo Baca, Madam Chair	Present
Karen Dunning, Vice Chair	Present
Barbara Baca, Director	Present
John Kelly, Director	Present
Joaquin Baca, Director	Absent
Glen Duggins, Director	Present
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present

STAFF

Jason Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

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

Eli Lovato, AES	Ernie Marquez, AES	Carol Benavidez
Jerome Cordova	Brian Jiron	Beau Gonzales
Josh Hind, MRGCD	Amanda Molina, MRGCD	Doug Strech, MRGCD

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Eli Lovato led the Pledge of Allegiance at today’s meeting.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no changes made.

Vice Chair Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA**.
Seconded by Director Sandoval. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – CANVASSING OF RESULTS – Eli Lovato, Automated Election Services

Mr. Lovato declared the winners as Stephanie Russo Baca for the At Large position, John P. Kelly for the Bernalillo County position and Brian Jiron for the Valencia County position.



Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Board of Directors Election
Tuesday, October 3, 2023

OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

DIRECTOR AT- LARGE POSITION NUMBER 1	Total Votes	%
STEPHANIE A. RUSSO BACA	1124	56.17%
JEROME CORDOVA	877	43.83%
BERNALILLO COUNTY DIRECTOR POSITION NUMBER 2	Total Votes	%
JOHN P. KELLY	630	100.00%
VALENCIA COUNTY DIRECTOR POSITION NUMBER 5	Total Votes	%
CAROL BENAVIDEZ	515	43.50%
KIRSTEN COUEVAS	123	10.39%
BRIAN JIRON	516	46.11%

Vice Chair congratulated both San Felipe and Isleta pueblos as she said they both had people vote. She expressed her disappointment with Cochiti, Santo Domingo and Sandia pueblos as the District made voting available to them and then no one voted.

Discussion ensued about better turnout amongst the pueblos and District wide communities. The total qualified electors for this election due to the fact that the At Large position was open was said to be over 88,000 individuals and the turnout was very low.

Director Duggins thanked Carol Benavidez for her efforts as they all know what it takes to put your name on a ballot. He said the only losers are those who never tried. Ms. Benavidez thanked the board for the opportunity.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – MOTION TO APPROVE DECLARATION OF RESULTS /
CERIFICATION OF OFFICIAL CANVASS**

Director Kelly began to make the motion to approve Declaration of Results and Certification of Official Canvass.

Chair Russo Baca recused herself from the At Large position vote.

Vice Chair Dunning made the **MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION AS TWO SEPARATE VOTES.** Seconded by Director Kelly. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Baca	Yes	Chair Russo Baca	Abstained
Director Sandoval	Yes	Vice Chair Dunning	Yes
Director Kelly	Yes	Director Duggins	Yes

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Madam Chair Russo Baca adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of October 6, 2023.

ATTESTED:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary/Treasurer

Chair
MRGCD Board of Directors