

**MINUTES OF THE
2,205th REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

NOVEMBER 13, 2023 - 3:00 PM

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Russo Baca attended remotely. Vice Chair Dunning called the regular meeting to order at 3:05 pm. The following Directors and Staff were present:

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

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

Mark Garcia	Casey Ish, MRGCD	Michael Padilla, MRGCD
Elaine Hebard	Amanda Molina, MRGCD	Mitch Georgina, MRGCD
Sarah Delavan, BIA	Christine Nardi, MRGCD	Marta Moerch, MRGCD
Robert Padilla	Alicia Lopez, MRGCD	Judith McSweeney, MRGCD
Mike Hamman, OSE	Yasmeen Najmi, MRGCD	Angelina Jiminez, MRGCD
Chris Lopez	Danielle Wilson	Matthew Chavez, MRGCD
Mark Sanchez	John Thompson, MRGCD	Angel Madera Enriquez, MRGCD
Dan Krupiak	Ashley Veihl, MRGCD	Rhett Sanders-Spencer, MRGCD
John Fleck, UNM	Josh Gamboa, MRGCD	Josh Hind, MRGCD
Tarah Jaramillo, MRGCD	Tyler Otero, MRGCD	

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lorna Wiggins led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Chair Russo Baca was out of town therefore Vice Chair Dunning was acting chair. She declared a quorum, and the hybrid meeting was publicly noticed. She also recognized and congratulated Director Joaquin Baca as he was elected to the Albuquerque City Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no changes made.

Director Sandoval made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA**.
Seconded by Director Kelly. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification - November 13, 2023**
- b. **Consideration/Approval of October 2023 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins**
- c. **Consideration/Approval of October 2023 Invoice for Law and Resource Planning Assoc.**

- d. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting - October 6, 2023
- e. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting - October 9, 2023
- f. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting - October 9, 2023
- g. Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for October 2023 (For informational Purposes Only)

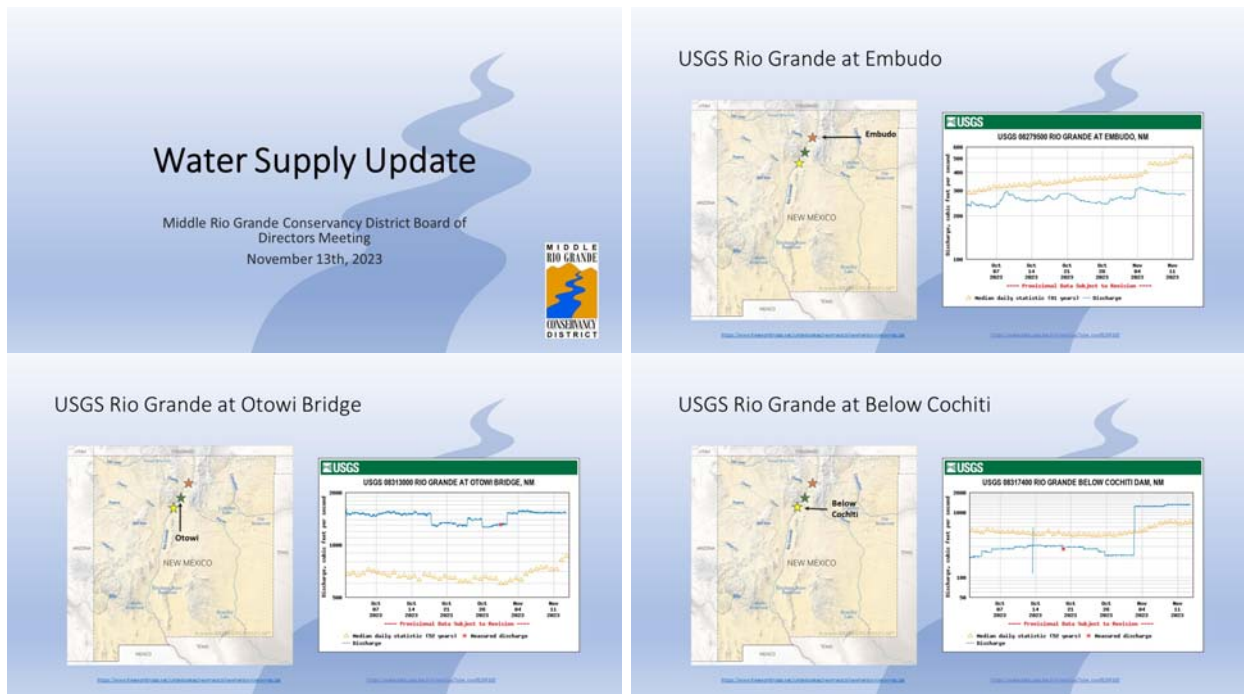
There were no questions or discussions had.

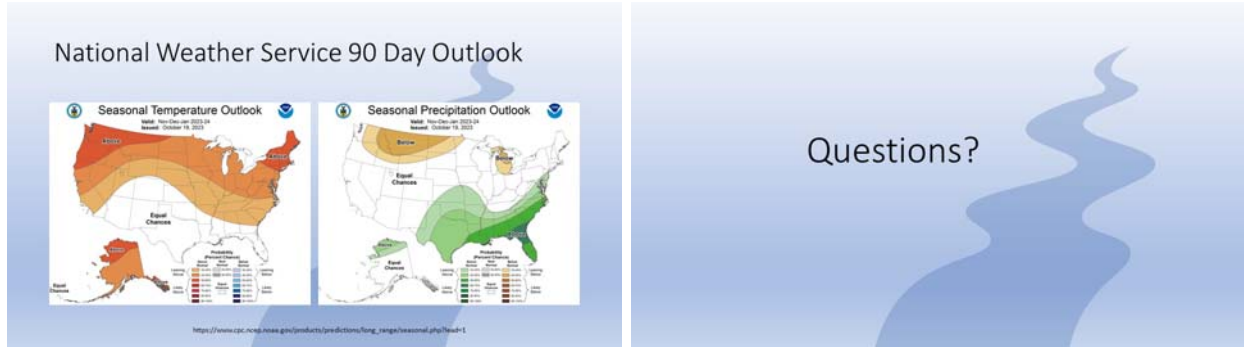
Director Duggins made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.** Seconded by Director Sandoval. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - WRAP UP OF THE 2023 IRRIGATION SEASON

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

Anne Marken said there had been more water in the river the past couple of weeks due to the US Army Corps of Engineers releasing water stored in Abiquiu and Cochiti Reservoirs to be moved down to Elephant Butte. She discussed the hydrographs, which showed Embudo Gauge with less than 300 CFS, the Otowi Gauge read 1500 CFS and Rio Grande below Cochiti Dam measured 1300 CFS. She stated most of the water moving to Elephant Butte would help with Compact deliveries for 2023. Ms. Marken discussed the National Weather Service three-month outlook, showing equal chances for above or below average temperatures and precipitation with an 80% chance of El Nino to continue through the winter and into spring.





Mr. Casuga asked if Colorado operations finished filling their ponds and stopped their use. Ms. Marken answered there was less than 100 CFS coming over the Colorado border and anticipated them stopping releases soon.

Mr. Casuga asked if they should see the number rise in Embudo if they had not wound down. He added the water management community expected the Compact to rise, but the degree to which it would rise was undetermined.

Director Duggins said they heard it would be close to a wash of where they started the year and anticipated what was stored and would be going down. Mr. Casuga said the ones releasing the water were releasing it according to the rules that maximized hopeful delivery. He added their annual year delivery was usually not great when there was above average runoff and no rain. He said he would be very happy if they broke even.

Director Kelly asked how many acre feet they were going to use to rewet the river down to Elephant Butte. Ms. Marken answered it was hard to tell because the river gauges would need to be revisited once the water arrived but could lose quite a bit of water in the process. Mr. Casuga added they expected efficiency to rise over time.

Director Duggins asked why they would not push more water. Ms. Marken stated they were trying to keep it confined and not to overbank and spread.

b. Report on Preparation for Off-season Activities and Workplan - Matt Martinez, Water Distribution Division Manager

Mr. Martinez stated the water supply in October was low, but they were able to effectively rotate water through the irrigation system and able to catch up on deliveries after shortages in August and September. He said irrigation season for non-pueblo farmers ended October 31st and November 15th for the six middle Rio Grande pueblos. Mr. Martinez thanked Sarah Delavan for bringing a fresh perspective and being a great advocate for the pueblos. He discussed the ISO logbook application project and said they learned much to help them make upgrades and add new features for next season and the video was available on the website. He stated soon all diversions would end and they would start on winter work. He noted that ISO staffing and training would be a top priority in the off season. Mr. Martinez thanked MRGCD water users for the productive feedback and support.

Director Duggins commented that he planted in the late fall and was able to get what he needed. He asked for an update on the one acre per hour. Mr. Martinez answered that they used a new form to report violations with a process of every two weeks upon report, where they then reviewed and determined corrective action. He added they needed to have more discussions on how to address water waste violations.

Mr. Casuga stated the general perception was that they were inefficient in managing water by continuing to not strictly enforce one acre per hour. He felt a discussion needed to be had.

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

Mark Garcia

Mr. Garcia piggybacked on what Director Duggins mentioned about the lack of efficiency. He stated his property ditches were clean and laser leveled. He said he did not know what kind of policies they could put on people, but farmers needed to do their part as well by keeping ditches clean and laser leveled. He thought there needs to be a discussion on how farmers can be more efficient at laser leveling.

Elaine Hebard

Ms. Hebard said she was in support of the new Urban Issues Advisory Committee. She said explaining the benefits received provided understanding for the property assessment they all paid. She gave a few suggestions on water rights and availability of water for irrigation, including various ways ditches and drains helped the urban area by recharging the shallow aquifer by replicating the old, braided river system and helping to keep trees without having to water all the cottonwood trees in the valley. She said the ISC would be initiating a process to determine regional boundaries, participants, and the scope in which MRGCD should participate. She also said a regional water budget was needed, they would see impacts under the Leap Ahead analysis, and mentioned one way to update the water budget was the way they did in 1997. She suggested having a conference with the main players to talk about the Compact and the benefits of the MRGCD.

MRGCD Board Meeting of November 13, 2023
Public Comments - Elaine Hebard

Good afternoon,

My name is Elaine Hebard and, while I only periodically comment, being a water nerd, I usually read through the Board minutes. I am very much in support of the new Urban Issues Advisory Committee. Explaining the benefits received provides understanding of the property assessments -- an eternal question.

In addition to the issues Mr. DuMars mentioned at the October meeting regarding water rights and availability of water to irrigators, I would suggest a few others. Talking about the various ways the ditches and drains help the urban area -- such as by recharging the shallow groundwater by replicating the old braided river and providing a steady level of water for trees found throughout the valley floor, not to mention viewshed, recreation, green belt, food security, habitat and cleaner air-- would go a long way toward improving understanding. ^{بصحة}

Indeed, what would the urban valley look like without the irrigation system -- or if it were operated as efficiently as possible? Could be quite different. Not only are such conversations important for the Urban Issues Advisory Committee, but they must be a part of the to-be-initiated regional water planning called for by the brand-new Water Security Planning Act (72-14A-1 et seq). The ISC will be initiating a process to determine regional boundaries, participants and scope -- in which the MRGCD should participate. On October 24, 2023, the Bernalillo County Commission approved \$200,000 as an immediate appropriation to participate (FR 2023-112). Might this be something for the MRGCD to consider, both now and on a recurring basis?

As a part of planning, a regional water budget is needed. The 1997 Water Budget, developed for the 2004 MRG Regional Water Plan, showed how the region was over-consuming our renewable supply, which in turn provided impetus for taking actions. And many actions were taken. Urban usage as measured by gallons per capita per day has declined, and agricultural diversions have as well.¹

But, the MRG is still over consuming what the Rio Grande Compact apportions to us, and the end of the year will again find us with a deficit. A major trigger to the litigation with Texas was that the State had permitted too many groundwater users, which use in turn drew down river flows. In the LRG, the State is encouraging a reduction of surface uses --so as to make deliveries now-- but ultimately depletions will have to be permanently reduced. Which means that groundwater pumping will need to be reduced.

The LRG will be keeping a closer eye on the deliveries to the Butte from the MRG. Since our region has been under-delivering for years, there is no option but to reduce depletions here.

At the same time, climate changes are countering much of the water savings already achieved. Higher evapotranspiration and evaporation will impact deliveries not under any specific water provider. According to the *Leap Ahead Report - Climate Change In New Mexico Over the Next 50 Years*:

¹ See, for instance, the presentation to the Water & Natural Resources Committee by the MRGCD on October 3, 2023.

Impacts on Water Resources,² the likely changes related to water management due to climate change include:

- Lower streamflow and aquifer recharge
- Greater year-to-year variability in precipitation
- Hotter, more severe droughts
- Decreasing snowpack, earlier and diminishing runoff
- Greater demands on groundwater due to surface water shortfalls
- Stress on natural vegetation caused by increasing temperature and decreased water availability
- Greater demands on water due to heat and higher energy use

Less water to serve more demands. How will it be shared? A water budget will be necessary for all of us to have a better understanding of what our choices are. The MRGCD should join with others to develop such a budget in an open and transparent manner, so that we all have faith in how it is depicting today's condition as well as tomorrow's scenarios.

To survive ongoing aridification, we must rethink and overhaul the way we use diminishing amounts of water. Given recent reports and op-eds in the local papers, there is clearly a need for more collaboration. Rather than pointing fingers, what about the ABCWUA, MRGCD and Rio Rancho leading an annual conference about the Compact, discussing how it impacts each, explaining how each is helping to reduce depletions, and exploring how more could be accomplished?

Finally, back to the need for public education -- clearly the benefits of the MRGCD should be a part of the Atlatzo Acequia Madre Master Plan. [As an aside, otherwise, I would suggest using a version of the Enhanced Open Space so as to extend the funding to include as much of the ditch system in the South Valley as possible as opposed to having it all spent at the entrance.]

Thank you.

² The Report was developed by the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, which compiled, assessed, and integrated peer reviewed published research, technical reports, and datasets relevant to the broad topic of changes to New Mexico's climate over the next 50 years and resultant impacts on water resources. The water plans will be guided by its findings. <https://engagewater.org/18308/widgets/97224/documents/3792>

John P. Kelly

Director Kelly reminded Ms. Hebard he was preparing a charter for the Urban Advisory Committee, and said she added some good input to remember as he worked on it. He also mentioned the expenditure report and all they were doing for the local economy.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF MRGCD BOARD COMMITTEES - Chair Russo Baca

Mr. Casuga discussed the different proposed board and voluntary advisory committees and the goal to make sure every county is represented, including tribal partners. He’s looking to the board to reach out to people for the advisory committees. Vice Chair Dunning suggested they would need to get more guidance about how the group will meet and how often.

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
 BOARD COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTARY ADVISORY COMMITTEES
 2023-2024

BOARD COMMITTEES

Finance Committee:	Water Protection Committee
Director John Kelly Vice Chair Karen Dunning Chair Stephanie Russo Baca	Chair Stephanie Russo Bacca Director Joaquin Baca Director Michael T. Sandoval
Urban Issues Committee	Irrigation Committee
Director Joaquin Baca Director John Kelly Director Karen Dunning	Director Glen Duggins Director Michael T. Sandoval Director Brian Jiron
Legislative Committee	BIA Contract Committee
Chair Stephanie Russo Baca Vice Chair Karen Dunning Director Joaquin Baca	Chair Stephanie Russo Baca Director Michael T. Sandoval Director Brian Jiron
Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) Representation	Personnel Committee
Vice Chair Karen Dunning - Exec Committee Chair Stephanie Russo Baca – Alternate Jason Casuga, CEO/Chief Engineer – TPTG	Director John Kelly Vice Chair Karen Dunning Chair Stephanie Russo Baca
Election Committee	
Chair Stephanie Russo Baca Director John Kelly Director Brian Jiron	

VOLUNTARY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Conservation Advisory Committee (NFWF grant requirement)

Urban Issues Advisory Committee

- Composition TBD

Irrigation Advisory Committee

- Proposed Composition: 10-person committee, 2 Tribal members, 2 members from each County

Director Kelly cautioned about having too many committee meetings over the course of a year, and suggested maybe twice a year unless there was an issue. Mr. Casuga agreed.

Dr. DuMars suggested having a person appointed by a county commission or the ABCWUA to engage and they may take it more seriously.

Director Sandoval suggested if they were looking to have tribal people sit at the table with them in the Irrigation Advisory Committee, he recommended the Coalition nominate who should be at the table. Mr. Casuga agreed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - REPORT(S) FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT - Christine L. Nardi, MBA

a. Introduction of MRGCD New Hires

Ms. Nardi announced MRGCD new hires, including an ISO in the Socorro Service Area, a welder in Cochiti Division, a light equipment operator in the Albuquerque Division and two medium equipment operators in the Socorro Field Division. She reported they are at a 10% vacancy rate.

General Office

GEROME	APODACA	IRRIGATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR
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Cochiti Division

JOHN	LUCERO	WELDER I
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Albuquerque Division

FIDEL	DIAZ	LIGHT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
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Socorro Division

IZIAH	MONTOYA	MEDIUM EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
JOEL	MARTINEZ	MEDIUM EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

b. Report on Management and Development Training

Ms. Nardi stated recent years have demonstrated just how quickly things can change. They not only experienced the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, but also saw long tenured and key leaders leave the organization. She announced they partnered with Jan Maples from The Connecting Point, an HR consulting firm, to set up the District for success in its next chapter to ensure continuity and leadership talent in alignment with the Chief Engineer/CEO's goals for 2023 and beyond. She stated that each session was tailored to specific needs identified by the participants themselves through a training needs assessment. The 19 participating managers came from across the organization, from the field divisions, equipment, repair and transportation, engineering, water operations, water distribution, purchasing, conservation, accounting and licensing and land sales. There would be 6 mandatory training sessions scheduled to take place once a month with a duration of approximately 4 hours each; stating there are no makeup sessions. She said investing in the District's managers was money and time and resources well spent.

Director Kelly asked what the feedback was on the first training session on interviewing techniques. Ms. Nardi answered very positive and gave accolades to her HR team.

Mr. Casuga added it was a series they expected to repeat and said they were trying to put together a training regime to prepare individuals for what they face in the field.

Vice Chair Dunning requested sharing the evaluations at the end of training modules with the Personnel Committee. Ms. Nardi answered yes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - REPORT(S) FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO - Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM

- a. Consideration/Approval for Resolution M-11-13-23-204 Authorizing Application for a WaterSmart: Drought Resiliency Program Grant (NOF No. R24AS00007) Through the US Bureau of Reclamation for the Construction for the Feeder No. 3 Pump Station in Southern Valencia County - West Side Belen Division**

Ms. Fanelli discussed Resolution M-11-13-23-204, which would authorize the District to apply for a WaterSmart grant for construction of the Feeder No. 3 pump station in Valencia County. She stated the estimated cost was \$5 million with a 50% match. Mr. Casuga added they would apply for the 50% match with the Water Trust Board.

Director Kelly asked if it would have the ability to divert water to the river for ESA issues like the one in Socorro. Mr. Casuga answered yes, it will be built close to the end of Feeder 3, strategically located to provide both supplemental water for irrigation and supplemental water in line with commitments under the biological opinion.

Vice Chair Dunning inquired about the timeline for the grant application. Ms. Fanelli stated the deadline was the week before but had not been awarded yet. Mr. Casuga added awards usually given around August or fall of next year.

Director Duggins asked if they were pumping drain water back up or moving ditch water. Mr. Casuga stated they would take water out of the riverside drain and lift it to the Jarales, Sabinal, and Garcia Extension.

Director Duggins asked where the water would go if they did not have the pump. Mr. Casuga said they could direct water from Feeder No. 3 right of way into the Isleta Riverside Drain to the Drain Unit 7 Extension to Socorro or back to the river.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION M-11-13-23-204**.
Seconded by Director Duggins. **The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

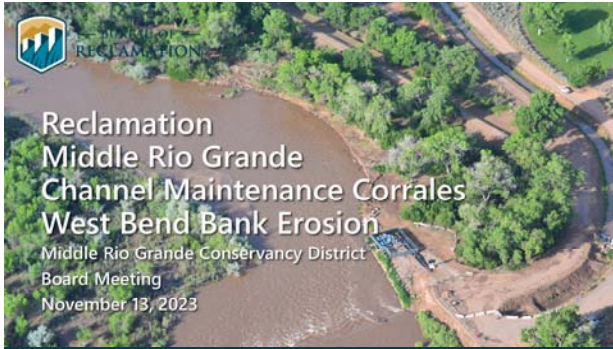
a. Bureau of Reclamation - Jennifer Faler, Area Manager

Ms. Faler did not attend.

b. Bureau of Reclamation - Robert S. Padilla, Supervisory Civil (Hydraulic) Engineer

1. Temporary Banks Stabilization Project (Corrales Siphon)

Mr. Padilla discussed what they were doing along the west bank lines in preparation for 2024 spring runoff. He said they wanted to improve water delivery, endangered species, and habitat needs. He showed photos and figures and talked about project components, schedules, and plans for the long term. He explained that the river used to be wide, braided, and shallow but was now an S channel with point bars and large meandering bends. Mr. Padilla mentioned closing NM State Road 448 in a couple weeks to start hauling there. He said they would be having a meeting with the Village of Corrales, MRGCD, Reclamation and safety folks to discuss safety. He discussed many projects, including putting in a bioengineered bank line at the Corrales Siphon Bend and side channel to alleviate pressure on the outer bank and reconnect the flood plain and the Santa Ana project.



Outline

- Authorities, Project Background, and Purpose
- 2023 Spring River monitoring and Reach Trends
- Project Components
- Project Schedule
- Future Long Term Planned Work



Sandia RM 202.2
24 August 2021

MRG River Maintenance Authorities



- MRG Flood Control Acts of 1948 and 1950 – Authorized project works including Flood Control Dams, El Vado Dam, and River and Levee system, Irrigation rehabilitation
- Velarde to Caballo -260 river miles
- Maintenance of Rio Grande Channel and Low Flow Conveyance Channel
- Work w/ MRGCD and USACOE on MRG Project works, river system, levees, downstream water delivery and ESA habitat needs

MRG River Maintenance Past and Legal Considerations

- Flood Control Acts of 1948 and 1950 – Channelization Period 1950-70's, River Channel and Floodway, Rehabilitation of MRGCD's Irrigation and Drainage Facilities (1951 Contract, El Vado, Isleta, San Acacia), Flood and Sediment Control Dams and Levees by USACE, improved water delivery and conveyance
- Post channelization - maintenance of River Channel for less than flood flows, authorization for 5,000 and 8,000 cfs, 2-yr return flows
- 1938 Rio Grande Compact (Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas)
- Other federal responsibilities 1973 Endangered Species Act (2016 BO), 1970 National Environmental Policy Act, and 1972 Clean Water Act

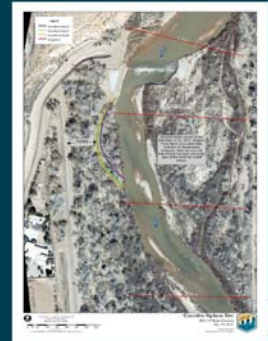
River Monitoring – Spring Runoff

- 2023 Spring Runoff volume was 169% of 30-yr median (1991-2020); low runoff years in 2020, 21, 22
 - Cochiti Peak flow was 5400 cfs
 - San Felipe and Albuquerque were 5670 cfs and 5100 cfs respectively
 - Inflow into Cochiti peaked at 7850 cfs – long release of flood flows and storage
- River flights and on-the-ground inspection
- Observed bank erosion from San Felipe downstream to Alameda Bridge
- Also collect river cross sectional data, imagery, and LiDAR annually for monitoring



Corrales West Bend 2023 Observed Erosion and Trends

- Observed significant bend development, bank erosion, and channel migration downstream of the siphon crossing
 - Approximately 140 feet of lateral migration with about 150 feet of buffer to the western levee system
- River bed in this reach is:
 - Incising (eroding and lowering in elevation) and;
 - Coarsening (sands/fine gravel to gravels/cobbles) due changes in the upstream sediment supply
 - Banks and terrace are comprised of finer material, river bed is below vegetation root zone so minimal erosion resistance.
- River planform is changing from a relatively straight/braided/shallow channel to sinuous/narrow/deep channel with point bars and meander bends



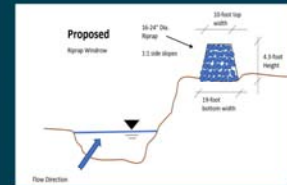
Reach Trends – Corrales Siphon Crossing downstream to Harvey Jones Outfall



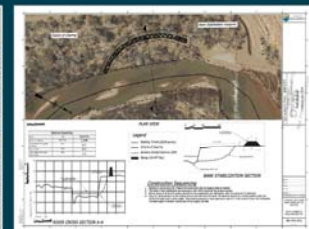
Project Components – Riprap Windrow and top of bank clearing

- Windrow is "self-launching" or future bank erosion at the site will cause the material to fall along the advancing bankline limiting future erosion/migration to the west.
- Material quantity is sufficient to line the bankline to the top an adequate thickness for protection and include material to fill in a 4 ft. scour hole at the toe of the bank.
- Windrow will be comprised of rip rap rock material placed along 560-ft of bankline, trapezoidal in shape.
- Rock material is comprised of 18-24 inch materials and involving approximately 1500 cubic yards of material or will be approximately 2.7 cubic yards per linear foot of bankline when launched.
- The alignment of the windrow will be staked in the field by a project engineer prior to construction, alignment considers future trajectory of the bend development.
- Prior to placement of the rock material the top of the bank will be cleared of vegetation back to the west for about 50 feet for equipment access.

Project Components – Riprap Windrow and top of bank clearing



Project Components – Staging Area and Maximum Disturbance Area



Project Components – Design and Construction Information

Project Components – Equipment and Hauling Access Routes



Site access via Corrales road from NM 528. Use Siphon Road.



Riprap haul route: 13.6 mi


Project Components – Planned Project Construction Timeframe

- Reclamation Crews plan to start Construction in November 2023 and until thru December 2023.
- The areas denoted in blue will need to be closed to Public During Construction.
- Reclamation plans to advertise the proposed closure in the local news media prior to the start of the construction work and will release a press statement.
- The rock window will present a walking hazard so we would like to discourage people from standing on or around it after the work is done.
- Reclamation plans to salvage the rock windrow material later when the long-term River Mile 199 Project is built at this location and the corresponding bends downstream to Harvey Jones Outfall



Future Long Term Project – Corrales Siphon Crossing downstream to Harvey Jones Outfall

- Current trends of river incision and narrowing have locked in the current channel and lead to bend erosion as the root zone is undercut.
- Riparian and aquatic habitat is compromised disconnected floodplains and narrow channel conditions.
- Project currently under design with goals to stop erosion toward the levees, alleviate river incision, and provide additional width for river flows.
- Consists of longitudinal stone toe protection, river grade control features, and constructed side channels.
- Reclamation to develop Project Description and construction drawings 2023/2024.




Questions?

Santa Ana RM 205.8
3 May 2023



Contact Information

Robert Padilla, P.E., D.WRE
Supervisory Civil Engineer
rpadilla@usbr.gov
505-615-4586 Mobile



Vice Chair Dunning asked if the access would be closed for long term or short term and if they were still going to do something about erosion since the cottonwoods were still going to fall into the river due to age. Mr. Padilla answered it would be closed today through December and would be open from then until fall of 2025. Mr. Casuga said once the river was stabilized any tree that had not fallen into the river would be MRGCD's and the Village of Corrales' responsibility.

Director Kelly mentioned discussing with Ms. Faler his concern about a windrow of rock five feet high on a 1-to-1 slope being an attractive nuisance for the kids in the area and asked if his team was able to look at burying in the trench to make it flat and if they had an excavator out there already. Mr. Padilla said excavating a rock trench would impact more cottonwood trees than if they just put the windrow in.

Director Kelly stated whatever they could do to reduce the visual and attractive nuisance impact would be appreciated. Mr. Casuga said both MRGCD and the Village of Corrales had concerns about the safety of the area, and they had already been discussing long term safety features and wanted to encourage everybody to stay away from the area and would do whatever they could to create a path for an easier route.

c. Bureau of Indian Affairs - Dr. Sarah Delavan, Designated Engineer

Dr. Delavan said she had been working closely with MRGCD staff. She said the O&M agreement was still filtering up through the government for a signature. She added she had read about 90% of the MRGCD website. She's working with the team on a startup plan for the new season in the spring and was halfway through the field site visits. Dr. Delavan mentioned a government shutdown looming where she would not be available, but there is a plan to continue meeting. She noted that some of the District staff became a part of a union was brought up at the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblo Coalition meeting and that they would love to hear about this, anything that might affect some of the pueblos or relationships with her or the coalition.

Vice Chair Dunning asked how long they could go with the agreement not being signed if the government shuts down. Mr. Casuga stated that they received the updated SF-424 form with funding, showing that the funding for the remaining, through February, is covered. If they did not get the funding yet, they would just continue their job and BIA would pay them in arrears if not functional by February.

Director Kelly commented she should be selective on the work plans and welcomed her aboard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER - Eric Zamora, PE

a. MRGCD Division Manager Updates - Tyler Otero, Belen Division Manager

Mr. Otero said he took the Belen Division and broke it into seven different areas for mowing and spraying that would eventually shrink down to four areas for more accountability for the mowers and sprayers. He discussed weekly work plans that helped with scheduling work and determining a timeline for outstanding work. He said he had encountered issues with gates, illegal dumping, vehicles in the bosque, and encampments. Mr. Otero mentioned that Albuquerque and Socorro Divisions have supported him. He thanked his staff and said he appreciated the extra effort that they've given.

Director Kelly asked about equipment needs, what was the single most important piece of equipment the division needed to go into next year's budget. Mr. Otero said because they've been renting one currently, a water truck and then a long reach.

Director Jiron asked if they were looking at installing more gates to help with illegal dumping. Mr. Otero stated the biggest issue is the locks are being cut or a wench is used and driving through them. He said it turns into a nuisance problem.

Director Kelly said it sounded like they needed game cameras. Mr. Otero said they had been discussing that and needed to come to a long term solution.

b. Discussion/Approval regarding Krupiak Encroachment - Rhett Sanders-Spencer, Right of Way Specialist and Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO

Mr. Sanders-Spencer discussed the approval of the Krupiak encroachment. He stated Mr. Dan Krupiak was a contractor who built a new residence for sale on Tract 16, which his wife owns. He had made public comment on how he had been impacted during mediation of the disputed property boundary. He said they followed it with a report on the results of the boundary survey.

Ms. Wiggins asked the rest of the report be moved to executive session, which the Vice Chair agreed.

c. Update on Bureau of Indian Affairs Winter Work O&M

Mr. Zamora said they had been in coordination with the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos with regard to the winter work list and continued maintenance operations for the pueblos. He stated they would be moving forward with finalizing the priority list with each of the pueblos.

Mr. Zamora gave updates on the regular O&M and said they would be doing a demonstration project tomorrow for all four divisions on turnout installations depending on the division, they have a few non-standard way of installing turnouts.

He said winter weather definitely affects the work and the amount of time we can spend on our winter projects. If they had significant winter weather this year, rather than sending people home, they would be transferring staff to other divisions to help complete work, such as, picking up weed piles, helping with dredging or helping with turnout installs as they were looking at between forty and 80 turnout installs throughout the District in the offseason.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER - Jason M. Casuga, PE

a. Consideration/Approval of the Atrisco Acequia Madre Master Plan - Danielle Wilson, Sites Southwest and Yasmeen Najmi, Planner

Yasmeen Najmi introduced Danielle Wilson, the principal planner at Sites Southwest. She mentioned they had about \$65,000 capital outlay funding and had been working with their partners and Bohannon Huston on working on a scope of work to start with some of the engineering and design for phase one. She said Bernalillo County was working on an MOU continuance for implementation with the partners and were able to get some additional capital outlay funding, about \$125,000 and one time allocation of \$800,000.

Danielle Wilson discussed the master plan for the land around the headwaters of the Atrisco Acequia with the County, MRGCD, Water Utility Authority, the City, and other non-funding partners. She said the site was north of Central Ave and Sunset Road, west of the Rio Grande and adjacent to the bosque, which was a strategic location for the community with a key opportunity to provide connections to existing trails and open space amenities. Ms. Wilson said they wanted it to be a space to educate the public about the history and connection between water, agriculture, and community. She discussed all the planning that went into the master plan and all it entailed. She said there were issues of connection surfacing, accessibility along the trails, concerns about vandalism and personal safety, trash and dumping, parking, and encampments. Ms. Wilson said they were looking to breaking it into three phases over the next several years, starting with engineering and design, surveying, and testing and permitting.

Vice Chair Dunning asked if they were the first entity to approve the plan or had other partners already heard the presentation and approved it. Ms. Najmi said the plan was presented to the Open Space Advisory Board and had been approved.

Vice Chair Dunning asked if the Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency were agreeing to the plan. Ms. Najmi had not heard anything definitive on how MRA wanted to use the space, but they had remained engaged in the process and open to ideas.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO ENDORSE THE ATRISCO ACEQUIA MADRE MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Chair Russo Baca. **The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Report(s) from the Conservation Program - Casey Ish, Conservation Program Supervisor

1. Discussion/Approval of Abiquiu Cultural Study Cost Share

Casey Ish gave an update on the Abiquiu storage and culture compliance. He said the Water Utility Authority had an ongoing contractor that completed all the site surveys at Abiquiu, and things were moving forward. He said they were engaging in informal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and formal consultation would follow after they get a final report.

Vice Chair Dunning asked if they found anything significant in the survey. Mr. Ish said they identified two sites of interest. One being a Navajo prehistoric site which they were not privy to the information gathered although it was documented. It ended up being extremely steep terrain, which as part of the survey requirements by the Corps, he thought its anything in excess of a 40 degree slope, which they are not required to survey. That ended up removing a large chunk of potential sites.

Mr. Casuga stated they needed approval to provide the cost share match, to contribute 50% of the proposal and would execute the MOU after the approval.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF ENGINEER TO ENTER INTO AN MOU WITH THE WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN 50% OF THE COST OF THE CULTURAL RESEARCH FIELD ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING FOR THE ABIQUIU RESERVOIR STORAGE EXPANSION PROJECT SUBJECT TO ACTUAL COST BEING PROVIDED BY SWCA IN LIEU OF THE INFLATED ESTIMATE.** Seconded by Director Sandoval. **The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Update on the 2024/2025 Environmental Water Leasing Program

Casey Ish gave a brief background. He said they were contemplating a joint effort between MRGCD, NFWF, Reclamation and the State of New Mexico for the 2024 and 2025 irrigation season, including an irrigation demand management program to temporarily reduce demand for irrigation water in the middle valley. He stated they were preparing to double the dollar per acre offered in 2023 for 2024 for both the partial and full season, increasing partial season payments to around \$400 per acre and a one-year full season from \$350 to roughly \$700 per acre. Open enrollment by November 27th.

MRGCD Board of Directors Meeting
Irrigation Demand Management - Environmental Water Leasing Program (IDM-EWLP)
2024 Season Enrollment Plan
November 13, 2023

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- Increasing the District's resiliency in response to increasingly variable water supply because of climate change and regional water demand.
- Improving water delivery efficiency and on-farm infrastructure.
- Encouraging sustainable agriculture in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.
- Providing technical and financial support to farmers.
- Supporting our riparian habitat, and species conservation.
- Maintaining our obligations to the Rio Grande Compact and 2016 Biological Opinion.

A guiding principle for the Conservation Program is that sustaining healthy agriculture in the Middle Rio Grande Valley is crucial to maintaining a healthy Rio Grande ecosystem.

IDM-EWLP

- Voluntary opportunity for eligible irrigators to cease irrigation of crops for Partial or Full Season in exchange for monetary compensation.
- Enrolled landowners are restricted from using water delivered through MRGCD facilities or wells for the duration of the lease but are permitted to dryland farm.
- Leased water is delivered to strategic outfalls to support 2016 Biological Opinion Obligations (EWLP) OR routed south to contribute to New Mexico's Rio Grande Compact deliveries (IDM).

IDM-EWLP Price Points

- Partial Season Lease (May 1st – August 31st) - \$400/Eligible Acre
- 1 Yr. Full Season Lease (March 1st – October 31st) - \$700/Eligible Acre
- 2 Yr. Full Season Lease (March 1st – October 31st) (2024-2025) - \$900/Eligible Acre / Yr.

Funding is provided through an ongoing Cooperative Agreement between MRGCD/BOR/NFWF (EWLP \$5) and the State of New Mexico (IDM \$5).

Enrollment will open on November 27th.



Historical and Proposed Enrollment Figures



Vice Chair Dunning asked if they thought people from this year's program would sign up again or if it was a onetime thing. Mr. Ish answered there were some that came each year to fallow the same land. He stated there are procedures in place to make sure that land that is in excess of 10 acres or that doesn't show a pre-1907 on record is allowed in for a certain amount of time, but then is disenrolled or must transition over to the partial season option, so that there is still continuing irrigation on the property.

Director Kelly asked if doubling the price offered put them in competition with farm to farm leases. Mr. Ish said there was likely a chance to see some make a harder decision about enrolling their land or pursue contract leases.

Director Kelly asked why not raise the price by 50% and increase acreage by 50%. Mr. Ish said they were not sure what kind of enrollment they were going to see by doubling but felt this was required to get the kind of enrollment they were hoping to get over the next two years.

Mr. Casuga said it was important to know they were related to the Compact and were working through issues to try and increase the amount of water moving through the system trying to get to Elephant Butte. He said this created opportunities and good conversations between MRGCD, the state, and federal partners about the need to increase efficiency.

Dr. DuMars noted they had a comparable program in the Imperial Irrigation District and the question was how much the farmers would be willing to fallow their land for and how much they accepted. He said they did not want to offer so much that people began to cease to grow vegetables.

Vice Chair Dunning asked who was picking up the cost for the second year. Mr. Ish answered they had state funding and had until December 2025 to spend it. Mr. Casuga added it was the same money available for MRGCD to use for certain rehabilitation activities with the Low Flow Conveyance Channel also.

Vice Chair Dunning asked if they had to front the money and get reimbursed. Mr. Casuga said he understood that once they entered into the agreement with the state they would have access to those ARPA dollars.

Director Duggins stated he still had a problem with it. He said the valley was becoming more so that the farmer could no longer purchase the land, do the farming, and equipment to do it. He said some farmers could not survive those two years and come back. He said farmers needed more time than two months for the spring crop.

Mr. Casuga said he and his team were fighting tooth and nail to move water and get people to see the value of moving water to Elephant Butte and would continue to do that, and MRGCD was offering programs and doing everything they could to reduce demand. He said the hope

was to create a position if they state goes into debt and not be MRGCD's fault. Mr. Casuga reiterated that the program offered was voluntary.

Director Jiron said they had good intentions but felt the farmers would suffer. He said they needed to focus their time in trying to pay the Compact and get the project going because if El Vado was up and running and they were able to store water, they would be able to stop taking from the farmers. He suggested putting in a clause that if the landowner did want to take their land they should pay back the farmer for putting their money into it.

Mr. Casuga stated if a farmer had an active contract, landowners would not be allowed to be coming into the leasing program without approval from the farmer and MRGCD had no control over the pace of El Vado.

Dr. DuMars added that the BOR was always late in what they did so El Vado would probably not be done by 2027. He said if they didn't have storage there wouldn't be any water available except for San Juan Chama water.

Mr. Casuga explained that they were supposed to have partial storage back by now and did not and expected to hear they were years behind. He stated they had no tool to be able to project anything to a farmer beyond the end of spring runoff and San Juan Chama.

Vice Chair Dunning requested a motion to extend the meeting as they were quickly approaching six o'clock.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING**. Seconded by Vice Chair Dunning. A vote was taken; all were in favor excluding Director Duggins. **The MOTION CARRIED.**

Mike Hamman stated the state and federal government had tools available to address the long term drought and circumstances of the hydrologic perspective. He reminded the Board that the District had been here before back in the '50s. He said he let the state legislature know about the conditions in the middle and lower Rio Grande and they provided ARPA funding of \$15 million with some of it utilized for investment in the Low Flow Conveyance Channel. He said they also had \$20 million available to leverage federal funds to approve the San Acacia Reach. He stated they may have had a decent El Nino year, but the trend was still downward, and it was their job to help constituents. Mr. Hamman noted there were lots of other opportunities from the state to have cost share funds for farming and rural communities to adjust to long term aridification.

Dr. DuMars asked if there was any leverage with the Department of Interior to get more money to do some of the other projects they wanted to do. Mr. Hamman answered yes, they were starting to leverage funds for the lower Rio Grande.

Director Kelly stated it was a huge topic to be hit at the board meeting cold and asked about them suddenly tripling the acreage and mentioned adjusting the partial season in the spring to get three months out of it.

Mr. Casuga said staff had never asked for approval on it and staff were just updating the Board. He said he would be happy to bring it back in December to let the Board vote on the Water Leasing Program if they wanted. He was assured that if people did not want to take the program they did not have to. He said he had never seen the Board take options away from the public before.

Director Kelly stated he was just bringing up concerns.

Dr. DuMars added that PBU was an important part of it.

Chair Russo Baca said they discussed the pros and cons in the Irrigation Committee Meeting and eventually agreed to it.

Lorna Wiggins reminded the Board that every item on the agenda was subject to action, so it would be acceptable to take a vote on it.

Director Jiron said he was voicing concerns, but Mr. Casuga mentioned good things that he did not think about before. He said it was the farmers right if they did not want to farm for a couple years.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION THAT STAFF CONTINUE AND EXPAND THE LEASING PROGRAM AND THE PRICE PER ACRE BE LOOKED AT BUT NOT EXCEED \$700 PER ACRE FOR A FULL SEASON AND NOT EXCEED \$400 FOR A PARCEL WITH TOTAL ACREAGE CAPPED AT 8,000.** Seconded by Director Sandoval. A vote was taken; all were in favor excluding the Chair and Vice Chair. **The MOTION CARRIED.**

Chair Russo Baca and Vice Chair Dunning explained she voted nay to the motion because they did not want to limit it to 8000 acres and felt staff could make their own decisions.

c. Report on the Engineering Projects - Alicia Lopez, Engineering & Mapping Manager

Alicia Lopez discussed the efforts of the engineering department and gave a list of their eighteen capital projects. She discussed some of their bigger projects, including the Corrales Siphon, Socorro Main Canal Channel lining, Storey Wasteway, and Feeder No. 3. She gave the fiscal year project list of about 40 projects.



Project	Progress	Deadline
1. Elwood/Drain Coverage (SOC 1)	50%	11/15/2023
2. DCA Parilla Weir Outfall and Bridge Replacement	50%	11/15/2023
3. CC Facilitation Trench Culvert	50%	11/15/2023
4. Socorro Main Canal Channel Lining Ph. II	50%	11/15/2023
5. PBC Escopé Interchange	20%	11/15/2023
6. Gregorio Acropia Association Proposed Review	11/15/2023	
7. CC Road Loop Spill and Wasteway Culvert	50%	11/15/2023
8. Kinloch Wasteway Outfall (SOC 2)	50%	11/15/2023
9. Larry Elmer Check structure Renovation	50%	11/15/2023
10. Bishop 2 Culvert Crossing (SOC 2)	50%	11/15/2023
11. Tarnoffs, Feat A, B, C, D	20%	12/1/2023
12. Reassessment of 8000 Acres Turned List	20%	12/1/2023
13. BIR Wasteway Monitor Detail	50%	12/1/2023
14. Tarnoffs, Feat 4 (SOC 1)	50%	12/1/2023
15. Tarnoffs, Feat 4 (SOC 2)	50%	12/1/2023
16. Socorro Acropia Check Replacement (Socorro 2)	50%	12/1/2023
17. Fence Rehabilitation - Aqueduct Lateral Drains	50%	12/1/2023
18. Check Repair Summary / Framing	50%	12/20/2023
19. Parilla Weir Rehabilitation	20%	12/20/2023
20. Levee Protective Riprap Coordination	20%	1/15/2024
21. Halfway Weir (Socorro 1)	1/15/2024	
22. Check Rehabilitation (Socorro 2)	1/15/2024	
23. Elwood/Drain Coverage (SOC 4 & 5)	20%	1/30/2024
24. Check structure analysis for projects around	20%	2/15/2024
25. Levee Sandbag Acquisition Review (Socorro 2)	20%	3/1/2024
26. Updating Wooden Trench Detail	20%	3/1/2024
27. Annual water Control (Elmer's structure)	0%	3/1/2024
28. Cherry Lateral #1 (service order)	0%	3/1/2024
29. Socorro Field Analysis	0%	3/1/2024
30. Los Lunas Levee Inflow Measurement and Control	0%	3/1/2024
31. Straight Lateral Inflow Measurement and Control	0%	3/1/2024
32. Jackson Acropia Inflow Measurement and Control	0%	3/1/2024
33. Rock Lateral Closure	20%	3/15/2024
34. CP - Washburn Lateral Open, Repair, and Close	0%	3/15/2024
35. CP - Middle Farm, Turnover Phase 2	0%	3/15/2024
36. Farm Pond Wasteway Detail	50%	3/15/2024
37. Monthly Review in Tarnoffs about Installation	50%	3/15/2024
38. ITT Technical Memo PBC Longshore	0%	3/30/2024
39. GH Jarvis Acropia Rehabilitation Analysis	10%	4/15/2024
40. Check review - Parilla Main Canal (SOC)	0%	4/15/2024

All Dates are Approximate

All Dates are Approximate

Director Kelly asked if the \$20 million covered the 40 projects. Ms. Lopez said the \$20 million was more for the 18 capital projects.

Director Kelly said to keep a program going like this which is funded now with a one mill increase would be a challenge; chasing grant money, chasing loans, chasing the water trust board, capital outlay and pushing the projects through. One may get held up, but he said to

have one ready to go. He thought she would need another project manager. Ms. Lopez agreed although she said she has a great team of three new engineers. She said as they progress and grow, that need will arise. Mr. Casuga noted that adding a seasoned engineer would help as her team is three strong and splits her time three different ways plus what she does managing larger scale projects. He felt training these three team members, getting them up to speed where they can do the job and allow her to open up space is the best use. He stated they have come a long way since he began with the District eight years ago and the District should be proud of the engineering team. He said they are busy.

d. Report on the Corrales Council Meeting, October 23, 2023 - Jason M. Casuga

Mr. Casuga said he did not give a presentation and was still working through alignment issues. He said he was hesitant to show maps of the final alignment at a public meeting until the pueblo signs off on it. Alicia (Lopez) and Wilson & Company are still coordinating with the Pueblo of Sandia on making sure we understand land ownership information and final alignment. He said they would be pushing for a project to be ready to start construction in November of next year and the siphon operable by irrigation season 2025.

e. Report from the Public Information Officer - Amanda Molina

Ms. Molina talked about two opinion pieces published in the Sunday Albuquerque Journal that brought credibility to MRGCD and helped tell the story and provide more education to folks who many have not known how things worked. She said there were big updates to the website to include the Belen Watershed Study and a form that lets the public submit contact information for more information on the study. She discussed the new service request process on the website also.

Director Kelly suggested giving Dr. Delavan a call since she read the entire website to see her point of view on what stood out and what was buried that should stand out. Ms. Molina agreed.

f. Report on the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblo Coalition Meeting, November 3, 2023 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO

Mr. Casuga said they went over the offseason. Mr. Zamora reported on much of what Dr. Delavan spoke on earlier today. He said they had a discussion about the water moving through the river currently. Questions came up about the startup of next irrigation season, which again we are working with Sarah on that, and obviously differentiating between prior and paramount versus newly reclaimed land which the Board retains the same level of authority over as it does non-tribal land. So, we'll be seeking a balance for that. The end goal is that we'll be able to inform the Coalition at the next meeting that can be passed on to any that change over the next couple of months.

g. Upcoming Events

- 1. Socorro Farmers - Irrigators Meeting, November 30, 2023**
- 2. Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Annual Conference, Paris Las Vegas Hotel - December 13-15, 2023**

Mr. Casuga discussed the upcoming events and also discussed the Family Farm Alliance to be held in February.

Dr. DuMars spoke on the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) meeting and told Mr. Casuga it was a good idea to talk with the ISC and other influential people to see what the options are in the New Mexico v. Texas conflict.

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

Ms. Wiggins reported that the Amicus brief that the Board authorized to file in the City of Albuquerque v. the Honorable Josh Allison, District Judge, and Williams, as real parties and interest. She said the process is to file a motion for leave to file the amicus, and the amicus is filed at the same time. Also joining as the amicus in this case is Bernalillo County and the DAs office; three amicus. She stated how appreciative people are that MRGCD cleans up trash, it is the City of Albuquerque's position that Judge Allison's injunction, usurped the city's right to enforce its laws and those are laws that we rely on as the MRGCD. She thought it is very timely that we have a comment during this meeting about our role in policing the encampments and cleaning up what happens in the areas of the bosque where the unhoused frequent. She added that it's nice to know Sunday has the largest readership in the Albuquerque Journal, but there was another opinion piece by Pete Dinelli over the weekend stressing his views, that the Supreme Court ought to quash the misguided opinion of Judge Allison.

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

- a. **Report on the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust (RGALT) Annual Fundraiser Harvest Dinner, October 14, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca and Vice Chair Dunning**

See Appendix "A" for the Chair's written report.

- b. **Report on the Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting, October 19, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca**

See Appendix "A" for the Chair's written report.

- c. **Report on the Meeting with U.S. Congressman Vasquez Field Representative Annie Quintana-Eddins, October 24, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca**

See Appendix "A" for the Chair's written report.

- d. **Report on the Latinos Farmers & Ranchers International 2023 Congreso, October 26-28, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca**

Madam Chair Russo Baca encouraged others to attend in the future. She felt it has a good showing although it's based in DC, they have a meeting here every year.

Also see Appendix "A" for the Chair's written report.

- e. **Report on the Irrigation Committee Meeting, November 1, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca and Directors Sandoval and Duggins**

See Appendix "A" for the Chair's written report.

- f. **Report on the 11th Annual Tribal Water Law Conference, November 6-7, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca and Directors Jiron and Sandoval**

Director Jiron said the conference was very informative and interesting to see the level where other tribes were. He felt there were good guest speakers.

g. Report on the 68th Annual NM Water Resources Research Institute's NM Water Conference, November 8-9, 2023 - Chair Russo Baca

The Chair reported that there were two middle Rio Grande growers attend and speak including Mark Garcia, who attended today's meeting earlier.

Also see Appendix "A" for the Chair's written report.

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

Vice Chair Dunning requested a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**. Seconded by Vice Chair Dunning. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED**.

Director Jiron	Yes	Vice Chair Dunning	Yes
Chair Russo Baca	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
Director Joaquin Baca	Absent	Director Duggins	Absent
Director Sandoval	Absent		

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 - 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

No decisions were made, and Vice Chair Dunning requested a motion to move back into Regular Session at 8:12 p.m.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION**. Seconded by Director Jiron. Rollcall vote was administered, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

Director Jiron	Yes	Vice Chair Dunning	Yes
Chair Russo Baca	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
Director Joaquin Baca	Absent	Director Duggins	Absent
Director Sandoval	Absent		

Vice Chair asked if anyone would like to make any motions about the discussion in closed session.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION THAT THE BOARD FIND THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE HARWOOD LATERAL ADJACENT TO MRGCD TRACT 16A AS SURPLUS TO OUR NEEDS AND BEGIN THE PROCESS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF EXCESS RIGHT OF WAY PER PROCEDURE WITH THE CAVEAT THAT THE APPRAISAL OF THE PROPERTY BE BASED ON THE ADDED VALUE OF THAT PARCEL TO THE ADJACENT PARCEL**. Seconded by Madam Chair Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was administered, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

Director Jiron	Absent	Vice Chair Dunning	Yes
Chair Russo Baca	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
Director Joaquin Baca	Absent	Director Duggins	Absent
Director Sandoval	Absent		

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Vice Chair Dunning adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of November 13, 2023

ATTESTED:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary/Treasurer

Stephanie Russo Baca, Madam Chair
MRGCD Board of Directors