

**MINUTES**  
Regular Meeting  
Laguna Madre Water District  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025  
5:30 PM – 6:01 PM  
Board Room  
105 Port Rd. Port Isabel, TX 78578

1. **The Chairman calls the meeting to order, determines the presence of a quorum, and notices that the meeting has been duly posted as required by law.**

Chairman S. Friedman, with his facilitation, commenced the meeting by establishing a quorum. Three members were present, affirming the meeting's official status.

**PRESENT**

Scott Friedman, Chairman  
Jason Starkey, Secretary  
William "Bill" Donahue, Director

**ABSENT**

Adam Lalonde, Vice-Chairman  
Dave Boughter, Director

**LMWD STAFF**

Carlos J. Galvan, Jr., General Manager  
Daisy Martinez, Executive Secretary  
Robert Gomez, Director of Operations  
Charles Ortiz, District Engineer  
Eduardo Salazar, Director of Finance  
Enrique Samaniego, Purchasing Agent  
Brandon Edge, Information Tech Specialist  
Noe Cantu, Superintendent of Water  
Santiago Ochoa, IV, Superintendent of Wastewater  
Brian Hansen, Attorney



**ABSENT**

Mary Gamboa, Human Resources

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Director of Finance Eduardo Salazar led the Invocation.

3. **Invitation to the Audience for Public Comments**

No comments.

4. **Consider and discuss for possible approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 8, 2025. (C. Galvan) 🇺🇸**

The minutes were provided to the Board for review.

**Moved By W. Donahue, Seconded By J. Starkey,**

Motion: Move to Approve.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 5. General Manager's Report

- **Reservoir Levels** - Amistad and Falcon Lake's combined storage levels are 21.1%. The District's Drought Management remains in Stage 3 to conserve water.
- **Port Isabel Water Tank** - The demolition of the Water Tower took three weeks to get it taken down. The company did a good job even working through bad weather.

## 6. District Engineer's Report 💧

C. Ortiz reported as follows:

- **Seawater Desalination Project Updates** - the following were discussed, and the information provided was reviewed
  - Desalination Construction Funding from the Bureau of Reclamation
  - SWIFT Funding, Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2024, and
  - SWIFT Funding 2025 Funding Cycle
  - Timetable for a Bond Election on May 3, 2025

The Board watched and discussed the Seawater Desalination Project video and reviewed the PowerPoint (copy attached) presented to the City of Port Isabel, the Town of Laguna Vista, and the City of South Padre Island. C. Ortiz handed out printed copies (copy attached) of estimates of Construction Costs Funding for the Board to review.

C. Ortiz noted that on January 14, 2025, Reclamation informed the District that our application for construction is now being considered for award with funding available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in the amount of \$17,501,302 for the Port Isabel Seawater Desalination Treatment Facility.

Comments:

- The Chairman commented that the video's voiceover sounded too computer-generated and should sound more authentic and noted that it is essential to share with the community that 21,000 RO Plants are being built.
- J. Starkey asked about the \$15 million approved for the project at the last election (over a decade ago). C. Ortiz responded that the less existing authority is \$5,655,000 out of the \$15 million.
  - The Board agreed and suggested when presenting to the community to show where the \$10 million was used, and it needs to state that it was used in the plan and acquisition design closed in November 2024.
- W. Donahue recommended adding a surplus to the cost projection for cost overruns and delays. C. Ortiz responded that a contingency would be added for the cost escalations and the unknowns.
- J. Starkey asked how the District would market the video and suggested a workshop with the PR Team. C. Ortiz responded through presentations at town hall meetings, and the video will be posted on the District's website and social media.

## 7. Consider and discuss the possible approval of Financial Reports for October 2024. (E. Salazar) 💧

The Financial Reports were provided to the Board for review. Director of Finance E. Salazar highlighted that the October financials fall under the old water and sewer rates.

The Board approved.

**Moved By W. Donahue, Seconded By J. Starkey.**

**Motion: Move to Approve.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

8. Consider and discuss the possible approval of Insurance Agent/Broker Services. (E. Samaniego) 💧

Purchasing Agent E. Samaniego reported that the District solicited qualifications for Insurance Agent/Broker Services for Windstorm, Hurricane, and Hail Insurance on January 14, 2025. The Insurance Committee evaluated and met with the agencies that submitted qualifications and recommended awarding the contract to Victor Insurance as the Agent of Record for two years from 4/1/25 to 4/1/27.

The Board approved.

**Moved By W. Donahue, Seconded By J. Starkey.**

Motion: Move to Approve.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

9. Consider and discuss the possible approval for the purchase of a 3000-gallon Chemical Tank for Water Plant 2. (E. Samaniego) 💧

Purchasing Agent E. Samaniego reported that the chemical tank purchased in 2014 to clean the microfiltration units/rack was leaking. The damaged tank needs to be replaced as an emergency; the plant can not operate without it.

The Board approved the recommendation to award the purchase to Aria Filtra for \$53,982.82.

**Moved By J. Starkey, Seconded By W. Donahue.**

Motion: Move to Approve.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

10. Consider and review Expenditures from January 1, 2025, to January 15, 2025. (C. Galvan) 💧

The Expenditures were provided for review and acknowledged by the Board.


**Moved By J. Starkey, Seconded By W. Donahue.**

Motion: Move to Approve.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

11. Adjournment

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.

  
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SCOTT FRIEDMAN, CHAIRMAN  
JASON STARKEY, SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.