

**MINUTES**  
Regular Meeting  
Laguna Madre Water District  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
5:30 PM – 6:00 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. All five members were present, affirming the meeting's official status.

**PRESENT**

Scott Friedman, Chairman  
Adam Lalonde, Vice-Chairman  
Jason Starkey, Secretary  
William "Bill" Donahue, Director  
Dave Boughter, Director

arrived at 5:35 PM  
arrived at 5:38 PM



**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. Water Superintendent N. Cantu led the Invocation.

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

E. Salazar, Director of Finance, announced a reminder that the Insurance Committee would meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 10 AM.

4. Consider and discuss for possible approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 13, 2024.  
(C. Galvan) 💧

The minutes were provided to the Board for review.

Moved By D. Boughter, Seconded By W. Donahue.

Motion: Move to Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. General Manager's Report

- Reservoir Levels -
  - Amistad and Falcon Lake's combined storage levels are steady at 20.8%. C. Galvan noted the need to be careful and move forward with the desalination treatment plant.


6. Director of Operation's Report 💧

- Monthly Report – R. Gomez noted that in accordance with the succession plan, Superintendent N. Cantu would be reporting on the Director of Operations Report. N. Cantu reported as follows:
  - The comparison is from December to November
  - The Distribution Department showed an increase in December (278) compared to November (221)
  - The Collection Department showed a decrease in December (56) compared to November (47)
  - The Pre-Treatment and Lift Stations showed a decline in December (47) compared to November (55)
  - A breakdown for each department was given.

7. District Engineer's Report 💧

C. Ortiz reported as follows:

- Port Isabel Seawater Desalination Treatment Facility Federal Financial Report & Performance Progress Report for Bureau of Reclamation Grant No. R24AP00181-00 (Feasibility Study).
  - The Feasibility Study Report is complete, meets the requirements, and received a formal letter of completion.
- Water Management Strategies Implementation Status for State Water Plan
  - A new requirement that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) requests to include in the 2026 Plan
- Upcoming conferences
  - TWDB has a Water for Texas Conference 2025 – January 27-29, 2025, at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center in Austin, Texas
  - Texas Desal Legislative Workshop 2025 – Tuesday, March 4, 2025, Austin, TX Club, 1 PM – 6 PM
  - Texas Water 2025 – March 18-21, 2025, At George Brown Convention Center Houston, Texas

8. Consider and discuss the possible approval of Board and Staff Travel to attend the AMTA/AWWA Membrane Technology Conference on February 24, 2025, through February 27, 2025, in Long Beach, California. (C. Galvan) 

C. Galvan requested formal approval for the conference since it is out of state, recommended it, and encouraged any Board Member interested to contact the office.


Attending: District Engineer Charles Ortiz, Superintendent of Water Noe Cantu, and Chairman Scott Friedman would like to attend.

The Board approved.

Moved By D. Boughter, Seconded By A. Lalode.

Motion: Move to Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Consider and discuss for possible award of Construction Contract for CID 01- Water Plant 2/Reservoir No. 3 Raw Water Transfer Pump Station (Bid # WP-24-12-01). (C. Galvan) 

C. Ortiz mentioned how there was much interest when it was advertised but only received one bid at the end from Ferguson Service Systems, Inc. for \$2,428,300. C. Ortiz highlighted that Ferguson's bid amount was lower than the feedback from some contractors who could not submit. Discussion ensued regarding accepting one bid, and C. Galvan recommended approval.

The Board approved.

Moved By A. Lalonde, Seconded By J. Starkey.

Motion: Move to Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY


10. Consider and review Expenditures from December 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. (C. Galvan) 

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

Moved By D. Boughter, Seconded By A. Lalonde.

Motion: Move to Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION permitted by the Open Meetings Act, V. T. C. A., Government Code Section 551.001 Et. Seq., under Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney; under Section 551.072, Deliberations about Real Property; under Section 551.074, Personnel Matters, which authorizes the holding of such closed or executive session(s): 

A. Discussion and possible action concerning negotiations with Hess Corporation and Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District for the Seawater Intake Structure and Pipeline.

S. Friedman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Laguna Madre Water District, hereby did the following:

That an Executive Session was on the agenda for said meeting duly posted at the office of the District;

Which authorizes the holding of such closed or Executive Session:

Upon a motion by A. Lalonde and seconded by J. Starkey, the Board convened into Executive Session at 5:45 PM, and upon motion by D. Boughter and seconded by W. Donahue, the Executive Session ended at 5:59 PM.

The only matters described in the Executive Session were discussed by the Board of Directors, who took action on the next item below;


12. Consideration and action on EXECUTIVE SESSION item(s), if necessary.

A. Discussion and possible action concerning negotiations with Hess Corporation and Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District for the Seawater Intake Structure and Pipeline.

The chairman noted that, as discussed in the executive session- to proceed as directed.

13. Adjournment

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

  
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SCOTT FRIEDMAN, CHAIRMAN



  
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JASON STARKEY, SECRETARY



MINUTES APPROVED THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2025.