

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Laguna Madre Water District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
5:30 PM – 6:08 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. Four members were present, affirming the meeting's official status.

PRESENT

Scott Friedman, Chairman
Adam Lalonde, Vice-Chairman
Jason Starkey, Secretary
Dave Boughter, Director

virtually through ZOOM

ABSENT

William "Bill" Donahue, 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
Mary Gamboa, Human Resources
Brian Hansen, Attorney

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Wastewater Superintendent S. Ochoa led the Invocation.

3. Invitation to the Audience for Public Comments

Water Superintendent N. Cantu announced that Water Plant Operator Santana Martinez acquired his D Licence.

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 A. Lalonde.

Motion: Move to Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. General Manager's Report

- Reservoir Levels -
 - The combined storage levels for Amistad and Falcon Lake were at 20.2%
 - The District's Drought Management remains in Stage 3 to conserve water.
 - C. Galvan gave an update on the water released to the U.S. from Mexico. The release started in early December, with over 121,000 acre-feet will get released for the irrigators, which is only for farmers. This water will not go to our watersheds and lakes or municipalities.
- 2nd meeting in December – C. Galvan noted that the second meeting falls on the 25th and recommended no meeting until January. The Board determined as follows:
 - There will be no 2nd meeting in December because of the Christmas Holiday.
 - Our next regularly scheduled meeting falls on January 8, 2025

6. Director of Operation's Report 💧

- Monthly Report-Service Orders and Callouts for November 2024
 - The comparison is from November to October
 - The Distribution Department showed a decrease in November (221) compared to October (330)
 - The Collection Department showed a decrease in November (56) compared to October (72)
 - The Pre-Treatment and Lift Stations showed an increase in November (55) compared to October (49)
 - A breakdown for each department was given.

7. District Engineer's Report 💧

C. Ortiz reported as follows:

- Water System Construction Status: -
 - Water Treatment Plant No. 1 – Photos were provided for review of Reservoir 1 being cleaned up
 - Elevated Storage Tank #6- The contractor is scheduled to mobilize to the site on December 11 to begin the demolition of the Port Isabel Elevated Storage Tank.
 - Raw Water Transfer Pump Station – Bids are due December 19 and will be presented for approval at a Regular Board Meeting in January 2025
 - Long Island Village Water Distribution – The water main was installed on West Oyster Drive and East Oyster Drive. The project is running on schedule.
- Bureau of Reclamation- The Bureau of Reclamation informed that Reclamation has completed and accepted the feasibility study for the Port Isabel Seawater Desalination Treatment Facility. The grant application for the FY24 Desalination Construction Program funding opportunity will be considered eligible, and selections for funding are expected to be announced in early 2025.
- Bond Planning Committee updates – The next meeting is scheduled for January 9. The committee selected Rudy Garcia as chairman and Jerry McDonald as vice-chair.

8. Consider and discuss the possible approval of Amendment No. 6 with Freese and Nichols, Inc. for Water System Improvements Extended Project Duration. (C. Ortiz) 💧

District Engineer C. Ortiz noted that the Amendment had been completed; it was budgeted, and approval was recommended.

The Board approved the Amendment in the amount of \$370,994.

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

Motion: Move to Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Director of Finance Report 💧

- Investment Update—E. Salazar gave an update on Valley View Consultants solicitation for approximately \$8.5 million in investments. The solicitation requested rates ranging from 3 months to 24 months in 3-month increments for maturing several investments in November and new money for short-term investments.

10. Consider and discuss the possible approval of Financial Reports for September 2024. (E. Salazar) 💧

The financials were provided to the Board for review. Director of Finance E. Salazar noted that the budgeted revenues were down by 302,000. He highlighted that on the positive side, expenditures came in lower than expected.

The Board approved.

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

Motion: Move to Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY


11. Consider and review Expenditures from November 1, 2024, to November 30, 2024. (C. Galvan) 💧

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

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

Motion: Move to Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. 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. Deliberation regarding the Evaluation of a District Employee to wit: General Manager
- B. 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 D. Boughter and seconded by A. Lalonde, the Board convened into Executive Session at 5:57 PM, and upon motion by D. Boughter and seconded by A. Lalonde, the Executive Session ended at 6:08 PM.

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

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

- A. Deliberation regarding the Evaluation of a District Employee to wit: General Manager

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

- B. 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.

14. Adjournment

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.



JASON STARKEY, SECRETARY



SCOTT FRIEDMAN, CHAIRMAN

MINUTES APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025.