

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

April 15, 2009, 2:00 p.m.



GENERAL AND CEREMONIAL ITEMS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER WAS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. THOMAS G. WEAVER, AT 2:00 PM**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS CONDUCTED**
3. **ROLL CALL WAS MADE BY THE VICE CHAIR, ADAIR SUTHERLAND, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SECRETARY, MS. SALLY BUCHANAN**

**Board members present for this meeting are indicated with a checked box:*

BEXAR COUNTY:

- Sally Buchanan
- Hector R. Morales
- Jeffrey S. Neathery
- Názirite Rubén Pérez
- Roberto G. Rodríguez
- Thomas G. Weaver

GOLIAD COUNTY:

- Terry E. Baiamonte
- Adair R. Sutherland

KARNES COUNTY:

- Gaylon J. Oehlke
- H.B. Ruckman III

WILSON COUNTY:

- John J. Flieller
- A.D. Kollodziej, Jr.

4. CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED BY MS. SUTHERLAND

Staff members present were:

Suzanne B. Scott, General Manager
Steve Graham, Assistant General Manager
Susan Eason, Internal Resources Director
Steve Raabe, Technical Services Director
Claude Harding, Real Estate Manager
Art Herrera, Information Technology Manager
Steven Schauer, Manager of External Communications
Mike Gonzalez, Environmental Sciences Manager
Sharon McCoy-Huber, Financial Services Manager
Jim Blair, Watershed Operations Manager
Terry Ploetz, Engineer Technician
Ronnie Hernandez, Environmental Investigations Coordinator
Hector Villanueva, Real Estate Representative
Russell Persyn, Engineer
Laura Govea, Human Resources Generalist
Brian Mast, Intergovernmental Relations Specialist
Karen Bishop, Executive Services Supervisor
Lupe Moreno, Executive Assistant

Others present were:

David Ross, Legal Counsel
Phil Vasquez
Sylvia Copado, student
Kristin Rodriguez, student
Amanda Mello, student
Rachel Conn, student
Richard Neff, student
Vassidi Euvino, student
Christina Carr, student
Doshira Negron, student
Alisha Gamez, student
Nirasha Jayasiri, student
Zeroy Cade, student
Abeba Dau, student
Staci Emmert, student
Christina Garcia, student
Lucero Salinas, student
Roel Luneff, student
Johnny Ward, student

5. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Ms. Moreno announced that several students from Northwest Vista College were in the audience, as well as Phil Vasquez, an individual citizen.

6. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Phil Vasquez addressed the Board regarding a need for a better system, including visible signs along the River Walk, indicating a person's exact location in the event of an emergency situation on the River.

7. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

AWARDING OF SERVICE PINS

Chairman Weaver and the General Manager presented Terry Ploetz with an award for his 25 years of service at SARA.

8. SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE, COMMUNICATIONS, FISCAL AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE; SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE; AND BOARD MEMBER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REPORTS

- Fiscal Committee: a short briefing was given by Committee Chairman, Gaylon Oehlke, regarding the last meeting held on April 6, 2009.
- Operations Committee: a short briefing was given by Committee Chairman, H.B. Ruckman III, regarding the last meeting held on April 6, 2009.
- General Manager Appraisal Special Purpose Committee: Mr. Weaver informed the Board that a meeting was held just before the Board meeting and that a report would be given at a later time.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

9. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

10. APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE MAPPING ACTIVITY STATEMENT #4 TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO FUND THE DELEGATION OF THE TECHNICAL REVIEWS OF ALL LETTERS OF MAP REVISION AND CONDITIONAL LETTERS OF MAP REVISION IN THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER BASIN, BEXAR, WILSON, KARNES AND GOLIAD COUNTIES, TO THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

11. **APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY DECLARING A PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF FEE SIMPLE TITLE TO AND PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EASEMENTS ON CERTAIN PROPERTY WITHIN NEW CITY BLOCKS 10916, 10932, 10933, 11173, 11174, 11175 AND COUNTY BLOCKS 4002-1 AND 4002-2, IN BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS TO CONSTRUCT, MODIFY, OPERATE, MAINTAIN AND REPAIR THE MISSION REACH OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT MISSION REACH PHASE IV, AUTHORIZING ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS OF SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY IN THE INSTITUTION AND PROSECUTION OF EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS TO ACQUIRE SAID PROPERTY INTERESTS AND RELATED RIGHTS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS THAT CANNOT BE ACQUIRED THROUGH NEGOTIATION; RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING ALL ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS PREVIOUSLY DONE OR INITIATED BY EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS OF SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE SUCH PROPERTY INTERESTS; AND AUTHORIZING SUCH OTHER LAWFUL ACTION NECESSARY AND INCIDENTAL TO SUCH ACQUISITION OR EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS TO SURVEY, SPECIFY, DEFINE AND SECURE THE NECESSARY INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY**

12. **AWARD OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE CROFTON & CONSTANCE PARK**

13. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO CONVEY AN EASEMENT TO CANYON REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY ACROSS THE BED AND BANK OF CIBOLO CREEK SOUTH OF IH 10 IN BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

14. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO LEASE / PURCHASE FINANCIAL SYSTEM PACKAGE FOR THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY AND APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE 2008/09 GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

Mr. Weaver made a motion that all the items on the consent agenda be approved collectively.

Motion made by H.B. Ruckman III

Seconded by Hector Morales

Motion was approved unanimously

INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS:

15. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING AUTHORIZATION OF AN AGREEMENT TO PREPARE AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2006 REGIONAL WATER PLAN FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION L)

Staff recommended a motion approving the budget amendment and authorizing the General Manager to execute an agreement to prepare the 2006 Regional Water Plan Amendment for the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) and to do and carry out any actions necessary to implement such agreement.

Motion made by Adair R. Sutherland

Seconded by John Flieller

Motion was approved unanimously

16. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION ON A RECOMMENDED LIST OF NOMINEES TO SERVE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS ADVISORY GROUP GUADALUPE, SAN ANTONIO, MISSION AND ARANSAS RIVERS, AND MISSION, COPANO, ARANSAS AND SAN ANTONIO BAYS STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

Staff recommended a motion approving the attached list of nominees and authorizing SARA staff to submit the nominations to the Environmental Flows Advisory Group for service on the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission and Aransas Rivers, and Mission, Copano, Aransas and San Antonio Bays stakeholder committee.

Motion made by Gaylon J. Oehlke

Seconded by Roberto G. Rodríguez

Motion was approved unanimously

[SA B&B Nominees Document](#)

17. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SARA'S ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 2008 TO MARCH 2009

Mr. Rodríguez stated for the record:

I support staff's recommendation to hold a summit that is being advocated for trying to make accountable contractors and subcontractors that have the habit of dumping on the river or in the creeks, when they can have a designated area they can go to. This is why, as we take a proactive approach, that we educate the public that SARA is trying to protect the environment and that we are the basin's environmental leaders. SARA is the leader of the San Antonio River and its tributaries and we're the leader in four counties or should be the leaders in trying to protect our environment, and we take our responsibility very seriously and we will

go after these violators. I thank Mr. Hernandez for bringing this to our attention and taking this road.

There being no action taken on this item, Mr. Weaver called for Agenda Item 18.

18. DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY IN THE 81st SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE RELATING TO SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

Mr. Perez stated, for the record, that he is for the initiative and referendum with regards to S.B. No. 700. There being no action taken on this item, Mr. Weaver called for Agenda Item 19.

19. BRIEFING ON WATER RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

There being no action taken on this item, Mr. Weaver called for Agenda Item 20.

20. STATUS REPORT ON THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

There being no action taken on this item, Mr. Weaver called for Agenda Item 21.

21. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Ms. Scott announced that the following items will be discussed in future meetings:

- Possible land donation by Liz Branch will be presented at the Operations and Regular Board meetings in May.
- Since there has been no response from CPS Energy regarding park operations, SARA staff will bring forward a budget reflecting the omission of Calaveras and Braunig Lake Parks at the May Fiscal and Operations Committee meetings.

22. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

- UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR;
- FUTURE BOARD AND/OR COMMITTEE MEETINGS; AND
- MEETINGS INVOLVING THE ATTENDANCE OF ONE OR MORE BOARD MEMBERS.

Ms. Scott passed out and discussed the calendar of events, conferences, and future Board and Committee meetings.

Mr. Rodríguez went on record to say that he wanted to personally thank the General Manager and the SARA staff for the press conference on the Westside Creeks. He feels that this initiative has been raised to a higher level and he has received several comments from many different leaders who are very pleased with all of SARA's efforts.

23. NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Weaver announced that the next Regular Board meeting will be held on May 20, 2009 at 2:00 pm.

24. ADJOURN

There being nothing further to report, Ms. Sutherland moved to adjourn, and therefore, Mr. Weaver called the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

PREPARED AND RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD APPROVAL BY THE MANAGER.

SUZANNE B. SCOTT, General Manager

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON MAY 20, 2009.

THOMAS G. WEAVER, Board Chairman

ATTEST:

SALLY BUCHANAN, Board Secretary

Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission & Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas and San Antonio Bays

Stakeholder Committee Categories (*potential nominees*)

- Agricultural irrigation – Russell Boening (*Texas Farm Bureau*)
- Free range livestock
- Concentrated animal feeding operations– Russell Boening (*Texas Farm Bureau*)
- Recreational water users - West Warren (*Coastal Conservation Assn.*) Margaret Hunt (*SARA Environmental Advisory Committee, Karnes County Chamber of Commerce*)
- Municipalities – Robert Puente (*San Antonio Water Systems*), C J Snipes (*City of Goliad*)
- Soil and water conservation districts – Larry Dement (*Karnes County Soil & Water Conservation District*)
- Industrial refining
- Chemical refining
- Electricity generation - Scott Smith (*City Public Service Energy*)
- Production of paper products or timber
- Public interest groups – Scott Holt (*Texas National Estuarine Research Reserve*), Penny Boyer (*SARA Environmental Advisory Committee, South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce*) Margaret Hunt (*SARA Environmental Advisory Committee, Karnes County Chamber of Commerce*), John Garland (*SARA Environmental Advisory Committee, Native Plant Society*)
- Regional water planning groups – Con Mims (*Region L*)
- Groundwater conservation districts – Mike Mahoney (*Evergreen Ground Water Conservation District*)
- River authorities - Suzanne Scott (*SARA*)
- Environmental interests – Ed Buskey (*University of Texas Marine Science Institute*), Penny Boyer (*SARA Environmental Advisory Committee, South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce*), Ken Dunton (*Texas National Estuarine Research Reserve*), John Garland (*SARA Environmental Advisory Committee, Native Plant Society*), Margaret Hunt (*SARA EAC, Karnes County Chamber of Commerce*) Scott Holt (*Texas National Estuarine Research Reserve*)