

**RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING  
November 2, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.  
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room  
And By Zoom Teleconference**

**Present:** Greg Higel, President; Armando Valdez, Vice-President; Zeke Ward, Secretary/ Treasurer; Elliott Salazar, Director; Cory Off, Director; Mark Deacon, Director; Doug Gunnels, Director; and, Mike Kruse, Director.

**Absent:** Peggy Godfrey, Director.

**Staff and Consultants:** David Robbins and Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Taylor Chick, Program Manager; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Angelo Bellah, Program Manager; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Kylie Gregg, Office Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; Crystal Benavidez, HCP Coordinator/Program Assistant; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

**Guests:** Jake Burris, Deb Sarason, Brett Hemmerling, and William Myers.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Greg Higel called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. There was a quorum present for the meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND GUESTS**

President Higel welcomed all those present and asked for introductions.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

President Higel asked for changes or additions to the agenda. A motion was made by Mark Deacon to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Elliott Salazar and unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Higel asked for public comment. There was none.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF  
SUBDISTRICT NO. 1 WELL PURCHASE PROGRAM CONTRACTS TO APPLY FOR SENATE  
BILL 22-028 FUNDS**

President Higel asked for discussion and possible action regarding the withdrawal of Subdistrict No. 1 Well Purchase Program Contracts to apply for Senate Bill 22-028 funds. President Higel explained the issue with the vote taken at the quarterly meeting. David Robbins apologized for providing inaccurate advisement regarding the vote taken at the quarterly meeting. He provided clarification on the rule which specifies all actions must be taken by the majority of the entire Board and not just those present. Mr. Robbins reported there was not sufficient yes votes to carry the motion and provided the next course of actions to consider.

Armando Valdez asked for the history behind the rule in place regarding majority voting. Mr. Robbins explained the significant history of people having different perspectives and the rule to have the majority of the Board voting in favor of any particular action. He further explained how the motion failed. Cory Off reported for the record that a contract is a contract and the difference is both parties agree to modify the contract.

A motion was made by Cory Off to vote on the issue again and reconsider the action. The motion was seconded by Armando Valdez.

Mr. Valdez spoke on the appropriateness and his support of the motion.

Roll call vote was taken:

Armando Valdez: Yes  
Zeke Ward: Yes  
Doug Gunnels: Yes  
Cory Off: Yes  
Mark Deacon: Yes  
Elliott Salazar: Yes

Greg Higel: Yes  
Peggy Godfrey: Absent  
Mike Kruse: Abstained

The motion passed with seven (7) yes votes and one (1) abstention.

A motion was made by Armando Valdez to approve the recommendation made by Taylor Chick. The motion was seconded by Mark Deacon.

Roll call vote was taken:

Armando Valdez: Yes  
Zeke Ward: Yes  
Doug Gunnels: Yes  
Cory Off: Yes  
Mark Deacon: Yes  
Elliott Salazar: Yes  
Greg Higel: No  
Peggy Godfrey: Absent  
Mike Kruse: Abstained

The motion passed with six (6) yes votes, one (1) no vote, and one (1) abstention.

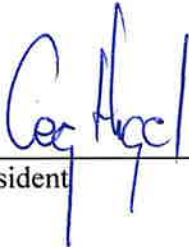
**OTHER DIRECTOR REPORTS**

President Higel provided an update on the end of irrigation season and the compact over-payment.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.



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President



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Secretary/Treasurer