

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Laguna Madre Water District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 28, 2024
5:30 PM – 5:49 PM
Board Room
105 Port Rd. Port Isabel, TX 78578

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

Secretary J. Starkey, with his facilitation, commenced the meeting by establishing a quorum. Three members were present, affirming the meeting's official status.

PRESENT

Jason Starkey, Secretary
William "Bill" Donahue, Director
Dave Boughter, Director

ABSENT

Scott Friedman, Chairman
Adam Lalonde, Vice-Chairman



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
Mary Gamboa, Human Resources
Brian Hansen, Attorney

ABSENT

Santiago Ochoa, IV, Superintendent of Wastewater

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, and R. Gomez said the Opening Prayer.

3. Invitation to the Audience for Public Comments.

- C. Ortiz reported on:
 - Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sent a response letter regarding the Bond Application considering the open Market for the Seawater Engineering Project and advised there is no need to concur with the order because we are going with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) – no need to continue and withdrawing the application with TCEQ.
 - Upcoming Conference – Staff attending the Texas Desal 2024 Annual Conference from September 11-13, 2024.
 - Discussion ensued on the upcoming Regular Meeting on September 11, 2024, to possibly reschedule or cancel the meeting. Mr. Galvan will inform the Board if the meeting needs to be changed or canceled.
- J. Starkey announced that the District’s election was uncontested and congratulated the three unopposed Board of Directors.

4. PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Laguna Madre Water District and Long Island Village Designated Area for the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. ♦

The Secretary entertained to open the PUBLIC HEARING. The Board convened the PUBLIC HEARING with a Motion by D. Boughter and Seconded by W. Donahue.

The Secretary opened the hearing for questions: None.

A Motion was made by W. Donahue and Seconded by D. Boughter to close the PUBLIC HEARING. The Board took action on item #5; read below for results.

5. Consider and discuss for possible approval a Resolution to adopt the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$0.062004/\$100 for Laguna Madre Water District and the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$0.544754/\$100 for Long Island Village Designated Area for the fiscal year 2024-2025 (Resolution No. 214-08-2024). (E. Salazar) ♦

The Director of Finance reported that all procedures by law were followed and were opened to the public as required. The Board approved and supported the new Tax Rate for Laguna Madre Water District at .062004 and Long Island Village Designated Area at .0544754.

- VOTE:
 - FOR the proposal: David Boughter, William Donahue, and Jason Starkey
 - AGAINST the proposal: NONE
 - PRESENT and not voting: NONE
 - ABSENT: Scott Friedman and Adam Lalonde

Moved By D. BOUGHTER, Seconded By W. DONAHE.

Motion: Move To Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Consider and discuss the possible approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 14, 2024.
(C. Galvan) 💧

The minutes were provided to the Board for review.

Moved By W. DONAHUE, Seconded By D. BOUGHTER

Motion: Move To Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. General Manager's Report

- Reservoir Levels - The combined storage levels for Amistad and Flacon Lake were 18.6%. C. Galvan noted that we are expecting rain in the coming days.
- Election Update - The District will not have a November 2024 Board of Directors Election. All three Board Members (Scott Friedman, William Donahue, and Dave Boughter) are running unopposed. C. Galvan also mentioned that the District is saving about \$25,000
- Public Participation for Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) – Norrisleal prepared a presentation and will proceed with the presentation with the staff and Board as planned

8. Consider and discuss for possible approval of Employee Pay Scale being extended from step 20 to pay step 30.
(R. Gomez) 💧

Director of Operations R. Gomez advised extending the Employee Pay Scale to ensure those employees have an annual adjustment past step 20. R. Gomez also reported that the Employee Pay Scale was last updated in 2018.

Moved By D. BOUGHTER, Seconded By W. DONAHUE.

Motion: Move To Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Director of Finance Report 💧

- Investment Update – E. Salazar reported on the solicitation by Valley View Consultants for several investments, requesting rates and the results of CD purchases over the past few months.

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

The Director of Finance provided the June financial reports for the General Fund, Debt Service Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Long Island Village Fund for review. E. Salazar noted no significant changes for June. There was a 23.8% increase in the revenue from last year.

Moved By D. BOUGHTER, Seconded By W. DONAHUE.

Motion: Move To Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Consider and discuss the possible approval of Group Health, Life, Dental, and Vision Insurance Renewal. (E. Samaniego) 🔹

General Manager C. Galvan mentioned that the Insurance Committee (S. Friedman and W. Donahue) met to review the cost. C. Galvan advised that the Committee recommended approval of renewing with BlueCross and BlueShield. Purchasing Agent E. Samaniego noted that health insurance increased by 5% and no change in the dental, vision, or life insurance portion.

Moved By W. DONAHUE, Seconded By D. BOUGHTER.

Motion: Move To Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Consider and discuss the possible approval of Liability and Property Insurance Renewal. (E. Samaniego) 🔹

Purchasing Agent E. Samaniego reported on the liability and property insurance for the next fiscal year. The renewal contract with the Texas Municipal League is for \$146,390.

- J. Starkey asked how much did it increase, and E. Samaniego responded that it went up 14% (last year, it was around \$125,000)

Moved By D. BOUGHTER, Seconded By W. DONAHUE.

Motion: Move To Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Consider and discuss the possible approval of Worker’s Compensation Renewal. (E. Samaniego) 

The Purchasing Agent, E. Samaniego, noted that the Worker’s Compensation Insurance renewal rate for the next fiscal year is 8.59% higher than last year, and the contract amount with Texas Mutual Insurance is \$25,184.

Moved By W. DONAHUE, Seconded By D. BOUGHTER.

Motion: Move To Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Consider and review Expenditures from August 1, 2024, to August 15, 2024. (C. Galvan) 

The Check Registers for all banks were provided to the Board for review.

Moved By D. BOUGHTER, Seconded By W. DONAHUE.

Motion: Move To Approve.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. Adjournment

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.


ADAM LALONDE, VICE-CHAIRMAN


WILLIAM DONAHUE, DIRECTOR

MINUTES APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.