

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1
(EPCWID)
November 13, 2024**

| DIRECTORS PRESENT | EMPLOYEES PRESENT |
|--|---|
| Art Ivey, President | Jay Ornelas, PE General Manager |
| Larry Ceballos, Vice-President | Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer |
| Miguel Teran, Director | Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer |
| Jarett Rogers, Director | Rose Rodriguez, Tax Assessor Collector |
| | Jorge Escobedo, Maintenance Supervisor |
| NOT PRESENT | Enrique Perez, Water Master |
| George Brooks, Secretary | Sharon Atilano, License Manager |
| | Cathy Oyston, Water Records/ Dispatch Supervisor |
| | Claudia Ruiz, Administrative Assistant |
| LEGAL COUNSEL | |
| Renea Hicks, Attorney At Law (via zoom) | Sonia Ontiveros, Tax Collector Assistant |
| | Luis Almeraz, Shop Supervisor |
| | |
| DISTRICT ENGINEER | GUESTS |
| Dr. Al Blair, PE District Engineer (via zoom) | Robert Kimpel, Guest |
| | Ernesto Madrid, US Border Patrol |
| | Larry Vasquez, USBR |

1. Call to order and establishment of a quorum.

There being a quorum of Directors present, the meeting was called to order by President Art Ivey at 9:00 a.m., and the Directors then proceeded to consider the following.

2. Welcome of guests. No action was taken on this item.
3. Minutes of October 9, 2024 and October 31, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors.

After a motion by Jarett Rogers, seconded by Miguel Teran, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that the draft minutes of the regular meeting held on October 9, 2024 are approved.

After a motion by Jarett Rogers, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that the draft minutes of the special meeting held on October 31, 2024 are approved.

4. Report and recommendations by Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer/Election Officer, concerning office operations, and elections:
None.
5. Report and recommendations by Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer, concerning financial information, expenditures, budget, and investment policy:
 - a. **Financial Report.** No action was taken on this item.
 - b. **\$1,000.00 Expenditure Report.** No action was taken on this item.
 - c. **Legal and Consulting Fees Budget Report.** No action was taken on this item.
6. Report and recommendations by Rose Rodriguez, Tax Assessor Collector, concerning adjustments and corrections, if any, to assessments, taxes, and charges by EPCWID.
 - a. **Review tax report and adjustments.** No action was taken on this item.

- b. 2013-2024 The City of El Paso and it's Public Service Board Assignments, 2013-2024 Lower Valley Water District Assignments and Report on tax suits.** No action was taken on this item.
- c. Comparison of EPCWID tax assessments and collection during 2022 and 2023.** No action was taken on this item.
- d. Certify 2024-2025 Tax Roll**

After a motion by Miguel Teran, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that the tax roll for the calendar year 2024-2025 is approved and certified.

7. General Manager's report concerning the following:

- a. Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding 3370, Between the United States Customs and Border Protection and El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 for Vegetation Control in Irrigation and Drainage Canals Adjacent to the Rio Grande in El Paso County, Texas**

After a motion by Miguel Teran, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that the renewal of Memorandum of Understanding 3370, Between the United States Customs and Border Protection and El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 for Vegetation Control in Irrigation and Drainage Canals Adjacent to the Rio Grande is approved.

8. District Engineer's report and recommendations concerning the following:

- a. Rio Grande Project Operating Agreement Accounting.** No action was taken on this item.

- b. Rio Grande Compact Accounting.** No action was taken on this item.
- c. Rio Grande Project Water Supply and Water Allocations.** No action was taken on this item.
- d. Status of 3rd Party Construction in District Canals and Drains.** No action was taken on this item.

9. Water Master's report and recommendations concerning the following:

Water use and availability. No action was taken on this item.

10. Maintenance Manager's report and recommendations concerning the following:

Drain maintenance program and water delivery system. No action was taken on this item.

11. Water delivery allocations to EPCWID water users and water available by contract. **None.**

12. Subdivision Plats within District Boundary requirement in License Manual (irrigable land exhibit):

- a. Application 3519, by Coronado Building Company, for Masoud Acres Unit II, being the remnant portions of tract 15C2 and tract 15G1, block 13, Upper Valley Surveys, El Paso County, Texas, containing 4.59 acres**

After a motion by Miguel Teran, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that Application 3519, by Coronado Building Company, for Masoud Acres Unit II, being the remnant portions of tract 15C2 and tract 15G1, block 13, Upper Valley Surveys, El Paso County, Texas, containing 4.59 acres for a submission of an irrigable land exhibit is approved.

- b. Application 3531, by Eduardo Chavez, for Chavez Acres, being all of tract 9D, block 32, San Elizario Grant, El Paso County, Texas, containing 9.50 acres**

After a motion by Larry Ceballos, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that Application 3531, by Eduardo Chavez, for Chavez Acres, being all of tract 9D, block 32, San Elizario Grant, El Paso County, Texas, containing 9.50 acres for a submission of an irrigable land exhibit is approved.

- 13. Applications for Licenses and Memorandums of Understanding for Use of District Real Property:

- a. Application 3453, by Texas Department of Transportation, for a proposed roadway improvement at FM 76 (North Loop Rd.) and Bauman Rd., adjacent to Ysla Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at approximately station 241+99**

After a motion by Larry Ceballos, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that Application 3453, by Texas Department of Transportation, for a proposed roadway improvement at FM 76 (North Loop Rd.) and Bauman Rd., adjacent to Ysla Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at approximately station 241+99, is approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.

- b. Application 3527, by City of El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, for a 25-year license to install a 12-inch P.V.C.**

waterline by open cut across Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal) at Hadlock St., at approximately station 297+84

After a motion by Jarett Rogers, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by a majority vote of the Directors present, with Miguel Teran abstaining it was:

RESOLVED: that Application 3527, by City of El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, for a 25-year license to install a 12-inch P.V.C. waterline by open cut across Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal) at Hadlock St., at approximately station 297+84, is approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.

- c. Application 3528, by Texas Gas Service, for a 25-year license to install a 6-inch PE gas line inside steel casing across the Nemexas Drain (a drainage canal), at Upper Valley Rd., at approximately station 269+00**

After a motion by Larry Ceballos, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that Application 3528, by Texas Gas Service, for a 25-year license to install a 6-inch PE gas line inside steel casing across the Nemexas Drain (a drainage canal), at Upper Valley Rd., at approximately station 269+00, is approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.

- d. Application 3532, by SAM, LLC, for a Temporary Construction License on various EPCWID facilities along Alameda Avenue (SH-20) from LP375 to Fabens, including Franklin Canal and all laterals from canal**

After a motion by Jarett Rogers, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that Application 3532, by SAM, LLC, for a Temporary Construction License on various EPCWID facilities along Alameda Avenue (SH-20) from LP375 to Fabens, including Franklin Canal and all laterals from canal, is approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.

- e. 2 Applications by Lower Valley Water District**

Application 3535, by Lower Valley Water District, for a 25-year license to construct an 8-inch water line in a 16-inch casing, crossing the Dolan Drain (a drainage canal), at Melton Rd., at approximately station 71+10

Application 3536, by Lower Valley Water District, for a 25-year license to construct an 8-inch water line in 16-inch casing, crossing the Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal), at Melton Rd., at approximately station 1129+37

After a motion by Larry Ceballos, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that the 2 Applications by Lower Valley Water District, are approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals

of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.

- f. Application 3542, by J.P. Stubbs Farms, Inc., for a 2-inch PVC potable water line inside a 4-inch HDPE casing crossing I-154 (an irrigation lateral), at approximately station 59+73**

After a motion by Larry Ceballos, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that Application 3542, by J.P. Stubbs Farms, Inc., for a 2-inch PVC potable water line inside a 4-inch HDPE casing crossing I-154 (an irrigation lateral), at approximately station 59+73, is approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.

- g. Application 3546, by Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc., for a Temporary Construction License perform test hole to locate gas line, Middle Drain (a drainage canal), at Nevarez Rd., at approximately station 644+60**

After a motion by Jarett Rogers, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: that Application 3546, by Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc., for a Temporary Construction License perform test hole to locate gas line, Middle Drain (a drainage canal), at Nevarez Rd., at approximately station 644+60, is approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and

directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.

14. Letters of No Objection for Natural Gas Service installed within the Rights-of-Ways of Public Roads: **None.**
15. Approval of Construction Dewatering Licenses for Conveyance Groundwater: **None.**
16. Letters of Approval and/or Amendments of existing License Agreements: **None.**
17. Agreement to classify Non-irrigable land as irrigable land: **None.**
18. Sale of Surplus District Real Property under 49.226 of the Texas Water Code:
 - a. **Application 3499, by Socorro Logistics Land, LLC, consider offer to purchase a portion of approximately 9.5 acres of the Mesa Spur Drain, all located in Socorro, El Paso County, Texas. No action was taken on this time.**
19. Grants Agreements involving District Real Property: **None.**
20. Any or all of the items shown on the attached Closed Meeting Agenda.

The Board then entered into a closed session at 10:16 a.m. regarding the items to be considered in closed session as shown on the Notice of Public Meeting. The Board subsequently returned to the open session at 10:53 a.m. with no action having been taken in the closed session.

21. Consideration of agenda items for next regular board meeting.
22. **Adjournment.** On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.


George Brooks, Secretary