

**Minutes of Special Meeting
Board of Directors
El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1
(EPCWID)
February 18, 2026**

DIRECTORS PRESENT	EMPLOYEES PRESENT
Art Ivey, President	Jay Ornelas, PE General Manager
Larry Ceballos, Vice-President	Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer
George Brooks, Secretary	Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer
Jarett Rogers, Director	Enrique Perez, Water Master
	Rose Rodriguez, Tax Assessor Collector
	Sonia Ontiveros, Tax Collector Assistant
NOT PRESENT	Jorge Escobedo, Maintenance Supervisor
Miguel Teran, Director	Claudia Ruiz, Administrative Assistant
	Josh Quinn, Water Records Coordinator
LEGAL COUNSEL	Rene Carmona, Safety Officer
Renea Hicks, Attorney At Law (via zoom)	Luis Almeraz, Shop Supervisor
	GUESTS
DISTRICT ENGINEER	Robert Kimpel, Guest
Dr. Al Blair, PE District Engineer (via zoom)	Theresa Jo May, PBM
	Larry Vasquez, BOR

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 January 14, 2026 meeting of the Board of Directors.

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 draft minutes of the regular meeting held on January 14, 2026 is approved.

4. Report and recommendations by Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer/Election Officer, concerning office operations, and elections:

a. Report on Status of May 2, 2026, Board of Directors Election. No action was taken on this item.

5. Report and recommendations by Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer, concerning financial information, expenditures, budget, and investment policy:

a. EPCWID FY 2024-2025 Audit

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

RESOLVED: that the EPCWID FY 2024-2025 Audit is approved.

b. Financial Report. No action was taken on this item.

c. \$1,000.00 Expenditure Report. No action was taken on this item.

d. 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. **2013-2026 The City of El Paso and it's Public Service Board Assignments, 2013-2026 Lower Valley Water District Assignments and Report on tax suits.** No action was taken on this item.
- d. **Comparison of EPCWID tax assessments and collection during 2024 and 2025.** No action was taken on this item.

7. General Manager's report concerning the following:

- a. **Agreement for Professional Services with Hazen and Sawyer, Design Professional Corporation, State of New York in the amount to not exceed \$120,000.**

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 Agreement for Professional Services with Hazen and Sawyer, Design Professional Corporation, State of New York in the amount to not exceed \$120,000 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 3718, by JCGAR Ventures LLC, for Upper Valley Ranch Unit Two Subdivision, being lot 01, Block 01, Morce Farms, El Paso County, Texas, containing 25.69 acres**

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

RESOLVED: that the Application 3718, by JCGAR Ventures LLC, for Upper Valley Ranch Unit Two Subdivision, being lot 01, Block 01, Morce Farms, El Paso County, Texas, containing 25.69 acres for a submission of an irrigable land exhibit is approved.

- b. Application 3721, by El Paso Electric Company, for Replat Capristo Amending Subdivision, being lot 02, lot 03, and lot 04, Block 01, Socorro Grant, City of Socorro, El Paso County, Texas, containing 10.28 acres**

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

RESOLVED: that the Application 3721, by El Paso Electric Company, for Replat Capristo Amending Subdivision, being lot 02, lot 03, and lot 04, Block 01, Socorro Grant, City of Socorro, El

Paso County, Texas, containing 10.28 acres for a submission of an irrigable land exhibit is approved.

- c. Application 3725, by Canutillo Independent School District, for Canutillo Middle School, being all of tract 07 and a portion of Tract 06, Block 11, Upper Valley Surveys, in the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, according to the resurvey of said Upper Valley Surveys made by El Paso County, Texas, for tax purposes, save and except two portions previously conveyed. And a portion of Tract 06, Block 11, Upper Valley Surveys, in the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas according to the resurvey of said Upper Valley Surveys made by El Paso County, Texas, containing 50.31 acres**

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

RESOLVED: that the Application 3725, by Canutillo Independent School District, for Canutillo Middle School, being all of tract 07 and a portion of Tract 06, Block 11, Upper Valley Surveys, in the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, according to the resurvey of said Upper Valley Surveys made by El Paso County, Texas, for tax purposes, save and except two portions previously conveyed. And a portion of Tract 06, Block 11, Upper Valley Surveys, in the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas according to the resurvey of said Upper Valley Surveys made by El Paso County, Texas, containing 50.31 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. 5 Applications for El Paso Electric Company**

Application 3693, by El Paso Electric Company, for a 50-year license for an upgrade of existing transmission line and pole, crossing Mesa Drain (a drainage canal), at Clint Cut-Off Rd. (FM 1110), at approximately station 423+43

Application 3694, by El Paso Electric Company, for a 50-year license for an upgrade of existing transmission line and pole, crossing Clint Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at Clint Cut-Off Rd. (FM 1110), at approximately station 150+57

Application 3695, by El Paso Electric Company, for a 50-year license for an upgrade of existing transmission line and pole, crossing Salitral Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at Clint Cut-Off Rd. (FM 1110), at approximately station 168+39

Application 3711, by El Paso Electric Company, for a 50-year license for an upgrade of existing transmission line and pole, crossing Juan De Herrera Branch B Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at North Loop Dr., at approximately station 36+88

Application 3716, by El Paso Electric Company, for a 50-year license for installation of a three-phase overhead power line, crossing the Salitral Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at Cliff Thomas, at approximately station 139+84

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

RESOLVED: that the 5 Applications for El Paso Electric Company, 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.

b. Application 3710, by Lower Valley Water District, for a 25-year license to install a 12-inch water line inside a 24-inch steel casing, crossing the Y-197 Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at North Loop, at approximately station 00+96

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 Application 3710, by Lower Valley Water District, for a 25-year license to install a 12-inch water line inside a 24-inch steel casing, crossing the Y-197 Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at North Loop, at approximately station 00+96, 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 3719, by Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC dba Conterra Networks, for a 25-year license for a subsurface fiber optic cable system crossing Playa Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at Alameda Ave., at approximately station 4+53**

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 Application 3719, by Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC dba Conterra Networks, for a 25-year license for a subsurface fiber optic cable system crossing Playa Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at Alameda Ave., at approximately station 4+53, 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 3722, by Elisa R. Vallejo, to upgrade a private gas line, crossing the Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal), at 11584 Alameda Ave., at approximately station 1104+44**

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 Application 3722, by Elisa R. Vallejo, to upgrade a private gas line, crossing the Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal), at 11584 Alameda Ave., at approximately station 1104+44, 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 or discussion of Surplus District Real Property to an abutting property owner, another district, municipality, county, countywide agency, or authority under 49.226 of the Texas Water Code: **None.**
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 11:47 a.m. with no action having been taken in the closed session.

Pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.074, the Board will conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the below indicated officer(s) or employee(s) of EPCWID indicated below:

a. Extension of Term of Employment Agreement for 90 days or until a new agreement is approved for the following employees:

Oscar David Ornelas, Jr., P.E., General Manager

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 Board of Directors approved the Extension of Term of Employment Agreement for 90 days or until a new agreement for Oscar David Ornelas, Jr., General Manager.

Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer

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 Board of Directors approved the Extension of Term of Employment Agreement for 90 days or until a new agreement for Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer.

Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer - Annual Employment Agreement

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 Board of Directors approved the Extension of Term of Employment Agreement for 90 days or until a new agreement for Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer.

21. Consideration of agenda items for next regular board meeting.
22. **Adjournment.** On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



George Brooks, Secretary