

SOUTH TEXAS WATER AUTHORITY

Regular Board of Directors Meeting

March 2, 2021

Minutes

(This meeting was held remotely by phone and Zoom.)

Board Members Present:

Brandon Barrera  
Jose Graveley  
Imelda Garza  
Hector Castaneda  
Rudy Galvan, Jr.  
Frances Garcia  
Kathleen Lowman  
Patsy Rodgers

Board Members Absent:

Sara Zavala

Staff Present:

Carola G. Serrato  
Frances De Leon  
Jo Ella Wagner  
Dony Cantu  
Nigel Gomez

Guests Present:

Baldemar Garcia

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Brandon Barrera, Board President, called the Regular Meeting of the STWA Board of Directors to order at 5:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. Citizen Comments.

Mr. Barrera opened the floor to citizen's comments. Mr. Baldemar Garcia, Ricardo Water Supply Corporation President, congratulated the new STWA Board members. No other comments were made.

3. New Board member's oaths of office.

Ms. Wagner administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Galvan, Ms. Garza and Mr. Graveley who were re-appointed to their current positions by the Kleberg County Commissioner's Court.

4. Approval of Minutes.

Ms. Rodgers made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 Public Hearing and the January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. Mr. Galvan seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills.

The following reports were presented for the Board's consideration:

STWA Regular Meeting Minutes

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Treasurer's Report for period ending January 31, 2021  
Revenue Fund Income Statement for period ending January 31, 2021  
Tax Fund Income Statement for period ending January 31, 2021  
Special Services Income Statement for period ending January 31, 2021  
STWA Revenue Fund Balance Sheet – January 31, 2021  
STWA Revenue Fund GL Account Summary Report as of January 31, 2021  
STWA Debt Service Fund Income Statement for period ending January 31, 2021  
STWA Debt Service Fund Balance Sheet – January 31, 2021  
STWA Debt Service Fund GL Account Summary Report as of January 31, 2021  
STWA Capital Projects Fund Income Statement for period ending January 31, 2021  
STWA Capital Projects Fund Balance Sheet – January 31, 2021  
STWA Capital Projects Fund GL Account Summary Report as of January 31, 2021  
FY 2020 Cathodic Protection Expenses Breakdown  
2012 Bond Election Report  
Anticipated vs. Actual Water Rate Charged

The following outstanding invoices were presented for Board approval:

• H & E Equipment Services	\$ 6,150.00
• DPC Industries	\$ 34,533.00
• Willatt & Flickinger, PLLC	\$ 1,814.00
• City of Corpus Christi	\$ 83,935.58
• Willatt & Flickinger, PLLC	\$ 660.20

A motion was made by Mr. Galvan and seconded by Mr. Graveley to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of the bills as presented. The motion carried.

6. Nueces County project for construction of Banquete Pump Station to serve the Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District #5 (Banquete) and Nueces Water Supply Corporation.

Ms. Serrato presented an invoice from Nueces County in the amount of \$88,566.90. She stated that this should be STWA's final invoice on the project and remaining invoices will be charged to Nueces Water Supply Corporation. She reported that the project should be complete by March 18, 2021. The hydropneumatic tank is being filled and prepared for startup of the pump station. Mr. Galvan made a motion to authorize payment of the invoice in the amount of \$88,566.90. Ms. Rodgers seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0 with Mr. Castaneda abstaining.

7. City of Bishop – Easement for Bishop East Pump Station.

Ms. Serrato reported that after the Bishop City Council approved the Bishop Pump Station Easement, Mr. Bill Flickinger began working on a similar easement for Nueces Water Supply Corporation. She also stated that Mr. Flickinger noticed some minor typographical errors on the approved easement and provided a corrected document to the City of Bishop. Mr. Galvan made

a motion issue the \$28,852 payment to the City once the executed easement is returned to STWA. Ms. Lowman seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0. Mr. Castaneda abstained.

8. Any and all actions necessary on convenient to facilitate the new executive director recruitment process.

Ms. Serrato stated that she has been searching for salary information in the surrounding area and from entities similar to STWA but noted that it is difficult to compare those other positions to STWA's Executive Director because of the differences in the range of responsibilities. The ED's role in managing the Nueces and Ricardo Water Supply Corporations complicates this further. She presented a 2019 salary survey compiled by Ray Associates but the Board requested information on more comparable positions such as public works directors. Ms. Serrato said that RAI needs a salary range in order to proceed with the recruitment process and suggested setting a range of \$100,000 to \$120,000. Ms. Garza made a motion to set the range at \$95,000 to \$120,000 per year. Mr. Graveley seconded. All voted in favor.

9. Wholesale Water Supply Contract with the City of Corpus Christi.

Ms. Serrato stated that a response has not been received from Corpus Christi Assistant City Attorney Lisa Aguilar regarding the revised draft that was sent to the City. She reported that she contacted bond counsel in regards to Section 14 dealing with Restrictions on Resale and Section 16 – City Right to Sell and received information on refunding the current bonds as taxable and tax exempt. She stated that if the board is interested in refunding the bonds, further analysis will be needed and water supply contract negotiations will require continued discussion with the City of Corpus Christi. She added that she expects this to be a long process that the new executive director will eventually be tasked with. No action was taken by the Board.

10. STWA Long-Term Goals.

Ms. Serrato stated that she had nothing to report and added that it would be very helpful if the committee members submitted the surveys she previously provided. Mr. Barrera stated that he would drop his off later in the week. The Board took no action.

11. Quotes for zinc anode purchase for STWA 42-inch waterline cathodic protection project.

Ms. Serrato stated that staff acquired quotes from three companies – Aegion/Corrpro, Farwest CCC and Stuart Steel – for purchase of zinc anodes for the cathodic protection project on the Authority's 42-inch waterline. Staff confirmed this morning that the quoted prices are still valid. She recommended the purchase of 450 anodes from Stuart Steel at a cost of \$35,350. Mr. Galvan made a motion to authorize purchase of the anodes as recommended. Mr. Graveley seconded. All voted in favor.

12. Discuss and act on STWA social media.

Mr. Barrera stated that Kleberg County has been using Facebook for updating the public and it appears to have worked out very well. He added that he feels it would be a good tool for STWA to use. Mr. Graveley disagreed and noted that a recent post did not portray STWA in a positive

manner. Mr. Barrera noted that it could be used for posting notices. Ms. Serrato pointed out that STWA, Nueces Water Supply Corporation and Ricardo Water Supply Corporation maintain websites that are easily updated to post notices. The websites were used during the recent freeze event to update customers. Additionally, the media and Kleberg County Sheriff's Office were contacted for assistance in broadcasting information. The Board took no action.

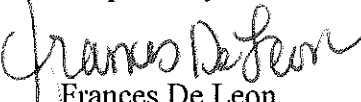
13. February 2021 winter storm/freeze event.

Ms. Serrato provided a report on the February freeze event and added that she also reviewed the information with at the NWSC Board meeting held earlier in the day. She stated that work on the damage continues and there are still valves that need replacing. The Sablatura Park Pump Station appears to have sustained the worst damage. She summarized that approximately 88 overtime hours were charged to STWA, 81 hours were charged to RWSC and 182 were charged to NWSC. She added that staff continues to monitor water loss to make sure there are no leaks on the 10, 12 or 14-inch waterlines. She stated she would provide further updates as repairs are made.

14. Adjournment.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Galvan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Ms. Garza seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Frances De Leon  
Assistant Secretary