

SOUTH TEXAS WATER AUTHORITY
Regular Board of Directors Meeting
June 28, 2022
Minutes

Board Members Present:

Brandon Barrera
Jose Graveley
Rudy Galvan, Jr.
Frances Garcia
Kathleen Lowman
Joe Morales
Patsy Rodgers

Board Members Absent:

Imelda Garza
Angela Pena

Staff Present:

John Marez
Jo Ella Wagner
Nigel Gomez

Guests Present:

Bill Flickinger by Zoom
(Legal Counsel)

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Brandon Barrera, Board President, called the Regular Meeting of the STWA Board of Directors to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. Citizen Comments.

Mr. Barrera opened the floor to citizen's comments. No comments were made.

3. Approval of Minutes.

Ms. Lowman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. Ms. Rodgers seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills.

No Treasurer's Reports or outstanding invoices were presented.

5. Operation and Maintenance Reports.

The O&M and Cathodic Protection Reports were presented to the Board. Mr. Gomez reported that field staff continues working on routine tasks for the corporations and maintenance around the STWA office. The CP crew continues installing anodes on the 42" waterline. The crew has not been able to access the Martin Marietta area because there are piles of rock that need to be moved. The CP crew has been assisting the field crew as needed.

6. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendments.

The amended FY 2022 budget was not presented but Ms. Wagner said she has been working on it and it appears to be tracking as expected at about 50%. The uniform line item will probably need to be increased. She explained that a meeting was held with a Unifirst representative and the company will begin to provide uniforms for field staff. She expects the uniforms to arrive by September 1st. She added that she would like the Board to consider providing the intern with four additional hours per week and as part of budget amendments a \$2.00 increase to the current rate of \$13.50 per hour since she has now completed her degree. Mr. Marez stated that a special meeting may be needed to consider the amended budget and meet the required calendar dates.

7. Water District Truth in Taxation Notices, Effective Tax Rate Calculation, and Meeting/Hearing Schedule.

Mr. Marez presented a proposed Truth in Taxation Meeting/Hearing Schedule for the Board's review in order to confirm that a quorum will be available for the necessary meetings and public hearing. In order to avoid the expense of Nueces County sending out separate tax statements for STWA, they must receive STWA's tax information by the County's September 13th deadline. The following schedule was provided to the Board:

Date	Event	Action
June 28, 2022	Board Meeting	Agree on calendar & confirm quorums
July 25, 2022	CADs deliver rolls	Staff calculates ETR
August 2, 2022	Board Meeting	Board votes on proposed rate & sets hearing date/time, approves sending proposed budget to wholesale customers
August 3, 2022	Staff prep	Proposed budget is sent to wholesale customers for 30-day written comment period
Aug 4 – Sep 5	30-day comment period	Wholesale customers review & provide written comments on proposed budget
August 25 and 28, 2022	Publish newspaper notices	Publication occurs 7 days before hearing
September 6, 2022	Public Hearing followed by Board Meeting	Board adopts tax rates, water rates and Handling Charge
September 9, 2022	Nueces County Tax Collector Deadline	Failure to submit tax rates could result in STWA paying for separate tax bill mail-out

Mr. Marez also reviewed forms provided by the Nueces County Tax Assessor/Collector's office including a 2022 Governing Body Information form and asked for the Board's approval on the schedule and forms. Ms. Lowman made a motion to approve the schedule and submitting the forms to the Nueces County Tax Assessor/Collector's office. Ms. Rodgers seconded. All voted in favor.

8. Preliminary Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

A preliminary budget was not ready in time for the meeting and will be presented at a future meeting. Ms. Wagner asked for direction from the Board on hourly pay increases in light of inflation and increases in gas prices. She added that among asset purchases being considered are a phone system, marquee, one or two additional vehicles, an additional field employee and transitioning the two part-time employees to full-time, a forklift, and shoring equipment. No comments were made by the Board.

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

10. Update on conveyance of section of STWA's 42-inch waterline to the City of Corpus Christi.

Mr. Barrera announced that the Board would convene in Closed Session at 5:46 p.m. pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Government Code to discuss the Wholesale Water Supply Contract with the City of Corpus Christi and the Conveyance of section of STWA's 42-inch waterline to the City of Corpus Christi. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:10 p.m. No action was taken during Closed Session.

Mr. Marez informed the Board that Mr. Flickinger will continue attending the monthly Board meeting by Zoom to provide updates on these two items. Ms. Lowman suggested moving these items to the top of the agenda in future meetings.


11. Administration Report.

Mr. Marez reported that he has spoken with a representative of the Texas Rural Water Association GIS program and they feel confident that the service they provide would be more economical than that of an engineer. He added that they provide services to help map and create a database for the water system. The company will provide two copies of the maps for each of the entities at a cost of \$10 per point (meter, valve, flush valve) but if a certain threshold is met, there is a price decrease. In addition, STWA joining in with the two water supply corporations will most likely result in a lower cost. Mr. Marez said he would include this item in a future meeting. He also reported that water levels continue decreasing and that he will keep the Board updated on future changes.

12. Adjournment.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Graveley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Mr. Galvan seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Frances De Leon
Assistant Secretary