

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
Minutes of the Board of Directors
March 22, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority met in a regular meeting on March 22, 2023, at the GBRA Annex Building Board Room, 905 Nolan, Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas. Directors present were Dennis Patillo, Don B. Meador, Oscar Fogle, Sheila Old, Steve Ehrig, Kenneth Motl and Emanuel Valdez. Director Carbonara was not present. Present in the Annex Building in Seguin, Texas were Darrell Nichols, General Manager/CEO; Jonathan Stinson, Deputy General Manager; Vanessa Guerrero, Executive Manager of Administration; Randy Staats, Executive Manager of Finance/CFO; Nathan Pence, Executive Manager of Environmental Science; Charlie Hickman, Executive Manager of Engineering; David Harris, Executive Manager of Operations; Brian Perkins, Deputy Executive Manager of Engineering; Joe Cole, General Counsel; Justin Adkins, Assistant General Counsel; and Peter Newell, Senior Engineering Director.

Chairman Patillo called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and took note of the certifications presented that notice of the meeting had been properly posted in the office of the Secretary of State, in the Guadalupe County Courthouse, at the GBRA main office, and at the GBRA Annex Building in Seguin, Texas, pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. A quorum being present, the following proceedings were had:

Director Valdez led the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag.

The Chairman then called for **Chairman Item 1 – Report from the Nominating Committee and consideration of and possible action to elect Officers of the Board of Directors for calendar year 2023.** The nominating committee consisting of Director Meador and Director Carbonara recommended Director Old as Vice-Chairman and Director Ehrig as Secretary Treasurer. Director Patillo also acknowledged the dedicated service of Director Motl and Director Fogle and thanked them for over thirty years’ combined service to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. Three new Directors have been nominated by Governor Abbott and will be sworn in at the April Board of Directors’ meeting to fill the two vacated positions and the partial term vacated by Director Wisian.

The Chairman then called for **Public Comments from the public.** Chairman Patillo recognized Sadie Stanley to comment on the construction award for Lake Placid and Lake McQueeney Spillgate Replacement and Dam Armoring Project.

The Chairman called for **Consent Item 3 - Consideration of and possible action approving the minutes of the February 15, 2023 Board meeting; Consent Item 4 - Consideration of and possible action approving the monthly financial report for February 2023; Consent Item 5 - Consideration of and possible action approving the monthly operations report for February 2023; and Consent Item 6 - Consideration of and possible action approving Directors’ expense vouchers for February 2023.** Upon Motion by Director Meador, seconded by Director Fogle, the Board unanimously approved Consent Items 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The Chairman then called for **General Manager/CEO Item 7 - The General Manager/CEO and staff may report on, and the Board may discuss, executive reports and/or**

issues relating to GBRA activities including without limitation, the following: GBRA water and sewer utility operations, hydroelectric operations, GBRA facilities management including plants and dams, safety, water resources planning and operation, construction management, economic and community development, project development, accounting and finance, records management, grants and financial assistance, human resources, information technology, communications, social media, education programs, resource protection, weather and climate, river flows and other scientific issues, public and private entities partnering with GBRA, water quality services, community affairs, environmental programs, stewardship, and update on GBRA Safety Work Plan. David Harris, Executive Manager of Operations, presented the executive report on Operations and Training to include newly obtained employee licenses, operator training and compliance. GBRA received the Texas Optimization Program Recognition for the San Marcos Water Treatment Plant for the ninth year in a row. The Board was also briefed on the two new Coletto Creek 30kW generator replacements for Dike 1 and Dike 2 for water cooling along with an emergency 80kW generator installation at Comal Trace. Next, Christina Chavez, Human Resources Director, gave a safety update stating in the past month there were two lost time incidents of injuries or illnesses. There were fifteen forklift safety certifications given at Western Canyon division, and the Gorge Emergency Response Plan walkthrough was conducted. Amanda Buchanan, Safety and Risk Manager, has been creating forms, checklists for permits, and notifications to supervisors of specialized work or incidents of higher risk, in the NEXGEN program to provide additional safety factors for employees. Training this month will focus on site specific CPR/First Aid and a refocus on S/T/F hazards and mitigation.

Next, the Chairman called for **Action Item 8 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with a janitorial services firm to perform cleaning services at the New Braunfels Office, Seguin Office and Seguin River Annex.** Lauren Willis, Director of Government and Community Affairs, is seeking approval to execute a janitorial service contract for cleaning common spaces, restroom, offices and kitchen/break rooms at the New Braunfels, Seguin and River Annex facilities. Upon Motion by Director Motl, seconded by Director Meador, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 8 authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with a janitorial services firm to perform cleaning services at the New Braunfels Office, Seguin Office and Seguin River Annex.

The Chairman called for **Action Item 9 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the General Manager/CEO to execute the Interlocal Agreement Amendment and Renewal Among Hays County, Caldwell County, City of Luling, City of Kyle, City of Buda, City of Lockhart, City of Umland, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Plum Creek Conservation District, Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District #304, and Hays County Soil and Water Conservation District #351, Regarding Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan.** Elizabeth Edgerton, Water Quality Program Supervisor, is seeking approval of an amendment and renewal of the Interlocal Agreement for the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan in order to update one of the funding partners and language to more accurately reflect the current status of the partnership and the watershed coordinator position. The total funding amount of the Agreement will not change and the Agreement will renew each year pending federal funding. Upon Motion by Director

Ehrig, seconded by Director Old, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 9 authorizing the General Manager/CEO to execute the Interlocal Agreement Amendment and Renewal Among Hays County, Caldwell County, City of Luling, City of Kyle, City of Buda, City of Lockhart, City of Uhland, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Plum Creek Conservation District, Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District #304, and Hays County Soil and Water Conservation District #351, regarding implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan.

The Chairman called for **Action Item 10 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute an engagement agreement for the performance of the financial audit for fiscal year 2023.** Randy Staats, Executive Manager of Finance/CFO, is seeking approval to negotiate the engagement of an independent auditor pursuant to Section 7 of GBRA's Enabling Act, Section 49.191 of the Texas Water Code, GBRA Board Policy 410-Audits and the provisions of numerous bond resolutions to conduct an annual audit. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was initiated in January 2023 to solicit proposals for financial auditing services. The recommendation for ABIP was brought by the Audit Committee to the Board. Upon Motion by Director Ehrig, seconded by Director Old, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 10 authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute an engagement agreement with ABIP for the performance of the financial audit for fiscal year 2023.

The Chairman called for **Action Item 11 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute an agreement to obtain electricity for deregulated areas in the lower basin.** David Harris, Executive Manager of Operations, is seeking authorization to obtain electricity for deregulated areas in the lower basin

that support the Diversion and Canal systems, Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant and Rural Water divisions. Upon Motion by Director Motl, seconded by Director Meador, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 11 authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute an agreement to obtain electricity for deregulated areas in the lower basin.

The Chairman then called for **Action Item 12 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the General Manager/CEO to seek bids and to negotiate and execute contracts for mowing and shredding services for the Hydroelectric Division's plants and easements.**

David Harris, Executive Manager of Operations, is seeking approval to seek bid services and execute a contract for mowing and shredding services for approximately 200 acres of GBRA Hydroelectric Division property and easements on an ongoing basis. This will be a price per location, two-year contract with two (2), one-year extensions available at GBRA's option. Upon Motion by Director Fogle, seconded by Director Valdez, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 12 authorizing the General Manager/CEO to seek bids and to negotiate and execute contracts for mowing and shredding services for the Hydroelectric Division's plants and easements.

The Chairman then called for **Action Item 13 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the General Manager/CEO to seek bids and to negotiate and execute contracts for sludge dewatering, hauling and disposal for Western Canyon Water Treatment Facility.**

David Harris, Executive Manager of Operations, is seeking authorization to seek bids for sludge dewatering, disposal and hauling for the Western Canyon Water Treatment facility for two years with two (2), 1-year extensions available at GBRA option. Upon Motion by Director Motl, seconded by Director Meador, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 13 authorizing the

General Manager/CEO to seek bids and to negotiate and execute contracts for sludge dewatering, hauling and disposal for Western Canyon Water Treatment Facility.

The Chairman then called for **Action Item 14 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute a Carrizo Water Supply Operation and Maintenance Agreement with Alliance Regional Water Authority.** Darrell Nichols, General Manager/CEO, is seeking authorization to negotiate a Carrizo Water Supply Operation and Maintenance Agreement pursuant to the recent award by Alliance Regional Water Authority for Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority to operate and maintain the facility, including well fields and pipeline segments used by Alliance participants. GBRA will also be involved in some of the ongoing testing of components and the startup and commissioning protocols for the project. The contract is based upon a budget to actual, year-end true-up format and provides for automatic renewals every five (5) years. Upon Motion by Director Meador, seconded by Director Fogle , the Board unanimously approved Action Item 14 authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute a Carrizo Water Supply Operation and Maintenance Agreement with Alliance Regional Water Authority.

The Chairman then called for **Discussion Item 15 - Discussion regarding Base Flow Report, Water Quality Index, long term weather pattern, and condition of the Guadalupe Basin.** Charlie Hickman, Executive Manager of Engineering, briefed the Board on the Guadalupe River Basin hydrologic conditions. The Edwards Aquifer and the majority of the basin are showing below-average precipitation conditions with declining flows. Canyon Lake is showing about 897.35 feet. Comal Springs is flowing around 111 cfs.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the open meeting was recessed at 10:59 a.m. subject to call by the Chairman and convened the meeting in executive session at 11:10 a.m. pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

The open meeting reconvened at 11:23 a.m.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m. subject to call by the Chairman.

Chairman

Secretary