

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
Minutes of the Board of Directors
May 17, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority met in a regular meeting on May 17, 2023, at the GBRA Annex Building Board Room, 905 Nolan, Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas. Directors present were Dennis Patillo, Sheila Old, Steve Ehrig, Don Meador, William Carbonara, Emanuel Valdez, Patrick Cohoon, John Cyrier and Robert Blaschke. 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; Joe Cole, General Counsel; Courtney Kerr-Moore, Associate General Counsel; Brian Perkins, Deputy Executive Manager of Engineering; 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 Ehrig led the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag.

The Chairman called for **Chairman Item 1 – Consideration of and possible action regarding Board of Directors’ Committee Assignments**. Chairman Patillo announced that Director Valdez and Director Carbonara are being assigned to the Retirement and Benefits Committee; and Director Cyrier and Director Cohoon are being assigned to the Audit Committee. Upon Motion by Chairman Patillo, seconded by Director Old, the Board unanimously approved Chairman Item 1 approving the Board of Directors’ Committee Assignments.

The Chairman then called for **Public Comments from the public**. There were no comments from the public.

The Chairman called for **Consent Item 3 - Consideration of and possible action approving the minutes of the April 19, 2023 Board meeting; Consent Item 4 - Consideration of and possible action approving the monthly financial report for April 2023; Consent Item 5 - Consideration of and possible action approving the monthly operations report for April 2023; and Consent Item 6 - Consideration of and possible action approving Directors’ expense vouchers for April 2023**. Upon Motion by Director Old, seconded by Director Ehrig, 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. Darrell Nichols, General Manager/CEO, updated the Board on the recent elections held by the Lake McQueeney WCID and Lake Placid WCID to increase the bond authorizations to cover increased costs for the completion of the dam replacement and armoring projects for each respective lake. Both elections passed, with an approval rate of 90% for Lake McQueeney and almost 80% for Lake Placid. Board meetings for each WCID are taking place to approve amendments to the current contracts, which will allow GBRA to move forward with construction. The Board was also briefed on the upcoming work session to be held in July to discuss the current growth in the basin. Next, Charlie Hickman, Executive Manager of Engineering, introduced and welcomed Kyle Henning, GBRA's new construction inspector. Next, Nathan Pence, Executive Manager of Environmental Science, updated the Board on the projects that are promoting GBRA as a regional leader in our basin in the environmental and scientific areas to provide and share information. Some of the projects discussed are the Texas State Graduate program, two presentations made at the Annual Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society, showcase of bacteria testing, lab database knowledge sharing, community affairs involving children in elementary school, river workshops with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, involvement in the River Management Society, and the Lake Dunlap Habitat Enhancement Plan. Mr. Pence also briefed the Board on the Aquatic Resource Relocation Plan put in place to minimize impacts to the rivers during the recent drawdowns of Lake McQueeney and Meadow Lake. Amanda Buchanan, Safety and Risk Manager, gave a safety update stating in

the past month there were no lost time incidents of injuries or illnesses and three incidents were reported. Highlights from tasks completed the previous month include development of the security inspection checklist integrated into NEXGEN, scheduling of annual occupational health exams through a mobile vendor, and a quarterly drug and alcohol Substance Abuse Program administration. Training this month will focus on heat stress prevention.

Next, the Chairman called for **Action Item 8 - Consideration of and possible action approving an amendment to the GBRA Fiscal Year 2023 Work Plan and Budget to adopt a partial year budget for the Alliance WTP operation contract and a connection fee for the Sunfield Wastewater System.** Randy Staats, Executive Manager of Finance/CFO, briefed the Board on a proposed amendment to the FY 2023 GBRA Annual Work Plan in order to establish a partial year budget for the Alliance Regional Water Authority Water Treatment Plant operation contract and proposes a connection fee for the Sunfield Wastewater System. GBRA was awarded the operational contract for the Alliance well field, Water Treatment Plant (WTP), and transmission system. In order to prepare for the commissioning and start-up of the WTP, GBRA and Alliance need to begin performing certain tasks. The partial year start up budget will be in place from June 1 through August 31, 2023. The Sunfield Wastewater System includes over 3,100 retail connections and growth continues at a rapid pace. It is suggested that a wastewater connection fee of \$6,000 per Living Unit Equivalent be adopted. Upon Motion by Director Ehrig, seconded by Director Carbonara, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 8 approving an amendment to the GBRA Fiscal Year 2023 Work Plan and Budget to adopt a partial year budget for the Alliance WTP operation contract and a connection fee for the Sunfield Wastewater System.

The Chairman called for **Action Item 9 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the initiation of contracts for trucks for the Alliance WTP operation contract.**

David Harris, Executive Manager of Operations, is seeking authorization to initiate the ordering process for trucks to be used by GBRA for operation of the Alliance Regional Water Authority Water Treatment Plant to be included in the FY24 Budget. Because of current market conditions, the initiation of the order now will allow for delivery earlier in the next fiscal year. Upon Motion by Director Ehrig, seconded by Director Old, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 9 approving the initiation of contracts for trucks for the Alliance WTP operation contract.

The Chairman called for **Action Item 10 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority staff to close various bank accounts as outlined.** Sandra Terry, Deputy Executive Manager of Finance, is seeking authorization to close four bank accounts in order to consolidate funds and streamline treasury management operations. Upon Motion by Director Old, seconded by Director Ehrig, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 10 authorizing Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority staff to close various bank accounts as outlined.

The Chairman called for **Action Item 11 - Consideration of and possible action authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute a letter of agreement and Easement Release and Electric Line Easement and Right-Of-Way with Baltisse-Ackerman Seguin, LLLP.** Courtney Kerr-Moore, Associate General Counsel, is seeking authorization to negotiate and execute an agreement with Baltisse-Ackerman Seguin, LLLP (BAS). BAS is in the final stages of purchasing property in Guadalupe County, Texas, and the existing GBRA easement crosses a section of that proposed development. BAS has requested that GBRA relocate the electric

line. GBRA will need to release any and all rights to the property that is subject to the existing easement in exchange for an easement on the property upon which the new line will be located. Upon Motion by Director Blaschke, seconded by Director Meador, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 11 authorizing the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute a letter of agreement and Easement Release and Electric Line Easement and Right-Of-Way with Baltisse-Ackerman Seguin, LLLP.

The Chairman then called for **Action Item 12 - Consideration of and possible action to approve a change order with MGC in the amount of \$79,940.21 for the Saltwater Barrier Repair Project (Change Order #04)**. Charlie Hickman, Executive Manager of Engineering, is seeking approval of a change order with MGC for additional work associated with replacing the warning light system on the saltwater barrier dam and relocating conduit and drain lines in the newly-constructed mechanical building to accommodate an alternate compressor. Upon Motion by Director Cyrier, seconded by Director Carbonara, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 12 approving a change order with MGC in the amount of \$79,940.21 for the Saltwater Barrier Repair Project (Change Order #04).

The Chairman then called for **Action Item 13 - Consideration of and possible action to approve a change order with Zachry Construction in an amount not to exceed \$1,168,873.43 for the Lake Dunlap Spillgate Replacement and Dam Armoring Project (Change Order #30)**. Charlie Hickman, Executive Manager of Engineering, briefed the Board on Change Order #30 for the Lake Dunlap Spillgate Replacement and Dam Armoring Project. The proposed change order includes work to replace the existing Tainter canal head gates with two new slide gates, hoisting system, and miscellaneous structural modifications and improvements. Upon Motion by Director

Meador, seconded by Director Ehrig, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 13 approving a change order with Zachry Construction in an amount not to exceed \$1,168,873.43 for the Lake Dunlap Spillgate Replacement and Dam Armoring Project (Change Order #30).

The Chairman then called for **Action Item 14 - Consideration of and possible action to amend GBRA Board Policy 106.201, Board of Directors Committees, to remove the requirement that Committees shall include at least one member of the Board Executive Committee.** Joe Cole, General Counsel, is seeking approval of an amendment to GBRA Board Policy 106.201 to remove the requirement that Committees shall include at least one member of the Board Executive Committee. The requested amendment would create opportunities for other Directors to be appointed to leadership positions on standing committees. Upon Motion by Director Old, seconded by Director Ehrig, the Board unanimously approved Action Item 14 to amend GBRA Board Policy 106.201, Board of Directors Committees, to remove the requirement that Committees shall include at least one member of the Board Executive Committee.

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 Base Flow Report; condition of the Guadalupe Basin including rainfall percentages, events and totals; the U. S. Drought Monitor Seasonal Outlook; Edwards Aquifer levels; Comal Springs level; Guadalupe River stream flows; El Nino modeled forecast; and elevation of Canyon Reservoir.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the open meeting was recessed at 11:19 a.m. subject to call by the Chairman and convened the meeting in executive session at 11:40 a.m. pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

The open meeting reconvened at 11:51 a.m.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m. subject to call by the Chairman.

Chairman

Secretary