

RICARDO WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION  
Special Meeting Minutes  
February 29, 2016

Board Members Present:

Baldemar Garcia  
Oliver Hinojosa  
Kathy Brown  
James Fischer  
Robert Garza  
Christina Titus  
Robert Zavala

Board Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Carola G. Serrato  
Frances De Leon  
Jo Ella Wagner  
Jacob Hinojosa

Guests Present:

George Brown  
Albert Garcia

1. Call to Order.

Board President Baldemar Garcia called the Special Meeting of the Ricardo Water Supply Corporation Board of Directors to order at 5:30 p.m. at the STWA Boardroom in Kingsville, Texas. A quorum was present.

2. Citizen comments.

Mr. Garcia opened the floor to citizen comments. No citizen comments were made.

3. Customer Concern – Mr. Albert S. Garcia, Account #1012 – Dispute on high water bill.

Mr. Albert S. Garcia addressed the Board and explained that he received a bill for 126,560 gallons in January. He said he spoke with Ms. Serrato who offered a payment plan which he declined because he says he did not have a leak on the property. He also said the meter was pulled for testing after he complained about the high water bill and at that point it appears the usage returned to normal.

Mr. Baldemar Garcia asked him about cattle on the property and he responded that he has cattle, but there is no sign of standing water anywhere on the property. He added that it is a very large amount of water and for that much water to leak, it would be noticeable. He also said he has a groundwater well but it is not in use.

Ms. Serrato explained that the meter had been changed in October and the following bill showed usage of 24,900 gallons. The next bill was the January bill which was for 126,560 gallons. The meter was re-read prior to the bill being mailed in order to confirm the usage. After Mr. Garcia's complaint, the meter was then removed for testing. The meter was tested on February 11<sup>th</sup> and

was within the +/- 2% allowable variance for low, medium and high flow rates. The bill that followed was based on 550 gallons. Mr. Albert Garcia insisted that the meter was not working probably and that the usage has been lower since the meter was changed out but the Board questioned the small usage since he confirmed that he has cattle on the property. Ms. Serrato then suggested sending the meter to the manufacturer for testing. Mr. Albert Garcia agreed to wait on a decision until the testing is completed. Ms. Serrato explained that it could take several weeks to get the results. The Board agreed to this testing and no action was taken.

4. Bid for replacement of 10-inch waterline on CR 2170.

Ms. Serrato presented a quote from The 5125 Company and reported that three additional contractors have been contacted for bids on replacement of the 10-inch waterline on CR 2170. Two have visited the site and will be submitting quotes and a third is scheduled to meet with Field Supervisor Jacob Hinojosa this week.

The Board discussed the type of pipe to be used. Ms. Serrato stated that DR18 pipe was quoted by The 5125 Company but SDR26 is what the Corporation normally uses. She will contact The 5125 Company for a quote on SDR26 pipe.

The Board agreed to discuss the matter further upon receipt of all the quotes. No action was taken.

5. Report on bids for repairs/replacement of Pump Station buildings.

Ms. Serrato reported that she is waiting for a quote from EGH Construction and presented a quote from DLR Builders. She added that DLR Builders is willing to do one station at a time but the cost will continue to rise and this approach will eventually cost more. She has also contacted Mercer Controls about providing a quote. This company is currently working on a project at the Driscoll Pump Station which involves similar work on the pump station building. The Board agreed to wait on a decision until they can review a quote from Mercer Controls.

6. RWSC Annual Membership Meeting.

- Selection of Election Auditor
- Approval of agenda and meeting packet for Annual Membership Meeting
- Resolution 16-01. Resolution declaring unopposed candidates of Ricardo Water Supply Corporation elected.

Ms. Serrato reported that two nominations were received by the February 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline. She added that since there are two positions up for election, the Board can adopt Resolution 16-01 declaring the two candidates, Oliver Hinojosa and Briseida Mendoza, elected. Mr. Zavala made a motion to adopt Resolution 16-01 and Mr. Garza seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Serrato explained that the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> but because no election will be necessary, an Election Auditor does not need to be selected. She presented the meeting notice and agenda for the Annual Membership Meeting and recommended

approval of the documents which need to be mailed out by March 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Zavala made a motion to approve the meeting notice and agenda. Mr. Fischer seconded and all voted in favor.

7. South Texas Pressure Systems, Inc. quote for interior cleaning of ground storage tanks at Pump Stations 1, 2 and 3.

Ms. Serrato presented a quote from South Texas Pressure Systems, Inc. for the interior cleaning of six smaller tanks and two larger tanks at Pump Stations 1, 2 and 3. The quote was provided as a result of the recent TCEQ Investigation. The total cost is \$5,130 - \$455 for each of the six smaller tanks and \$1,200 for each of the larger tanks. Mr. Zavala made a motion to approve the cleaning of the tanks for a total of \$5,130. Ms. Brown seconded and all approved.

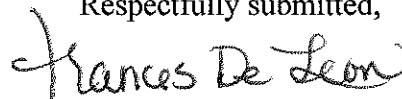
8. TCEQ Investigation.
  - Groundwater well at Pump Station #2

Ms. Serrato stated that the TCEQ recently conducted their investigation of the RWSC system and listed several items during the exit interview. These items were addressed within the 14 day time frame but one item is a potential violation pertaining to the groundwater well at Pump Station #2. The well has been inactive for about seven years. She added that previously the Board decided to keep the well in an inactive status in case it was needed as a backup. According to the TCEQ, the well must either be completely operable or plugged. An electrician was contacted to work on the wiring and Martin Water Wells was contacted for an assessment of the well and indicated that there are several options to re-activate the well. She presented a quote from Martin Water Wells in the amount of \$7,003.35 for re-working the well but added that there is no guarantee that the work will be successful in placing the well back into service. She also provided a quote from Martin Water Wells in the amount of \$3,050 for plugging the well. Mr. Garcia said that under the circumstances, he recommends plugging the well. Mr. Garcia noted that RWSC is still tied in to the City of Kingsville as a backup to South Texas Water Authority. After reviewing the options, Mr. Hinojosa made a motion to have the well plugged by Martin Water Wells at a cost of \$3,050. Mr. Zavala seconded and all voted in favor.

9. Adjournment.

With no further business to conduct, Mr. Zavala made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. Mr. Hinojosa seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Frances De Leon  
Assistant Secretary