

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 23, 2024**

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A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Jacinto River Authority was held at 8:00 a.m., May 23, 2024, at the San Jacinto River Authority General and Administration Building. Notice of said meeting was posted as required by law. President Ronnie Anderson, Vice President Ed Boulware, Treasurer Mark Micheletti, Secretary Wil Faubel, Secretary Pro-Tem Ricardo Mora, and Director Stacey Buick were present. Director Stephanie Johnson was absent. Also in attendance were Aubrey A. Spear, General Manager; Heather Ramsey, Director of Communications and Public Affairs; Ed Shackelford, Director of Operations; Connie Curtis, Director of Technical and Operational Services; Pam Steiger, Chief Financial Officer; Cynthia Bowman, Chief of Staff; and Mitchell Page, General Counsel.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

**2. CEREMONIAL ITEMS**

**a. Invocation**

The invocation was delivered by Mr. Larry Daigle, First Baptist Church Conroe.

**b. Pledges of Allegiance**

The Pledges of Allegiance were led by Director Anderson.

**c. Receipt of Commendation, Awards, and Honoraria**

There were no presentations.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Rigby Owen spoke about the San Jacinto River Master Plan. Mr. Chris Bloch spoke about an alternate approach to seasonal lake lowering by managing flood plain detention of the West Fork. Mr. Bill Beran spoke in reference to aquifer restrictions and demands for water. Mr. Kevin Lacy spoke about the May storm events. Mr. Dan Krueger spoke about the May storm events and commented on Regular Agenda item 6a.

**4. DIVISION UPDATES**

**a. G & A General Manager**

Mr. Spear provided information related to the May storm events.

**b. G & A Public Relations**

Ms. Ramsey provided no updates related to the Communications Department.

**c. G & A Chief Financial Officer**

Ms. Steiger provided no update.

**d. G&A Technical and Operational Services**

Ms. Curtis provided no update related to Technical and Operational Services.

**e. Operating Divisions**

Mr. Shackelford provided no update.

**f. Utility Enterprise**

Mr. Meeks provided no update related to the Utility Enterprise.

**g. Lake Conroe**

Mr. Raley presented information related to the May storm events.

**h. Highlands**

Mr. Tramm provided no update related to the Highlands Division

**i. Flood Management**

Mr. Barrett provided no update related to the Flood Management Division.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Agenda item 5c was removed from the Consent agenda for separate consideration at the request of Director Buick.

Director Micheletti made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 5a and 5b, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Boulware and carried unanimously.

**a. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting of April 25, 2024.**

**b. Resolution - San Jacinto River Authority Investment Policy**

Adopt Resolution No. 2024-R-17, of the San Jacinto River Authority Board of Directors affirming the San Jacinto River Authority Investment Policy dated June 22, 2023.

The Board of Directors then considered the item removed from the Consent Agenda.

**c. Professional Services Agreement and Work Order No. 1 - Process Water Discharge Optimization Study**

Director Buick stated that there are a number of studies related to various projects that are approved by the Board. She requested that the results of the studies, upon completion, be presented to the Board in the future. Mr. Spear confirmed that the studies would be presented to the Board. Director Buick made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services

Agreement and Work Order No. 1 in an amount not to exceed \$213,848, with Plummer Associates, Inc., for engineering services for Process Water Discharge Optimization Study for the GRP Division. The motion was seconded by Director Micheletti and carried unanimously.

## **6. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **a. Work Order No. 2 - San Jacinto River and Tributaries Sediment Removal and Sand Trap Development Project**

Ms. Briana Gallagher, Water Resources Project Manager, provided a brief overview of the San Jacinto River and Tributaries Sediment Removal and Sand Trap Development Project. Director Micheletti made a motion to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute Work Order No. 2 with Freese and Nichols, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$480,000, for Preliminary Design of the San Jacinto River and Tributaries Sediment Removal and Sand Trap Development Project for the Flood Management Division. The motion was seconded by Director Mora and carried unanimously.

## **7. BRIEFINGS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **a. Presentation Regarding Proposed GRP Fiscal Year 2025 Budget**

Ms. Pam Steiger and Mr. Chris Meeks presented the proposed GRP Fiscal Year 2025 budget. Mr. Meeks reviewed some of the key drivers related to the preparation of the budget and the GRP rate. He discussed water usage increases. He next explained that various cost savings were identified relative to an overall reduction in the cost of chemicals, the implementation of operational changes related to the Granulated Activated Carbon process, and a reduction in staffing. Ms. Steiger provided an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget. She stated that the Operating and Rate Stabilization, Emergency, and Repair and Replacement funds are fully funded based on recommendations of the previous rate model. Ms. Steiger explained the results of this year's rate model analysis are still pending and will be updated once the data is finalized and accepted. She went on to state that past due accounts receivable as of March 25, 2024, is \$23,794,297 (including penalties and finance fees). Ms. Steiger explained that the rates proposed for Fiscal Year 2025, is a reduction of 11% in the groundwater rate, from the current rate of \$2.99/1,000 gallons to the proposed rate of \$2.67/1,000 gallons, and a 4% reduction in the surface water rate, from the current rate of \$3.41/per 1,000 gallons to the proposed rate of \$3.26/1,000 gallons.

### **b. Presentation of Highlands Division, Lake Conroe Division, Bear Branch, and Raw Water Enterprise 10-Year Project Plans**

Ms. Kitt Crabb, Technical Services Project Manager, presented the Highlands Division 10-Year Project Plan as well as the Lake Conroe 10-Year Project Plan. Ms. Gallagher presented the Bear Branch 10-Year Project Plan. Mr. Barrett presented the Raw Water Enterprise 10-Year Project Plan. Ms. Crabb, Ms. Gallagher, and Mr. Barret provided overviews of the various projects related to their respective divisions, focusing on projects occurring in Fiscal Year 2025.

## **8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was convened in executive session at 9:57 a.m., under the following provisions:

- a.** Discussion regarding items identified elsewhere on the agenda pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Real Property), 551.073 (Prospective Gifts), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Security Devices), or 551.089 (Security Devices or

Security Audits) as applicable.

- b. Consultations with attorney, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 regarding:
1. Litigation related to Hurricane Harvey, including additional legal services to be provided by Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP; and
  2. Litigation and other litigation related to GRP.

**9. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

With a quorum of the Board present, the meeting was called into open session at 11:14 a.m.

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE AGENDA**

It was announced that the next San Jacinto River Authority Regular Board Meeting will take place on June 27, 2024.

**11. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



Wil Faubel  
Secretary, Board of Directors

