







**MINUTES**  
 Regular Meeting  
 Laguna Madre Water District  
 Board of Directors  
 Wednesday, August 23, 2023  
 5:30 PM – 5:46 PM  
 Board Room

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>QUORUM</u></b>          Scott Friedman, Chairman          Jason Starkey, Secretary          Adam Lalonde, Vice-Chairman          Dave Boughter, Director</p> <p><b><u>ABSENT</u></b>          William "Bill" Donahue, Director</p> <p><b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF</u></b>          Carlos J. Galvan, Jr., General Manager          Robert Gomez, Director of Operations          Charles Ortiz, District Engineer          Eduardo Salazar, Director of Finance          Enrique Samaniego, Purchasing Agent          Brandon Edge, Information Tech Specialist          Santiago Ochoa, IV, Superintendent of Wastewater          Noe Cantu, Superintendent of Water          Brian Hansen, Attorney</p>		
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.</u></b></p> <p>The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, and C. Galvan said the Opening Prayer.</p>		
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Invitation to the Audience for Public Comments</u></b></p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jon Wilson, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of South Padre Island, addressed the Board regarding Laguna Blvd reconstruction and drainage improvements, including the Laguna Madre Water District's new 8-inch water line. Mr. Wilson noted and handed out printed copies to the Board Members addressing problems and conflicts with the project; a copy is attached to the minutes.</li> <li>• C. Galvan noted that the City of South Padre Island sent him the same information on Monday. If necessary, he is looking into the matter and possibly addressing it as a future board item.</li> </ul>	<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Laguna Madre Water District and Long Island Village Designated Area for the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024.</u></b> </p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>The Chairman entertained to open the <b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>. With a motion by <u>A. Lalonde</u> and seconded by <u>J. Starkey</u>, the Board convened the <b>PUBLIC HEARING</b> at <u>5:37 PM</u>.</p> <p>The Chairman opened the hearing for questions. No one in the audience responded.</p>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>	

	A motion was made by <u>A. Lalonde</u> and seconded by <u>J. Starkey</u> to close the PUBLIC HEARING at 5:39 PM. The Board took action on item #5; for results, see below.	
5	<p><u>Consider and discuss for possible approval a Resolution to adopt the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$0.056380/\$100 for Laguna Madre Water District and the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$0.563076/\$100 for Long Island Village Designated Area for the fiscal year 2023-2024 (Resolution No. 203-08-2023). (E. Salazar) 🗨️</u></p> <p>Discussion: The Board approved and supported the new Tax Rate for Laguna Madre Water District at .056380 and Long Island Village Designated Area at .563076.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROLLCALL VOTE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FOR the proposal: David Boughter, Adam Lalonde, Scott Friedman, and Jason Starkey</li> <li>○ AGAINST the proposal: NONE</li> <li>○ PRESENT and not voting: NONE</li> <li>○ ABSENT: William Donahue</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">The motion carried unanimously:  <b>MOVED BY J. STARKEY, SECONDED BY D. BOUGHTER.</b>  <b>MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE.</b></p>	MOTION CARRIED
6	<p><u>Consider and discuss for possible approval the Minutes for the Regular Meeting from August 9, 2023. (C. Galvan) 🗨️</u></p> <p>Discussion: The Minutes were approved as presented</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The motion carried unanimously:  <b>MOVED BY J. STARKEY, SECONDED BY A. LALONDE.</b>  <b>MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE.</b></p>	MOTION CARRIED
7	<p><u>General Manager's Report 🗨️</u></p> <p>Mr. Galvan reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Reservoir Levels</u> - C. Galvan handed out printed copies at the meeting of the Brownsville Area Reservoirs monitored water supply. A copy is attached to the minutes. The reservoirs combined were 23.6% full on August 23, 2023. C. Galvan noted we did get watershed rain; hopefully, within the next three days, there will be more water coming in. August 7 was the first day at 25%; the next step is to wait until 30 days, and the District will implement changes to the drought management procedures. We will continue to monitor. If it goes up, there are no changes.</li> <li>• <u>Texas Desal 2023 – September 27-29, El Paso, TX-C.</u> Galvan asked if any Board Members were interested in attending to contact him.</li> </ul>	GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
8	<p><u>Consider and discuss the possible approval of Financial Reports for May 2023. (E. Salazar) 🗨️</u></p> <p>Discussion: E. Salazar highlighted that the revenue for the Water and Wastewater Services is running a bit below where it should be at this time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The motion carried unanimously:  <b>MOVED BY J. STARKEY, SECONDED BY D. BOUGHTER.</b>  <b>MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE.</b></p>	MOTION CARRIED

9	<p><u>Consider and discuss for possible approval of Emergency Ratification of Change Order #2 with Pall Corporation for Furnishing Membrane Filtration Equipment for Water Treatment Plant No. 1. (C. Ortiz)</u> </p> <p>Discussion: C. Ortiz noted this is a change in material, an increase of \$890,678.83 to have it ready to receive either the Laguna Madre Bay diversion or the Rio Grande River</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The motion carried unanimously:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOVED BY J. STARKEY, SECONDED BY A. LALONDE.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE.</b></p>	MOTION CARRIED
10	<p><u>Consider and discuss for possible approval of Group Health, Life, Dental, and Vision Insurance. (E. Samaniego)</u> </p> <p>Discussion: E. Samaniego noted proposals reviewed by the Health Insurance Committee, and the Committee’s recommendations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Health - Blue Cross Blue Sheild/ Texas Insurance</li> <li>• Vision and Dental - with Guardian/Texas Insurance</li> <li>• Life Insurance – Renewal with MetLife/Salazar Insurance</li> <li>• The Committee recommended 85% paid by the District</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">The motion carried unanimously:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOVED BY J. STARKEY, SECONDED BY D. BOUGHTER.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE.</b></p>	
11	<p><u>Consider and review Expenditures from August 1, 2023, to August 14, 2023. (C. Galvan)</u> </p> <p>Discussion: The Board accepted the expenditures as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The expenditures acknowledged by:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D. BOUGHTER, A. LALONDE, S. FRIEDMAN, AND J. STARKEY.</b></p>	ACKNOWLEDGED EXPENDITURES
12	<p>Consider and remove from the table the following <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u> item tabled at the Regular Meeting on July 26, 2023:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Deliberation regarding the Evaluation of District Employee to wit: General Manager (551.074)</p> <p>Discussion: The Board removed the item from the table to discuss. The Board agreed not to discuss until there was a full quorum.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The motion carried unanimously:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOVED BY J. STARKEY, SECONDED BY D. BOUGHTER.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: MOVE TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE.</b></p>	MOTION CARRIED
13	<p><u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u> permitted by the Open Meeting Act, V. T. C. A., Government Code Section 551.001 Et. Seq., under Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney; under Section 551.074, Personnel Matters: </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Deliberation regarding the Evaluation of District Employee to wit: General Manager (551.074)</u></li> </ul>	EXECUTIVE SESSION  TABLED

	<p><u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u></p> <p>Discussion: The Board chose not to discuss this item and agreed to table until they had a full quorum.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously:</p> <p><b>MOVED BY D. BOUGHTER, SECONDED BY J. STARKEY.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION: MOVE TO TABLE.</b></p>	
14	<p><u>Consideration and action on EXECUTIVE SESSION Item, if necessary.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Deliberation regarding the Evaluation of District Employee to wit: General Manager (551.074)</u></li> </ul> <p><b>NO ACTION</b></p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <p>NO ACTION</p>
15	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>There was no further business; the meeting adjourned.</p>	<p>MEETING ADJOURNED</p> <p>@</p> <p>5:46 PM</p>

  
 JASON STARKEY, SECRETARY

  
 SCOTT FRIEDMAN, CHAIRMAN



MINUTES APPROVED THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.