

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Board of Directors  
El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1  
(EPCWID)  
February 12, 2025**

<b>DIRECTORS PRESENT</b>	<b>EMPLOYEES PRESENT</b>
<b>Art Ivey, President</b>	<b>Jay Ornelas, PE General Manager</b>
<b>Larry Ceballos, Vice-President</b>	<b>Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>George Brooks, Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer</b>
<b>Jarett Rogers, Director</b>	<b>Rose Rodriguez, Tax Assessor Collector</b>
<b>Miguel Teran, Director</b>	<b>Pete Rodriguez, Maintenance Manager</b>
	<b>Enrique Perez, Water Master</b>
	<b>Sharon Atilano, License Manager</b>
	<b>Cathy Oyston, Water Records/ Dispatch Supervisor</b>
	<b>Claudia Ruiz, Administrative Assistant</b>
<b>LEGAL COUNSEL</b>	
<b>Renea Hicks, Attorney At Law (via zoom)</b>	
<b>Maria O'Brien, Attorney At Law (via zoom)</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
	<b>Robert Kimpel, Guest</b>
<b>DISTRICT ENGINEER</b>	<b>Danny Chavez, HCCRD</b>
<b>Dr. Al Blair, PE District Engineer (via zoom)</b>	<b>Ernest Madrid, US Border Patrol</b>
	<b>Juan Fernandez, USBR</b>

1. Call to order and establishment of a quorum.

**There being a quorum of Directors present, the meeting was called to order by President Art Ivey at 9:00 a.m., and the Directors then proceeded to consider the following.**

2. Welcome of guests. No action was taken on this item.
3. Minutes of January 15, 2025 and January 22, 2025 meetings of the Board of Directors.

After a motion by Jarett Rogers, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the draft minutes of the special meeting held on January 15, 2025 are approved.**

After a motion by Jarett Rogers, seconded by Miguel Teran, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the draft minutes of the special meeting held on January 22, 2025 are approved.**

4. Report and recommendations by Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer/Election Officer, concerning office operations, and elections:

**a. Appointment of Assistant Secretary of the Board of Directors.**

Mr. Ivey nominated Jarett Rogers as Assistant Secretary.

After a motion by Miguel Teran, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors appoint Jarett Rogers as the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Directors.**

5. Report and recommendations by Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer, concerning financial information, expenditures, budget, and investment policy:

**a. Financial Report.** No action was taken on this item.

**b. \$1,000.00 Expenditure Report.** No action was taken on this item.

- c. Legal and Consulting Fees Budget Report.** No action was taken on this item.
- 6. Report and recommendations by Rose Rodriguez, Tax Assessor Collector, concerning adjustments and corrections, if any, to assessments, taxes, and charges by EPCWID.
  - a. Review tax report and adjustments.** No action was taken on this item.
  - c. 2013-2024 The City of El Paso and it's Public Service Board Assignments, 2013-2024 Lower Valley Water District Assignments and Report on tax suits.** No action was taken on this item.
  - d. Comparison of EPCWID tax assessments and collection during 2023 and 2024.** No action was taken on this item.
- 7. General Manager's report concerning the following:
  - a. Award of Bid for Concrete for Island Main Canal Shotcrete Project.**

After a motion by Miguel Teran, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors accept the bid by GCC, for supplying 1,400+ cubic yard with fiber reinforced concrete for use of shotcrete for Island Main Canal project.**
- 8. District Engineer's report and recommendations concerning the following:
  - a. Rio Grande Project Operating Agreement Accounting.** No action was taken on this item.
  - b. Rio Grande Compact Accounting.** No action was taken on this item.
  - c. Rio Grande Project Water Supply and Water Allocations.** No action was taken on this item.

- d. Status of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Construction in District Canals and Drains.**  
No action was taken on this item.

9. Water Master's report and recommendations concerning the following:

**Water use and availability.** No action was taken on this item.

10. Maintenance Manager's report and recommendations concerning the following:

**Drain maintenance program and water delivery system.** No action was taken on this item.

11. Water delivery allocations to EPCWID water users and water available by contract. **None.**

12. Subdivision Plats within District Boundary requirement in License Manual (irrigable land exhibit):

- a. Application 3555, by Eliborio Figueroa, for Figueroa Subdivision, being a portion out of tract 16D, block 27, City of Socorro, El Paso County, Texas, containing .7885 acres**

After a motion by Larry Ceballos, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that Application 3555, by Eliborio Figueroa, for Figueroa Subdivision, being a portion out of tract 16D, block 27, City of Socorro, El Paso County, Texas, containing .7885 acres for a submission of an irrigable land exhibit is approved.**

13. Applications for Licenses and Memorandums of Understanding for Use of District Real Property:

- a. 4 Applications for El Paso Water**

**Application 3549, by the City of El Paso through its El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, for a 25-year license to install 12-inch P.V.C. waterline inside a 24-inch steel casing across the Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal), at Concepcion St., at approximately station 315+04**

**Application 3551, by the City of El Paso through its El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, for a 25-year license to install an 8-inch P.V.C. waterline inside a 16-inch steel casing across the Montoya Main Lateral (an irrigation lateral) at Love Rd., at approximately station 197+20**

**Application 3553, by the City of El Paso through its El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, for a 25-year license to install an 8-inch P.V.C. waterline inside a 16-inch steel casing across the Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal), at Luna St., at approximately station 236+38**

**Application 3560, by City of El Paso through its El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, for a Temporary Ingress and Egress license for well blow off discharge into the La Union East Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at Barley Dr., at approximately station 362+38**

**Application 3561, by the City of El Paso through its El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, for a 25-year license to install an 8-inch P.V.C. waterline inside a 16-inch steel casing across the La Union East Lateral (an irrigation lateral), at Icon St., at approximately station 431+93**

After a motion by Larry Ceballos, seconded by George Brooks, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the 5 Applications for El Paso Water, are approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.**

14. Letters of No Objection for Natural Gas Service installed within the Rights-of-Ways of Public Roads:

- a. **Application 3556, by Texas Gas Service, a division of ONE Gas, for installation of a 6-inch PPE main natural gas pipeline encased in 10-inch steel casing, crossing the Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal), at Concepcion Ave., at approximately station 314+75**

After a motion by Miguel Teran, seconded by George Brooks, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the Application 3556, by Texas Gas Service, a division of ONE Gas, for installation of a 6-inch PPE main natural gas pipeline encased in 10-inch steel casing, crossing the Franklin Canal (an irrigation canal), at Concepcion Ave., at approximately station 314+75, is approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.**

15. Approval of Construction Dewatering Licenses for Conveyance Groundwater:

- a. **Application 3558, by Bain Construction, for a license for use of District facilities for conveyance of groundwater from construction dewatering into the Nemexas Drain**

After a motion by George Brooks, seconded by Miguel Teran, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that Application 3558, by Bain Construction, for a license for use of District facilities for conveyance of groundwater from construction dewatering into the Nemexas Drain, is**

**approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements of the license, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the license, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such license, a copy of which is attached hereto.**

16. Letters of Approval and/or Amendments of existing License Agreements:

- a. **License 3172-Application 3391, by City of El Paso on behalf of Public Service Board, to construct a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe from storm water discharge into the right bank of Mesa Drain (a drainage canal), from Red Road, at approximately station 283+10 to station 269+18 along left bank**

After a motion by George Brooks, seconded by Larry Ceballos, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the Letter of Approval under existing License 3172-Application 3391, by City of El Paso on behalf of Public Service Board, to construct a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe from storm water discharge into the right bank of Mesa Drain (a drainage canal), from Red Road, at approximately station 283+10 to station 269+18 along left bank , is approved upon the condition that the applicant meets all requirements of the license, including paying all fees and cost required by the license and providing the District with three signed originals of the letters, both within 60 days hereafter, and the officers of EPCWID are authorized and directed to execute such letter, a copy of which is attached hereto.**

17. Agreement to classify Non-irrigable land as irrigable land: **None.**
18. Sale of Surplus District Real Property under 49.226 of the Texas Water Code: **None.**
19. Grants Agreements involving District Real Property: **None.**

20. Any or all of the items shown on the attached Closed Meeting Agenda.

**The Board then entered into a closed session at 10:18 a.m. regarding the items to be considered in closed session as shown on the Notice of Public Meeting. The Board subsequently returned to the open session at 12:04 p.m. with no action having been taken in the closed session.**

Pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.074, the Board will conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the below indicated officer(s) or employee(s) of EPCWID indicated below:

**Oscar David Ornelas, Jr., PE General Manager - Annual Employment Agreement**

After a motion by Miguel Teran, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors approve the Annual Employment Agreement of Oscar David Ornelas, Jr., General Manager.**

**Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer - Annual Employment Agreement**

After a motion by George Brooks, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors approve the Annual Employment Agreement of Mary Cortez, Chief Financial Officer.**



**Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer - Annual  
Employment Agreement**

After a motion by Larry Ceballos, seconded by Jarett Rogers, duly considered and carried by unanimous vote of the Board the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors approve the Annual Employment Agreement of Lisa Aguilar, Chief Administrative Officer.**

21. Consideration of agenda items for next regular board meeting.
22. **Adjournment.** On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

  
George Brooks, Secretary