

Minutes
August 24, 2022
UGRA Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Notice having been duly given, a Regular Meeting of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Board of Directors was held at the Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center, 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, Texas, at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, Diane McMahon, President; Aaron Bulkley, Vice-President; Bill Rector, Secretary; Maggie Snow, Treasurer; Austin Dickson; Dick Eastland; Mike Hughes; and Blake Smith were present and constituted a quorum. Also present were: Raymond Buck, Jr., General Manager; Tara Bushnoe, Natural Resources Manager; Nicole Shepherd, Environmental Lab Manager; Travis Linscomb, Natural Resources Specialist; and the following staff from the Sunset Commission: Robert Romig, Will Bucknall, Katherina Wierschke, Chris Keslar, and Carl Perry.

President McMahon led Item II. Pledge of Allegiance.

President McMahon announced Item III and introduced new UGRA Board Member Dick Eastland who was previously sworn in on August 17, 2022.

President McMahon announced Item IV. A public copy of the Board Book is available at the receptionist's desk and that copies of any items in the Board Book will be provided upon request.

President McMahon introduced Item V. Visitors/Citizens forum. There were no comments from the audience.

President McMahon announced Item VI. Public Participation. To facilitate the recording of the meeting, a visitor that has a question or wants to make a statement regarding an item under

discussion must first be recognized by the Presiding Officer, then proceed to the lectern and address the question or statement to the Board.

President McMahon introduced Item VII. A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 25, 2022. Director Rector moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 25, 2022. Director Snow seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President McMahon called for a vote. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 25, 2022 were approved by a unanimous vote. President McMahon introduced Item VII. B. Minutes of the Called Meeting of June 8, 2022. Director Smith moved to approve the Minutes of the Called Meeting of June 8, 2022. Director Snow seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President McMahon called for a vote. The Minutes of the Called Meeting of June 8, 2022 were approved by a unanimous vote. President McMahon introduced Item VII. C. Financial Report for the Months Ended July 31, 2022. Ms. Bushnoe presented a summary of the financial report and highlighted various revenue and expense accounts. Director Hughes moved to approve the Financial Report for the Months Ended July 31, 2022. Director Snow seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President McMahon called for a vote. The Financial Report for the Months Ended July 31, 2022 was approved by a unanimous vote. VII. D. Quarterly Investment Report for Quarter Ended June 30, 2022. Ms. Bushnoe presented the investment report to the Board. Director Smith moved to approve the Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2022. Director Dickson seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President McMahon called for a vote. The Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2022 was approved by a unanimous vote.

President McMahon introduced Item VIII. Presentation and Discussion of Committee Reports.

The following is a summary of the committee reports:

A. Executive Committee:

- President McMahon provided the following committee updates:
 - Met on August 16, 2022.
 - Reviewed items for the Board Agenda.
 - Reviewed budget revisions to be presented at September Board meeting.

B. Human Resources Committee:

- Director Smith provided the following committee updates:
 - Met on August 11, 2022.
 - Reviewed staff salary and benefits to be included in the FY23 proposed budget.
 - Referred to additional discussion during Item XIII.

C. Outreach and Education Committee:

- Director Snow provided the following committee updates:
 - Met on August 11, 2022.
 - Reviewed recent Outreach and Education activities.
 - Reviewed programs to be included in the FY23 proposed budget.

- Mr. Buck, Jr. reported that the Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Program funded 14 applications for reimbursement since the last board meeting. Since the beginning of the program in March 2011, a total of 575 applications have been funded for \$34,785. To date in FY22, a total of 38 applications have been funded for \$4,973.

D. Water Quality Committee:

- Director Rector provided the following committee updates:
 - Met on August 16, 2022.
 - Reviewed programs to be included in the FY23 proposed budget.

- Mr. Buck, Jr. reported that the Water Enhancement through Brush Management Cost Share program funded one application for reimbursement since the last board meeting. Since the beginning of the program in January 2010, a total of 178 applications have been funded for \$553,986 and treated approximately 14,266 acres. To date in FY22, 11 applications have been funded for \$32,012 and treated approximately 598 acres.

E. Watershed Stewardship Committee:

- Director Bulkley provided the following committee updates:
 - Met on August 9, 2022.
 - Reviewed programs to be included in the FY23 proposed budget.
 - Presentation of Feral Hog Management Program quarterly update.

F. Guadalupe – Blanco River Trust:

- President McMahon and Director Snow provided the following GBRT updates:
 - Participated in recent GBRT meetings to discuss a confidential matter.

G. APO Advisory Council:

- President McMahon provided the following APO Advisory Council updates:

- Met on July 14, 2022.
- Jill Shackelford is preparing a draft list of best management practices for the next meeting.

H. Ad Hoc Habitat Conservation Plan Committee:

- Director Smith provided the following committee updates:
 - Met on August 10, 2022 with GBRA representative.
 - The Committee and staff will stay engaged in the HCP development process through future GBRA meetings.

I. Appraisal Ad Hoc Committee:

- Director Rector deferred discussion to the September Board meeting.

President McMahon introduced Item IX. Discussion and Appropriate Action – Resolution Expressing Recognition and Appreciation to the Texas Master Naturalists – Hill Country Chapter. Ms. Bushnoe provided the Board with a revised resolution that eliminated a duplicate clause. Director Rector moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-08 as revised Expressing Recognition and Appreciation to the Texas Master Naturalists – Hill Country Chapter. Director Snow seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President McMahon called for a vote. Resolution No. 2022-08 as revised was approved by a unanimous vote.

President McMahon introduced Item X. Strategic Plan Status Update. Mr. Buck, Jr. presented the annual update to the Strategic Plan to the Board detailing activities performed by UGRA to accomplish the tasks in the Strategic Plan over the 12-month period spanning 04/01/21 – 03/31/22. As this was a presentation only, no action was taken.

President McMahon introduced Item XI. Discussion and Appropriate Action - Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Ms. Bushnoe presented the draft proposed budget to the Board by highlighting proposed revenue and expenses for FY23. General discussion followed. The draft proposed

budget is presented as supporting information in determining the tax rate needed to fund the items in the budget. As this was a presentation only, no action was taken.

President McMahon introduced Item XII. Proposal of Tax Rate for Tax Year 2022 (FY23) and Setting of a Public Hearing on Said Proposed Tax Rate. Ms. Bushnoe presented the proposed rate and dates of the public hearing to the Board. Director Rector moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-09 Approving the Proposed Tax Rate and Setting Date and Time for a Public Hearing. Director Bulkley seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President McMahon called for a roll call vote. Resolution No. 2022-09 was approved with Dick Eastland, Bill Rector, Aaron Bulkley, Diane McMahon, Maggie Snow, Mike Hughes, Austin Dickson, and Blake Smith voting “aye” and zero “nays.”

President McMahon introduced Item XIII. Contract with Excel Benefits, Inc. for UGRA Employee Insurance. Ms. Bushnoe presented the contract to the Board and answered questions about the benefits coverage. Director Smith moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-10 authorizing an employee insurance contract with Excel Benefits, Inc., detailed on Attachment A of the resolution. Director Bulkley seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President McMahon called for a vote. Resolution No. 2022-10 was approved by a unanimous vote.

President McMahon introduced Item XIV. Independent Auditor Selection. Director Hughes moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-11 selection of Ede and Company as UGRA’s Independent Financial Auditor for FY23 (FY22 financials). Director Dickson seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President McMahon called for a vote. Resolution No. 2022-11 was approved by a unanimous vote.

President McMahon introduced Item XV. Appointment of Officer Nominating Committee for FY23 Officers. President McMahon appointed Directors Mike Hughes and Austin Dickson to the Nominating Committee for FY23 Officers.

President McMahon introduced Item XVI. General Manager's Report. Mr. Buck, Jr. updated the Board on presentations and activities in which UGRA initiated or participated, investigations, staff training, meetings, Plateau Water Planning Group, Guadalupe Basin Flood Planning Group, recent media coverage, and shared letters from interns who worked with UGRA staff this summer. Additionally, Mr. Buck, Jr. introduced staff from the Sunset Commission who are conducting the review of UGRA. Mr. Romig introduced his staff and complimented the Board on their staff's cooperation during the review. He provided an overview of the review process to date and outlined the timeline for the report release, public hearing, and report approval.

President McMahon introduced Item XVII. Written Reports.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 pm.

UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY

ATTEST:

Diane McMahon, President
Board of Directors

William R. Rector, Secretary
Board of Directors