

Camino Real Regional Utility Authority
City of Sunland Park/Dona Ana County Joint Utility Authority
Gadsden Independent School District- Board Room
4950 McNutt Rd, Sunland Park, New Mexico 88063
Monday February 11, 2019
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority was held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 5:43 p.m. at the Gadsden Independent School District-Board Room at 4950 McNutt Road in Sunland Park, New Mexico 88063.

PRESENT

Chair Mayor Javier Perea (arrived at 6:20 pm)
Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis
Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez
Mr. Gerardo Ibarra
Mr. Joshua Orozco
Mr. Alex Sierra
Councilor Olga Nunez

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director
Ms. Liliana Arevalo, CRRUA Office Manager
Mr. Tom Figart, Dona Ana County/CRRUA Attorney
Mr. Eric Lopez, Bridel Facility Ops
Ms. Mary De Avila, CRRUA Administrative Assistant
Mr. Ernie Carranza, CRRUA Water Lead
Mr. Robert Hearn

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Joshua Orozco called the meeting to order at 5:43 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Joshua Orozco led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Ms. Mary De Avila, Administrative Assistant called roll call. A quorum was present.

4. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Joshua Orozco, board member suggested to move item 6, election of Chairman and Vice-Chair to after item 9, Board Comments.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis moved to approve the agenda with amendment; the motion was seconded by Councilor Olga Nunez. The motion carried a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Joshua Orozco, board member suggested to move item 6, election of Chairman and Vice-Chair to

after item 11B, Request CRRUA Board Approval to Continue Using the State Contract, Baker Utility Supply Over the 50k Threshold.

Mr. Alex Sierra moved to approve the agenda with amendment; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez. The motion carried a 6-0 vote.

5. APPROVE MINUTES

A. December 10, 2018

Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez moved to approve the minutes for December 10, 2018; the motion was seconded by Mr. Alex Sierra. The motion carried a 4-2 vote.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis	abstain
Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Gerardo Ibarra	abstain
Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye

B. December 17, 2018

Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez moved to approve the minutes for December 17, 2018; the motion was seconded by Mr. Alex Sierra. The motion carried a 4-2 vote.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis	abstain
Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Gerardo Ibarra	abstain
Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye

6. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIR

Item move to after item 11B, Request CRRUA Board Approval to Continue Using the State Contract, Baker Utility Supply over the 50k Threshold.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Limited to 3 minutes per person.

None

8. STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Eric Lopez, Bridel Facility Ops presented the Santa Teresa Arsenic Treatment Facility Good House Keeping award and the West Mesa Wastewater Treatment Plant Most Improved Facility 2018 award to Camino Real Regional Utility Authority from the Water and Wastewater Association.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director informed the board members that in the spirit of maintaining a positive customer service experience with CRRUA customers and in consideration with the federal employees that fall under the federal government employee furlough Liliana Arevalo, CRRUA Office Manager, with my approval had created a payment arrangement to help those customers.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked what was going on across the Santa Teresa residential area. Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director informed Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez that the new North wastewater treatment plant is in process of coming on line and Mr. Lopez will be talking about that in his report.

Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked if anyone had complained about the smell.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that no complaints had been received.

Mr. Alex Sierra asked if there was any kind of arrangement with El Paso Water Utility to utilize their purple pipe.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that topic to my knowledge had not been talked with El Paso Water I don't know of the legality of Texas water rights and New Mexico crossing state lines but that would need to be looked in to further.

Councilor Olga Nunez stated that she had received several customer complaints that customers are calling the office number and no one answer, only the answering machine. I also called the office but no one answered.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that CRRUA is two clerks short in the office, the positions had already been advertised and interviews will be done as soon as possible. He apologized for the inconvenience and said that CRRUA should be responsive and accessible, that is CRRUA's goal but that Councilor Olga Nunez was right at this moment CRRUA was dysfunctional.

Councilor Olga Nunez asked for the status of the credit card payment option.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that they are working together with Point May and getting close to offering that payment option.

Councilor Olga Nunez asked if CRRUA services the fire hydrants and if they had a schedule to service the fire hydrants.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that the fire hydrants are inspected and exercised by the City of Sunland Park Fire Department and a list of defected hydrants is given to Ernie for repair or replace. The hydrants outside the City limits are inspected and exercised by a volunteer fire department and as well the list is given to Ernie for repair or replace.

Councilor Olga Nunez asked if CRRUA has a schedule to service fire hydrants because she knows of some that have been out for a couple of months.

Ernie Carranza, CRRUA Water Lead replied that there is no schedule available CRRUA works on them when reported by the City of Sunland Park Fire Department. Parts are ordered and as soon as we receive the parts we go out to the field and repair them.

Councilor Olga Nunez asked Ernie if he had a count of the not working hydrants.

Ernie Carranza replied that at this moment 12 thru out the City, three had already been repaired and he was still waiting for part to repair five more.

Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez suggested to Eric Lopez and Mr. Westmoreland that they should be testing more houses because there were still people out there saying that the water was not good for drinking we need to be transparent and if we need to test twice a month let's do it. We need a positive attitude and show that the water is drinkable. He also asked if there were clerks at the front or if CRRUA needed to hire some more.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland asked Commissioner Gonzalez to get him the address of the customer and they will go out there and test. Mr. Westmoreland also informed Commissioner Gonzalez that they should be interviewing for both positions soon and also Liliana Arevalo, CRRUA Office Manager and himself will be generating a job description for a fourth clerk.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis asked if HR from the County was helping.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland informed the board members that the position is advertised for a period of time. The County HR receives those applications reviews each application to see who's qualified. The

qualified applications are passed to CRRUA for interviews.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis asked how long have it been submitted.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland informed it closed at the end of January we have 80 plus applicants for one position and 40 plus for the second so it's going to take HR a couple of weeks to go through all of them. Mr. Joshua Orozco welcomed Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis and Mr. Gerardo Ibarra on Board and informed the board that the CRRUA board was made up of two Commissioners from the County, two representative from the City, State Representative, State Senator and the member at large. He stated that there is a lot to learn on the water and wastewater technology and encouraged them to talk to Mr. Westmoreland.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland informed the board members that he will schedule a tour and will let them know.

Mr. Gerardo Ibarra stated that State Representative Lara was his boss and my State Representative so I have high respect for him. He also stated that he is a resident of Sunland Park since 1970 and has been drinking Sunland Park water since then and nothing is wrong with him. I suppose that what Commissioner Gonzalez is saying is test the water a bit more but also keep in mind that some of the houses in the City are old and maybe pay attention on what the plumbing is made of, some are galvanize and could give a wrong reading. Keep that on the rear view so when they do testing that they could possibly more legitimate to what the date is been provided vs what kind of plumbing we have.

Mr. Joshua Orozco stated that instead of doing more residential testing they should concentrate on informing customers on the testing CRRUA is doing because customers still have the prospective that the water is not safe to drink.

Mr. Gerardo Ibarra stated that some constituents come to him and informed him that their water was foaming. Mr. Ibarra informed them that maybe that was a simple fix they needed to do in their house on their aerator. In his house one of five faucet was foaming and he replaced the aerator and its working fine. Maybe giving those ideas to the residents will help.

Mr. Joshua Orozco stated that they need to find other ways to inform the residents that the water is safe to drink other then send flyers with the bill.

Mr. Gerardo Ibarra stated that maybe a workshop and picking one topic at a time, for example the Bill, billing cycle, meters, testing done, place a shut off valve inside their properties for emergency situations, etc.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland informed the board that most of the old areas in Sunland Park and Santa Teresa were built to different standards and do not have a shut off valve on their side of the meter. Now it is a requirement by CRRUA to have one. Therefore, as we come across those houses we encourage them to install a shut off valve.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis stated that she thinks it's a misconception all around.

Mr. Joshua Orozco stated that maybe hiring a specific person to give out the correct information, a public relation person .

Mr. Alex Sierra asked if CRRUA was allow to performed any testing on the consumer side of the meter. Mr. Eric Lopez, Bridel Facility Ops replied yes.

Councilor Olga Nunez stated that she is also a long time resident of Sunland Park and learned that Sunland Park water is hard water and it does not have nothing to do with CRRUA.

Councilor Olga Nunez asked Mr. Westmoreland for the status on the small commercial rates.

Mr. Westmoreland informed Councilor Olga Nunez and the board members that Daniel B. Stephens & Associates is working on that and that he will have something to present on the March meeting.

10. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. MONTHLY REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Lopez, Bridel Facility Operations presented to the board members the December 2018 and January 2019 operations monthly reports of the CRRUA water and wastewater system.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Brent Westmoreland informed the board members that what he would like to do is to review the motion done by the CRRUA board back in December 2018. We are working in conjunction with Dona Ana County Community Development staff to update the UDC for CRRUA area. We also have a workshop set up with the City of Sunland Park to brief us on the direction they are heading on their land use Ordinance on February 26, 2019 at 8:30 at the G.I.S.D. board room. This is within the motion you approved back in December. I have one issue I want to bring to your attention to seek guidance. Dona Ana County Manager has requested that CRRUA in a good faith effort go ahead and adopt the UDC for the two currently zone industrial properties south of the railroad track in Santa Teresa industrial Park or West Mesa. The issue is that having his staff administer two different codes is a Problem. Last year we had five applications in the CRRUA ETZC area. I need to know what direction you want the staff and CRRUA ETZC to continue. Do you want us to continue based on the motion that was pass in December or move forward with the County's request and adopt the UDC for the two currently zone industrial properties.

Chair Mayor Javier Perea asked that if they move forward and change the two properties and at the end they decide not going with the County's UDC those two properties have already been changed

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied yes.

Mr. Robert Hearn, CRRUA ETZC Chair stated that the plan was to get the Dona Ana County UDC and convert to a CRRUA document. Mr. Tom Figart, CRRUA Attorney and Mr. Fred Kennon, Dona Ana County Attorney are working on that part of the job. We need to do a new zoning map, a new MOA with the County and the City and a development plan. The motion that was passed in December was to do a good job in incorporating the County UDC and the Sunland Park development code. We need go thru all set before we can get one piece in to the UDC. If we zone the Two properties the County Manager is asking in good faith effort, we lose the opportunity of looking at the City's development plan.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis stated that CRRUA needs to be sure and leave a good working code that is going to work with the community.

Chair Mayor Javier Perea recommended to continue with the motion set on the December's meeting.

Mr. Joshua Orozco stated that he thinks that the UDC will work on the West Mesa.

Mr. Tom Figart, Dona Ana County/CRRUA Attorney stated that County Manager knows CRRUA is working in good faith but he wants to see progress. He also added that CRRUA can wait and attend the City of Sunland Park workshop on February 26, 2019 and then work on progress.

11. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVE A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE OPEN MEETINGS POLICY OF THE CAMINO REAL REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY ("AUTHORITY")

Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez. The motion carried 7-0 vote.

Chair Mayor Javier Perea	aye
Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis	aye
Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Gerardo Ibarra	aye
Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye

B. REQUEST CRRUA BOARD APPROVAL TO CONTINUE USING THE STATE CONTRACT, BAKER UTILITY SUPPLY OVER THE 50K THRESHOLD

Mr. Joshua Orozco moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis. The motion carried 7-0 vote.

Chair Mayor Javier Perea	aye
Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis	aye
Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Gerardo Ibarra	aye
Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye

(6.) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIR

Joshua Orozco moved to nominate Mayor Javier Perea Chair of the board.

Chair Mayor Javier Perea moved to nominate Commissioner Isabella Solis Vice-Chair of the Board. All board members agreed. The motion carried 7-0 vote.

Chair Mayor Javier Perea	aye
Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis	aye
Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Gerardo Ibarra	aye
Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye

12. CLOSED SESSION

A. THE BOARD MAY CONVENE IN CLOSE SESSION TO DISCUSS LIMITED PERSONNEL MATTERS AS AUTHORIZED BY THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT SECTION 10-15-1 H(2)

Mr. Joshua Orozco moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez. The motion carried 7-0 vote.

Chair Mayor Javier Perea	aye
Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis	aye
Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Gerardo Ibarra	aye
Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye

13. OPEN SESSION

- A. THE BOARD MAY CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE CLOSED SESSION ITEM.

All board members agreed to go back in open session. The motion carried 7-0 vote.

Chair Mayor Javier Perea	aye
Vice-Chair Commissioner Isabella Solis	aye
Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Gerardo Ibarra	aye
Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye

Chair Mayor Javier Perea stated for the records that no subject was discussed in closed session other than the matter that was announced.

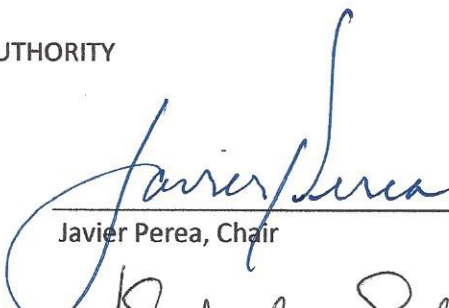

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mayor Javier Perea moved to adjourn the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.


APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 11th day of March, 2019.

CAMINO REAL REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

	_____
Javier Perea, Chair	
	_____
Isabella Solis, Vice-Chair	




Alex Sierra Delegate of State Senator Joseph Cervantes,
Board Member




Joshua Orozco, Board Member



Ramon Gonzalez, Board Member



Gerardo Ibarra Delegate of State Representative Ray Lara,
Board Member



Olga Nunez, Board Member

ATTEST:



Camino Real Regional Utility Authority