

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
CAMERON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 5
March 28, 2023**

The meeting was convened at 9:30 A.M. on March 28, 2023, in accordance with the notice posted at the offices of the District at 221 East Filmore, Harlingen, Texas.

Present at the meeting were Directors Jerry Wade, Steve Jennings and Nicholas Consiglio. Others in attendance were Engineer Jack L. Brown, Attorney Buddy R. Dossett, General Manager Alan Moore, Veronica Larraga, and Assistant General Manager Rolando Vela.

- Item 1 Pledge of Allegiance
- Item 2 After discussion, motion was made by Jerry Wade, seconded by Nicholas Consiglio and passed, that the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2023**, be approved.
- Item 3 No one was present to discuss items not on the agenda.
- Item 4 After discussion, the following action was taken on subdivision plats:

No subdivision plats were presented.
- Item 5 Motion was made by Jerry Wade seconded by Nicholas Consiglio and passed to approve Resolution No. 2023-1 in support of the legislation on artificial drainage systems filed by State Representative Janie Lopez and State Senator Morgan LaMantia as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 1

**RESOLUTION OF THE CAMERON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 5
SUPPORTING THE ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM LEGISLATION FILED
BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE JANIE LOPEZ AND STATE SENATOR MORGAN
LAMANTIA PROPOSING CHANGES TO THE FLOOD INFRASTRUCTURE
FUND PROGRAM AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
FUNDING CHALLENGES THAT COMMUNITIES WITH ARTIFICIAL
DRAINAGE SYSTEMS FACE.**

WHEREAS, Texas is a very diverse state from the High Plains to the Edwards Plateau, the Piney Woods, Permian Basin, the Gulf Coast and the Rio Grande Valley, each area is distinct and different and beautiful;

WHEREAS, Texas is a unique blend of diversity, but in such a diversity not all aspects are created equal. We are all subject to extreme weather events including extreme rainfall and flooding, but our ability to mitigate such events is not equal;

WHEREAS, Most of the state has topographic relief, slope, and defined floodways;

WHEREAS, Some areas including the Rio Grande Valley, along with other border and coastal regions, do not have this relief;

WHEREAS, With limited natural channels, the only way to mitigate flooding is by the creation of artificial drainage systems;

WHEREAS, State Representative Janie Lopez and State Senator Morgan LaMantia have filed legislation to address artificial drainage systems;

WHEREAS, Cameron County Drainage District No. 5 finds it appropriate to support HB 3796 and HB 4742 that State Representative Janie Lopez and to support the companion bills SB 2182 and SB 2183 that State Senator Morgan LaMantia has filed that address the funding challenges the communities, along the border and coastal regions, face with artificial drainage systems;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CAMERON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 5 THAT IT:

SECTION 1. SUPPORTS HB 4742 filed by State Representative Janie Lopez and SB 2182 filed by State Senator Morgan LaMantia that propose changes to the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) program, including adding a definition of an “artificial drainage system;” establishing scoring criteria that prioritizes improvements to such systems; revising the current percentage grant calculations for any regional artificial drainage projects to emphasize Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) in lieu of income levels; creating a loan forgiveness program in Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) specific to artificial drainage systems; and proposing that all loan funding provided from the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) program to communities with artificial drainage systems located in coastal and border counties be in the form of zero-interest loans.

SECTION 2. SUPPORTS HB 3796 filed by State Representative Janie Lopez and SB 2183 filed by State Senator Morgan LaMantia that establishes an Artificial Drainage System Task Force to identify challenges for communities and drainage districts along the coast and Texas/Mexico border region to explore challenges and come up with solutions.

SECTION 3. RECOGNIZES the importance of this legislation to mitigate flooding and to help attract development to our community and to the border and coastal regions of the state.

SECTION 4. URGES the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs to act favorably on this artificial drainage system legislation.

CONSIDERED, PASSED, AND APPROVED AND SIGNED this 28th day of March, 2023 at a regular called meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cameron County

Drainage District No. 5 at which a quorum was present and which was held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

Item 6 Motion was made by Nicholas Consiglio, seconded by Jerry Wade and passed, to approve the following claims:

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----|------------------|
| Ck No. 6921 | Alan Moore | \$ | 7,236.91 |
| Ck No. 6922 | Veronica Larraga | | 1,719.90 |
| Ck No. 6923 | Rolando Vela | | 2,457.80 |
| Ck No. 6924 | BCBSTX | | 3,528.42 |
| Ck No. 6925 | Ancillary Billing Department | | 14.20 |
| Ck No. 6926 | Eloy S. Macias, Jr. | | 500.00 |
| Ck No. 6927 | Alan Moore | | 22.49 |
| Ck No. 6928 | Rolando Vela | | 1,103.78 |
| Ck No. 6929 | WM Corporate Services, Inc. | | 1,811.18 |
| Ck No. 6930 | Dick Office Supply of Harlingen, Inc. | | 111.36 |
| Ck No. 6931 | Harlingen Irrigation District No. 1 | | 4,749.35 |
| Ck No. 6932 | Alan Moore | | 200.00 |
| Ck No. 6933 | Rolando Vela | | 200.00 |
| TCDRS (ACH Debit) | | | 3,754.95 |
| Electronic Federal Tax Payment System | | | 5,956.98 |
| TOTAL CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE FUND | | \$ | <u>33,367.32</u> |

Item 7 District Engineer's Report:

(A) North Main Drain (Slope Repairs) – Engineer Brown reported that a pre-bid meeting was held. The bid-opening date has been postponed until April 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

(B) FIF Projects – Work continues on plans and environmental.

Item 8 District Attorney's Report:

(A) Attorney Dossett reported that we are waiting on License Agreement with City of Combes at Woodrow Street to be returned.

(B) Attorney Dossett reported that we are waiting on License Agreement with Texas Gas Service at Teege Road to be returned.

Item 9 General Manager's Report:

(A) Status Reports:

i) EWP (Repairs on North Main Drain Slope) – No additional report.

ii) FIF Projects – No additional report.

iii) Combes Detention – No additional report.

iv) Legislation – HB 3796 and HB 4742 and companion SB 2182 and SB 2183 have officially been filed and Assistant General Manager Vela continues to work on this legislation.

Item 10 There were no non-action items discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. on March 28, 2023.

Jerome Wade, Secretary

ATTEST:

Steve Jennings, President