

MEETING MINUTES

THE NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD A MEETING AT 10:00 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 20, 2026, AT THE NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING ROOM 500 IH 69, SUITE 800, ROBSTOWN, TEXAS 78380.

1) Call to Order

President Eric Burnett called meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2) Invocation

The Invocation was provided by Board of Director - William Dillard.

3) Roll Call:

Roll Call was conducted by Candace Gonzales with the following results.

Voting Members	Title	Attendance
Eric Burnett	President	Present
Allan Bloxsom	First Vice President	Present
Marshall Davidson	Second Vice President	Present
Armandina (Dina) Ramirez	Ex.Com. Member at Large	Present
Jane Bell	Secretary/Treasure	Present
Fohn Bendele	Member	Absent
James Bendele	Member	Present
Ross Cansino	Member	Present
William Dillard	Member	Present
Shannon T. Freund	Member	Present
Lisa Greenberg	Member	RESIGNED
Debra Hatch	Member	Absent
Jeb Hogan	Member	Absent
Olen R. Hughs	Member	Present
Daniel L. Kelley	Member	Present
Anita Shackleford	Member	Absent
Bill Schuchman	Member	Absent
Daniel R. Suckley	Member	Present
Tony Wood	Member	Present

Note: A quorum of board members was confirmed.

Nueces River Authority had the following staff present:

John J. Byrum, II	Executive Director NRA
John Chisholm	Dep. Executive Director NRA
Candace Gonzales	Executive Assistant
Robin Murray	Chief Financial Officer
Travis Pruski	Chief Operating Officer
Lorie Flores	Director of Resource Protection and Water Quality
	Jessica Wright
	Courtney Taylor
	Wes Harris
Juan Cervantes	Director of IT
Phil Wiatrek	Director of Planning
	Melinda Teaque
William Martin	Director of Infrastructure & Finance
Brian Sledge	NRA General Counsel
Debbie-Lindsay Opel	Communications

Guest in Attendance:

Rafael Ortega-Aurora
Justin Reeves – LAN
Russ Ford-LAN
Terry Anderson- TAnderson Construction
Hugo Berlanga
Chrstopher Haeckler- HDR
Holly Bockholt
Rachel Langston- KCS/PR
April Carey-WSP
Ryan Nokelby- HDR
Chase Jultz- Tunnel Tex
Aaron Waters- Plummer
Bobby Mengder- Pape-Dawson
Lauren Willis- FNI
Gil Hernandez- CCTX
Chad Magill-Sen. Adam Hinojosa

4) Public Comments-

Lucia D. Daily

BRIEFING ITEMS: (6)

5.) Executive Director Reports

- a) **Update on Public Communications Program – Debbie Lindsay-Opal, Three-Dimensional Development**
- b. **Discussion on status of water legislation passed in the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature, and anticipated action of the 90th Session scheduled to begin on January 12, 2027, and end on May 31, 2027. Hugo Berlanga – Legislative Consultant**
- c. **NRA Quarterly Financial Report. – Robin Murray, Chief Financial Officer**
- d. **Update of Resource Protection and Water Quality – Lorie Flores- Director of Resource Protection and Water Quality**

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: (6 - 7): All items are considered routine and self-explanatory and may be considered and approved by one motion of the Board. There will be no separate discussion of the items unless a Board Member requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence.

6. **Approval of minutes of November 14, 2025, regular meeting of the Nueces River Authority Board of Directors. – Eric Burnett, President**

A motion made by Bill Dillard and seconded by James Bendele to approve the February 20, 2026 minutes passed unanimously.

7. **Ratification of Executive Director's decision to execute an agreement with Frio County to perform administration and management duties associated with the Texas Department**

of Agriculture Grant for improvements to specified Colonia's. - Travis Pruski, Chief Operating Officer

A motion made by Bill Dillard and seconded by James Bendele to ratify the Executive Director's decision to execute an agreement with Frio County to perform administration and management duties associated with the Texas Department of Agriculture Grant for improvements to specified Colonia's passed unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS: (13-23)

- 8. Consider approval of the Nueces River Authority FY 2025 Financial Report and Single Audit. – Robin Murray, Chief Financial Officer, Elizabeth Packer, Hanie & Company, San Antonio**

A motion made by Dan Suckley and seconded by Dina Ramirez to approval the Nueces River Authority FY 2025 Financial Report and Single Audit passed unanimously.

At 11:30 am, the board president announced that the board would convene in a closed executive session under the section 551.074, Texas Government Code, to discuss personnel matters regarding agenda items 25 and 26.

Returning to open session at 12:19 pm, the board reconvened into an open public meeting and announced that no final action was taken during the closed session

- 9. Discussion and action to authorize the Executive Director to execute a master services agreement with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnan, Inc. for services associated with the New Water for South Texas Conveyance System upon approval of legal counsel and execute Task Order 1 for development of the first phase of pipeline conveyance routing for a fee of \$500,000.00 from the FY 2026 Operating Budget. – John J. Byrum II, Executive Director**

A motion made by Tony Wood and seconded by Bill Dillard to authorize the Executive Director to execute a master services agreement with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnan, Inc. for services associated with the New Water for South Texas Conveyance System upon approval of legal counsel and execute Task Order 1 for development of the first phase of pipeline conveyance routing for a fee of \$500,000.00 from the FY 2026 Operating Budget passed unanimously.

- 10. Discussion and action to authorize the Executive Director to execute a master services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for design services associated with the New Water for South Texas Conveyance System upon approval of legal counsel and authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order 1 for development of the first phase of pipeline conveyance routing for a fee of \$500,000 from the FY2026 Operating Budget. – John J. Byrum II, Executive Director**

A motion made by James Bendele and seconded by Jane Bell to authorize the Executive Director to execute a master services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for design services associated with the New Water for South Texas Conveyance System upon approval of legal counsel and authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order 1 for development of the first phase of pipeline conveyance routing for a fee of \$500,000 from the FY2026 Operating Budget passed unanimously.

- 11. Discussion and action to authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with T. Anderson Consulting to provide services as needed by the Executive Director to coordinate project design with contractors and suppliers, identify materials for pre-purchase, identify**

and relay market information which could result in savings of time and money on the infrastructure goals of the Nueces River Authority. – John J. Byrum II, Executive Director

A motion made by Dina Ramirez and seconded by Allan Bloxsom to authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with T. Anderson Consulting to provide services as needed by the Executive Director to coordinate project design with contractors and suppliers, identify materials for pre-purchase, identify and relay market information which could result in savings of time and money on the infrastructure goals of the Nueces River Authority passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and action to approve amendments to the Nueces River Authority FY 2026 Operating Budget. – *John J. Byrum II / Robin Murray, Chief Financial Officer*

A motion made by Allan Bloxsom and seconded by James Bendele to approve amendments to the Nueces River Authority FY 2026 Operating Budget passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and action to approve the revised project agreement and authorize the Executive Director to execute a funding agreement with the City of Austwell for the replacement of their wastewater treatment plant. *John Chisholm, Deputy Executive Director*

This item was removed from consideration by Executive Director John J. Byrum II.

14. Discussion and action on Revisions to the Operating Agreement concerning Operations and Management of the Water and Wastewater Facilities within the Calliham community and the City of Tilden within McMullen County, Texas. *John Chisholm, Deputy Executive Director*

A motion made by Marshall Davidson and seconded by Debra Hatch on Revisions to the Operating Agreement concerning Operations and Management of the Water and Wastewater Facilities within the Calliham community and the City of Tilden within McMullen County, Texas passed unanimously.

15. Discussion on development of the Nueces River Foundation and action on appointment of Board Members. – *Robin Murray, Chief Financial Officer*

A motion made by Marshall Davidson and seconded by Allan Bloxsom on development of the Nueces River Foundation and action on appointment of Board Members passed unanimously.

16. Discussion and action on an unimproved property contract for the purchase of 5.12 acres of land out of section 108, map C of the Geo. H. Paul Subdivision of the Driscoll Ranch Nueces County for a price not to exceed \$130,000.00 using grant money provided by the General Land Office of Texas. – *Travis Pruski, Chief Operating Officer*

A motion made by Dan Suckley and seconded by Dina Ramirez on an unimproved property contract for the purchase of 5.12 acres of land out of section 108, map C of the Geo. H. Paul Subdivision of the Driscoll Ranch Nueces County for a price not to exceed \$130,000.00 using grant money provided by the General Land Office of Texas passed unanimously.

17. Discussion and action on authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nature Conservancy of Texas to provide technical assistance, develop a Flood Infrastructure Funding application, and in-kind services up to \$250,000 to support community resilience and enhance flood and hazard mitigation within the Nueces River Basin.
– *Travis Pruski, Chief Operating Officer*

A motion made by Bill Dillard and seconded by Tony Wood authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nature Conservancy of Texas to provide technical

assistance, develop a Flood Infrastructure Funding application, and in-kind services up to \$250,000 to support community resilience and enhance flood and hazard mitigation within the Nueces River Basin passed unanimously.

- 18. Discussion and action to authorize the Executive Director to execute a Project Management and Grant Administration Agreement with the City of Mathis, Texas to provide technical assistance with the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TCDBGP) offered through the Texas Department of Agriculture for City revitalization for a fee equal to 6% of the grant awarded not to exceed \$60,000. – Philip Wiatrek, Director of Planning**

A motion made by Jane Bell and seconded by Dina Ramirez to authorize the Executive Director to execute a Project Management and Grant Administration Agreement with the City of Mathis, Texas to provide technical assistance with the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TCDBGP) offered through the Texas Department of Agriculture for City revitalization for a fee equal to 6% of the grant awarded not to exceed \$60,000 passed unanimously.

- 19. Discussion and action to authorize the Executive Director to execute a Project Management and Grant Administration Agreement with the City of Austwell, Texas to provide technical assistance with the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TCDBGP) offered through the Texas Department of Agriculture for City revitalization for a fee equal to 6% of the grant awarded not to exceed \$60,000. – Philip Wiatrek, Director of Planning**

A motion made by Dina Ramirez and seconded by Debra Hatch to authorize the Executive Director to execute a Project Management and Grant Administration Agreement with the City of Austwell, Texas to provide technical assistance with the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TCDBGP) offered through the Texas Department of Agriculture for City revitalization for a fee equal to 6% of the grant awarded not to exceed \$60,000 passed unanimously.

- 20. Discussion and action on the Nueces River Authority Resolution No. 26-01 Authorizing the Nueces River Authority to join and support the Coastal Bend Water Alliance. – John J. Byrum II, Executive Director**

A motion made by Debra Hatch and seconded by Shannon Freund on the Nueces River Authority Resolution No. 26-01 authorizing the Nueces River Authority to join and support the Coastal Bend Water Alliance passed unanimously.

- 21. Discussion and action on a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Nueces River Authority requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board, authorizing the filing of an application for assistance; and making certain findings in connection therewith. The application is to be filed for TWDB Clean Water Fund – EDAP program to fund Effluent Filtration Improvements for the Leakey Regional Wastewater System.**

A motion made by Dina Ramirez and seconded by Tony Wood on a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Nueces River Authority requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board, authorizing the filing of an application for assistance; and making certain findings in connection with it. The application is to be filed for TWDB Clean Water Fund – EDAP program to fund Effluent Filtration Improvements for the Leakey Regional Wastewater System passed unanimously.

- 22. Discussion and action on a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Nueces River Authority requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board, authorizing the filing of**

an application for assistance; and making certain findings in connection therewith. The application is to be filed for TWDB State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (Swift) for the New Water for Texas Project.

A motion made by Dina Ramirez seconded by Allan Bloxsom on a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Nueces River Authority requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board, authorizing the filing of an application for assistance; and making certain findings in connection therewith. The application is to be filed for TWDB State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (Swift) for the New Water for Texas Project passed unanimously.

23. Discussion and action to authorize the Executive Director to execute legal services agreements with Allensworth & Porter, LLP and with Waterloo Legal Services, PLLC to provide legal services to the Authority.

A motion made by Bill Dillard and seconded by James Bendele to authorize the Executive Director to execute legal services agreements with Allensworth & Porter, LLP and with Waterloo Legal Services, PLLC to provide legal services to the Authority passed unanimously.

24. Discussion regarding legal matters involving the partnership with the Port of Corpus Christi for water supply development in the lower Nueces River Basin. – John J. Byrum II, Executive Director

No action taken

25. Consider the employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Executive Director or other Authority employees. - John J. Byrum II, Executive Director

No action taken

26. Approval of amending the salary of the Executive Director. – Eric Burnett, President

A motion made by Bill Dillard seconded by Allan Bloxsom to amend the salary of the Executive Director passed by a vote of 12 to 1 with Director Dan Suckley voting no.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:21 pm.

Passed and approved this the _____ day of _____, 2025.

Eric Burnett, President

Attest:

Allan Bloxsom, 1st Vice-President

Seal

25. Consider the employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Executive Director or other Authority employees. - John J. Dymally, Executive Director

No action taken

26. Approval of amending the salary of the Executive Director. - Eric Burnett, President

A motion made by Bill Dillard seconded by Allan Bloomer to amend the salary of the Executive Director passed by a vote of 12 to 1 with Director Dan Suckley voting no.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:21 pm.

Passed and approved this the 21st day of May, 2026

Eric Burnett
Eric Burnett, President

Attest:
Alan Bloomer
Alan Bloomer, 1st Vice-President

Seal

4) Executive Session - 10:10 am

The Board of Directors adjourned into executive session pursuant to Sec. 551.071 of the Texas Gov't Code relating to contemplated litigation, settlement offer(s), and matters concerning privileged and unprivileged client information deemed confidential by Rule 1.05 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct to discuss the allegations of Nueces River Authority employee Travis Prusti in an email dated March 27, 2026, and consider selecting and retaining outside legal counsel to conduct investigations of, and make findings and recommendations concerning, and related matters, if any. The Board of Directors will not take a vote on this matter in executive session but will reconvene in open meeting to take any final action.

At 11:48 am Returned to Open session