MEETING MINUTES

THE NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD A MEETING AT 10:00 A.M. ON MAY 21, 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 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/Treasurer	Present
Fohn Bendele	Member	Absent
James Bendele	Member	Present
Ross Cansino	Member	Present
William Dillard	Member	Present
Shannon T. Freund	Member	Present
Gary G. Krause	Member	Present
Debra Hatch	Member	Present
Jeb Hogan	Member	Present
Olen R. Hughs	Member	Present
Daniel L. Kelley	Member	Present
Mike Moczygemba	Member	Present
Eliza McElhaney	Member	Present
Chasey Sanchez	Member	Present
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
Juan Cervantes	Director of IT
William Martin	Director of Infrastructure & Finance
Brad Neighbor	NRA General Counsel -Online
Debbie-Lindsay Opel	Communications Consultant

Guest in Attendance:
Rafael Ortega-Aurora
Mark M. Ellison- IDE
Ryan Murdock- Stantec
Randy Palachek-Civitas
Cathy Fulton
Dara Pena-PAC
Kelli Cubeta- Online
David Moore
Phillip Waitrek
Peter Zanoni
Michael Gibson

4) Public Comments-
Cathy Fulton
Dara Pena-PAC

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 10:12 am

5) **The Board of Directors adjourned into a closed Executive Session pursuant to Sec. 551.071 of the Texas Gov't Code regarding attorney-client matters to receive information on, discuss, and otherwise consider: the allegations of Nueces River Authority employee Travis Pruski in an email dated March 27, 2026.**

At 12:22 pm Board President Eric Burnett announced, the board would reconvene the open public meeting and that no final action was taken during the closed session.

President Burnett stated that the board of directors had received and considered the final report submitted by the independent firm engaged in reviewing the matter raised in a letter dated 3/28/26 from Travis Pruski. A special committee was appointed to study the findings and bring recommendations back to the full board for their consideration. Overall, this investigation did not reveal facts or evidence to show intentional wrongdoing by Mr. John Byrum or anyone else associated with the Nueces River Authority. However, lack of communication and collaboration among the executive team is causing unnecessary operational challenges. Specific action items involving operational reporting, procedures and communication within the executive team, and the board resulting from this review have been identified as critical going forward. Some of those are already underway and being implemented. Others items we will be entertaining motions.

But first, in response to those concerns that surfaced during that exploratory investigatory process, I move to establish a personnel committee to address those concerns, Debra Hatch motioned and Allen Bloxsom seconded it, passed unanimously.

President Burnett continued by stating he would like to appoint Dr. Chasey Sanchez lead that committee. A motion by Marshall Davidson with a second by Ross Cansino passed unanimously.

I'd like to move to establish a transparency task force to review current practices and to provide actionable recommendations to bring back to the board to improve public trust, accountability, and transparency. A motion made by Eliza McElhaney and seconded by James Bendele passed unanimously.

BRIEFING ITEMS: (6)

6) **Executive Director Reports**

a) **Update on Public Communications Program** – *Debbie Lindsay-Opal, Three-Dimensional Development*

Debbie- Within the next 30 days current and agendas will be posted on the website along with monthly financial reports. We want to make sure it is easy to navigate and find. It will give the reports additional visibility. We want to showcase everyday impact, and we want to provide focus beyond just the large infrastructure projects already happening. The Arundo project and the Educational Outreach that we do so well, We hope to create some partner recognition, visibility of what we are doing on the website as well and recognize the organizations we work with to let them know we appreciate the opportunity to tell the story and use their skill sets and their resources to help us do a better job. One other thing is about community engagement, and we hope to build a signature project. At a recent board meeting, you may recall that the staff went to plant trees and no volunteers showed up. That's really tough when you're the staff trying to do a good thing. We really want to focus on educational outreach, water sustainability, environmental stewardship, regional awareness all the way around. So those are already in process, we want to be more strategic in our communications and how we report to all our audiences from this board circling out in many ways. We want to have our executive team talk every month or so maybe in this room or an environment similar to that updating the public on what is going on with this organization. What has happened, what are the big milestones we have reached. We want to talk about our organization priorities, major projects, and the advancements we are making. It will take a little time, but the payback will help us reconnect to that long-standing trust we have had for 90 years. We want to keep the board the stakeholders' and partners involved and improve consistency and alignment. We want to make sure we hear from everyone starting with this organization. We want to strengthen the stakeholder confidence we want to ensure our alignment between the governance, the operations, and the engagement which is our community. We will be working to put that information in usable consumable format and testing it to make sure people are listening. Ultimately, we want to increase visibility into the scale that the showcase NRA as a proactive water leader and resource and not just in water.

Eliza McElhaney- asked about posting minutes and agenda on social media.
Jeb Hogan- asked about posting Desal information, the location of the plant, how much water will produce and the brine etc.

b) **Report on Joint Meeting of Executive and Finance Committee. –** *Jane Drought- Bell, Secretary-Treasurer, Nueces River Authority Board of Directors*

Jane Bell that in response to what the board has wanted in getting the financials out earlier, the Committee met with Robin, and John Byrum. We had a great meeting and our plan going forward is that finance committee will meet 2 weeks prior and we will go through the financials. She stated that Robin has got a great way of putting the finances out in laymen's terms so we can all understand it. That's an opportunity for us to look through it, red flag anything that people are going to question. The plan will be to put the financials out to the full board one week prior to the meeting, giving you all plenty of time to go through it and ask questions. Jane continued by stating she would work on a calendar with the finance committee as to when we will be meeting. I'll talk to Robin to make sure it coordinates with hers and I will get back with you.

Marshall Davidson asked if the committee needed to make it a policy. President Burnett stated that we will make note to check it.

c) **Report on NRA's application to the TWDB SWIFT Fund.** – *John J. Byrum II, Executive Director*

John Chisholm reported that the NRA was unsuccessful in getting funded this cycle. Every year they have been able to fund 100% of projects that made applications for funding. This was the first year they ran out of funds before they got to projects. There were 27 different projects that made applications, a total of 4.2 billion dollars' worth of projects. The water development board only had 2.3 billion dollars to give out this year. Projects were ranked; this is the first time they've had to use the ranking criteria because they were able to fund every project before. Of the 27 projects ours scored 13 we were very disappointed with that. They were only able to fund the first 9 or 10 projects and we fell out. That is just one of the funds TWDB has. We are currently working with 2 other applications for TWDB funding and at least 3 other federal programs that show good possibilities for us to obtain funding. The SWIFT funding request was for 140 million dollars, for planning, acquisition, and design phase of the conveyance system. TWDB gave no weight on application for the emergency water supply. It was a loan under the deferred program so we wouldn't have to start making payments till after the project was completed and we were receiving water revenue. It's delayed repayment. We will reapply next year.

d) **NRA Quarterly Financial Report.** – *Robin Murray, Chief Financial Officer*

Funds on deposit at the close of the 2nd quarter at First State Bank - Uvalde were $2,588,389.85. Our investment portfolio at Herndon plant was $634,934.

Director Suckley asks if the board would get a cash flow forecast within the next 30 days.

Robin explained that in the 701 Account - Desal the expenses were about $250,000 a month. Of that $44,000 was for salary and fringe, 2 vehicles (John C and Will Martin) along with administrative fees. Robin continued by stating that the legal fees associated with the Desal Project development have been higher than anticipated as well as travel expenses.

Director Hatch asked how much was the desal being charged for the overhead allocation to the General Fund. Staff responded that all budgets are charged 15% for overhead allocation. Director Hatch thought it was 10% and stated that she remembered that 10% was OK. Byrum explained that 10% would not cover the costs experienced by the General Fund to support the activities required by the other divisions.

e) Proposed Dates for FY 2026 Board of Director Meetings – August 14, 2026. - *John J. Byrum II - Executive Director*

A motion was made by Tony Wood with a second provided by Eliza McElhaney for monthly BOD meetings. After some discussion, Allan Bloxsom amended the motion that the board meet monthly for a period of 3 months and then the frequency of meetings can be reviewed to see if monthly meetings were needed. The amended motion was passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: (7-10)

7) Approval of the revised minutes of the May 30, 2025, regular meeting of the Nueces River Authority Board of Directors. - *John J. Byrum II, Executive Director*

The motion made by Jane Bell and seconded by Dina Ramirez to approve the revised May 30, 2025, minutes passed unanimously.

8) Approval of minutes of February 20, 2026, regular meeting of the Nueces River Authority Board of Directors. – *Eric Burnett, President*

The motion made by Jane Bell and seconded by Dina Ramirez to approve the February 20,2026 minutes passed unanimously.

9) Approval of minutes of April 14, 2026, Special Meeting of the Nueces River Authority Board of Directors. - *Eric Burnett, President*

The motion made by Jane Bell and seconded by Dina Ramirez to approve the April 14,2026 minutes passed unanimously.

10) Approval of minutes of May 8, 2026, Special Meeting of the Nueces River Authority Board of Directors. – *Eric Burnett, President*

The motion made by Jane Bell and seconded by Dina Ramirez to approve the May 8,2026 minutes passed unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION ITEMS: (8 – 15)

11) Discussion and Action to approve amendments to the Nueces River Authority FY2026 Operating Budget. – *John J. Byrum II / Robin Murray, Chief Financial Officer*

A motion made by Allen Bloxsom and seconded by Shannon Freund to approve amendments to the Nueces River Authority FY2026 Operating Budget passed unanimously.

12) Discussion and action to authorize the Executive Director to execute, upon approval of NRA general counsel, a master services agreement with Stantec Consulting for services associated with the Flood Infrastructure Nature Base Solutions project and execute Task Order 1 for a fee not to exceed $725,000.00. This project is funded from a Texas Water Development Board Flood Infrastructure Fund grant. – *Travis Pruski, Chief Operating Officer*

This item was tabled and will be considered at the June Board meeting.

13) Discussion and action to approve a recommendation from the Nueces River Authority Finance and Audit Committee to authorize the Executive Director to provide monthly financial information to include revenue, expenditures, and cash instead of quarterly. – *John J. Byrum II, Executive Director*

A motion made by Marshall Davidson and seconded by Dr. Chasey Sanchez to approve a recommendation from the Nueces River Authority Finance and Audit Committee to authorize the Executive Director to provide monthly financial information to include revenue, expenditures, and cash instead of quarterly passed unanimously.

Director Suckley then added that future monthly finance statements needed to include a cash flow forecast.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 1:39 pm

14) At 1:39 pm Board President Burnett announced that the Board of Directors will adjourn into a closed Executive Session pursuant to Sec. 551.071 of the Texas Gov't Code regarding attorney-client matters to receive information on, discuss, and otherwise consider legal matters involving the Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Treatment Plant for the New Water for South Texas Project and the Development Partner. The Board of Directors will not take a vote on the matter in executive session but will reconvene in open meeting to take any final action.

At 3:17 pm, President Burnett reconvened the open meeting and announced that no final action was taken during the closed session.

15) Discussion and action to select a Development Partner for the NRA for the Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Treatment Plant for the New Water for South Texas Project; authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Phase 1 Development Agreement with the firm selected. *-John J. Byrum II, Executive Director*

A motion made by Allen Bloxsom and seconded by Chasey Sanchez to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a Phase 1 Development Agreement with IDE Technologies for the Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Treatment Plant for the New Water for South Texas Project, with said agreement to be brought back to the Board of Directors at a future meeting for consideration and action. The motion passed unanimously.

President Burnett adjourned the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm.

Passed and approved this the 25th day of July, 2026.

Eric Burnett

Eric Burnett, President

Attest:

MAR

Allan Bloxsom, 1st Vice-President 6-29-26

Seal V.P. NRA
6-25-26
meeting.