

MINUTES
Emergency Meeting
Laguna Madre Water District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
4:03 PM – 4:57 PM
Board Room

1	<p><u>QUORUM</u></p> <p>PRESENT: Chairman, Scott Friedman Vice-Chairman, Adam Lalonde Secretary, Jason Starkey Director, William "Bill" Donahue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Virtual Meeting with ZOOM Virtual Meeting with ZOOM</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: General Manager, Carlos J. Galvan, Jr. Director of Operations, Robert Gomez District Engineer, Charles Ortiz Director of Finance, Eduardo Salazar Information Tech Specialist, Orlando Huerta Attorney, Brian Hansen</p> <p>ABSENT: Director, Dave Boughter Purchasing Agent, Enrique Samaniego</p>	
2	<p><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION</u></p> <p>The pledge of allegiance and C. Galvan said the Invocation.</p>	
3	<p><u>UPDATE BOARD MEMBERS ON POWER OUTAGE AND STATEWIDE FREEZE EFFECTS ON WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS</u></p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Galvan gave an update on the power outage caused by the statewide freeze and the effects on water and wastewater systems, followed by questions and answers. C. Galvan reported the following: • The power outage burnt our primary control power surge protector and the module communications instruments used for microfiltration at Water Plant 2. It also burnt wires and connectors on two of our four modules. While staff worked to repair burnt instrumentation, water production was stopped, causing water to be depleted from our reserve, Clearwell tanks, for at least eight to nine hours lowering our water pressure to zero on Monday • The Water plant Manager and Electricians repaired the existing two modules by modifying the new power surge protector. Also, working with the manufacturer's tech support, but without power at our central server at the main office, tech support could not communicate to the module without internet service. The plant can produce six million gallons per day, having enough water to supply all areas • Protection will start with purchasing new communications equipment and working with staff and management to brainstorm on how to protect the District from future issues • As of now, all District residents have water except the ones that have water leak issues. The District 	DISCUSSION ONLY

	<p>continues searching for water leaks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs purchased and are on the way, and purchasing extra parts to have available • Boil water notice for the community is in effect for the next few days until the bacteriological sampling. Discussion ensued concerning boiling the water for the residents without electricity, recommending bottled water when there's no electricity. • C. Ortiz noted since the system was down, the Huisache Tank needed draining, and it was drained back into the system. The contractor was able to install a required altitude valve without disruption • A. Lalonde recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A full written report by the staff of what exactly went wrong ✓ Recommendations from the staff to avoid it going wrong in the future ✓ For C. Galvan to text or email the Board daily with updates until everything fully restored • W. Donahue recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Contact all cities with information and updates, so the towns can also report it to the community ✓ Closely monitor upcoming billing for customers • C. Galvan noted of posting an announcement on the website ✓ J. Starkey requested an agenda item for the forthcoming Workshop Meeting scheduled to discuss communication during a time of emergencies and how to fix and learn from what happened • J. Starkey suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Post an official statement on letterhead of how it happened and what the District is doing. The Board to review before posting on the website. Also, communicate with postings at least once to twice a day until the District is fully functional. Post on the website, Facebook, possibly news media, or email, and the mayors • Discussion on to look into cell phone provider because of the down communication with the current provider, and internet (working with the technical support without internet that's from New York for the Microfiltration Plant) ✓ Board agreed to reschedule the February 20, Workshop to March 3 at 5:30 • Orlando Huerta gave an update on the security protocols, followed by questions and answers. It was agreed to be discussed further at the workshop 	
4	<p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></p> <p>There being no further business, the CHAIRMAN adjourned the meeting at 4:57 PM.</p> <p>Moved by J. STARKEY and W. DONAHUE.</p>	<p>MEETING ADJOURNED @ 4:57 PM</p>



JASON STARKEY, SECRETARY



SCOTT FRIEDMAN, CHAIRMAN

MINUTES APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.