




**MINUTES**  
 Regular Meeting  
 Laguna Madre Water District  
 Board of Directors  
 Wednesday, August 12, 2020  
 5:30 PM – 6:52 PM  
 Board Room

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>QUORUM</u></b></p> <p><b>PRESENT:</b>          Chairman, Scott Friedman          Vice-Chairman, Herb Houston          Secretary, Alex Avalos          Director, Jason Starkey          Director, Adam Lalonde</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Virtual Meeting with ZOOM          Virtual Meeting with ZOOM</p> </div> <p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:</b>          General Manager, Carlos J. Galvan, Jr.          Director of Operations, Robert Gomez          District Engineer, Charles Ortiz          Purchasing Agent, Enrique Samaniego          Director of Finance, Eddie Salazar          Information Tech Specialist, Orlando Huerta          Attorney, Brian Hansen</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION</u></b></p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation said during the Workshop at 4:30 PM.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>INVITATION TO THE AUDIENCE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS</u></b></p> <p><b>COMMENTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A. Lalonde noted, contacting C. Galvan about the Budget Committee meeting earlier in the week on the proposed budget. The call referenced the proposed budget exhibited a request for four additional employees, pointed out that its around \$130,000 to \$150,000 in cost and 640 working hours a month.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A. Lalonde requested for the next proposed Budget Meeting for staff to substantiate why the four new positions are needed</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Participant in the audience, Troy Giles, shared positive experience of how LMWD Customer Service and Dispatch assisted him with the Water-Smart App during a water leak and the helpful Meter Technician and Distribution Manager.</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>CONSIDER AND DISCUSS FOR POSSIBLE APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FROM JULY 22, 2020. (C. GALVAN) 💧</u></b></p> <p><b>DISCUSSION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board approved the Regular Meeting Minutes as presented</li> </ul> <p>Moved by H. HOUSTON, seconded by A. AVALOS.</p> <p>Move to approve.</p>	<p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>

<p>5</p>	<p><b><u>GENERAL MANAGER'S</u></b> </p> <p>REPORT:</p> <p><b><u>COVID-19 UPDATES –</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ C. Galvan reviewed the COVID-19 Data Comparison Chart between July 16, 2020, and as of August 6, 2020</li> <li>○ Employees continue the following protocol, temperature checked and washing of hands every morning and afternoon when entering the building, and avoiding close contact</li> </ul> <p><b><u>PRIMO WATER ADVERTISEMENT AT WALMART-</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ C. Galvan gave an update on contacting Walmart about possibly removing a product placement advertisement posted inside the store. The display is from Primo Water &amp; Dispensers promoting to buy bottled water vs. using tap water; the Ad states that tap water can hang out in some pretty seedy joints. The Primo display is falsely incorrect for the reason that the District's water has superior water ratings.</li> <li>○ Walmart's responded that the Ad could not get removed because it's a statewide advertisement. The next step possible is to call and continue to complain to the leading Company</li> <li>✓ A Lalonde suggested possibly for our Attorney, B. Hansen to write a letter</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ELECTIONS 2020 UPDATE-</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ C. Galvan noted up to now seven applications handed out, and so far only two applications submitted</li> <li>○ Monday, August 17, 2020, at 5 PM is the deadline to submit an application</li> </ul> <p><b><u>AWBD ANNUAL CONFERENCE VIRTUAL-</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AWBD is making its annual conference virtual and canceling the live event in Grapevine</li> <li>○ AWBD is canceling all in-person registrations for the conference, and all monies paid for the event get refunded</li> </ul> <p><b><u>UPDATE FROM GRANT ACCESS ON SOCIAL MEDIA-</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A PowerPoint presentation by Victor and Alicia Baldovinos with Grant Access, on Social Media Insights, Update on Social Media, and Scheduled PR Activities followed by questions and answers.</li> <li>○ A printed copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT</b></p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b><u>DISCUSS AND APPROVE AN ORDER CALLING A BOND ELECTION FOR THE LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT AND MAKING PROVISIONS INCIDENTAL AND RELATED THERETO. (C. GALVAN)</u></b> </p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion ensued whether to delay the Bond Election to May 2021 or proceed with November 2020 because of COVID-19</li> </ul>	

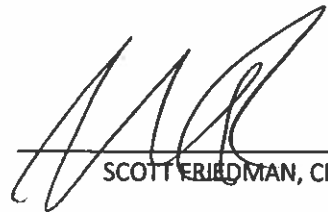
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion failed to defer the November 2020 Bond Election to May 2021, carried by three opposed votes</li> <li>• The final action, the Board approved the Order Calling a Bond Election to be held by Laguna Madre Water District for \$27,620,000</li> </ul> <p>Moved by J. STARKEY, seconded by A. AVALOS.</p> <p><b>Motion to move forward with the Bond Election in November 2020.</b></p> <p>Carried by the following vote:</p> <p><b>FOR: J. STARKEY, A. AVALOS, A. LALONDE</b></p> <p><b>AGAINST: H. HOUSTON, S. FRIEDMAN</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b><u>DISCUSS AND APPROVE AN ORDER CALLING A BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION OF THE LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT; ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR THE ELECTION AND DESIGNATING POLLING PLACES. (C. GALVAN) 💧</u></b></p> <p><b>DISCUSSION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion occurred on the Early Voting Polling Locations. The only Polling Location for Early Voting is in Port Isabel</li> <li>• The Board called the need for Early Voting Polling Locations in Laguna Vista and South Padre Island</li> <li>• C. Galvan noted a meeting scheduled with Cameron County Elections Department for tomorrow, Thursday, August 13, 2020, at 2 PM and will put forward the additional Early Voting Polling Locations. If Cameron County Elections in unable to deliver our request, possibly need to schedule a Special Meeting and for the District’s Counsel to look into the matter.</li> <li>• The Board approved Order Calling a Board of Directors Election of the Laguna Madre Water District subject to adding Early Voting Polling Locations in Laguna Vista and South Padre Island</li> </ul> <p>Moved by H. HOUSTON, seconded by A. AVALOS. <b>MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</b></p> <p><b>Move to approve subject to adding Polling Locations.</b></p>	
<p>8</p>	<p><b><u>DIRECTOR OF OPERATION’S REPORT 💧</u></b></p> <p><b>REPORT:</b></p> <p><b><u>MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY-</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ July’s Comparison Report shows for the Distribution Department 79 callouts less compared to July 2019 and 17 fewer calls for the Collections Departments</li> <li>○ R. Gomez reported on the Pre-Treatment and Lift Stations Department having 69 totals calls for July</li> </ul>	<p><b>DIRECTOR OF OPERATION’S REPORT</b></p>
<p>9</p>	<p><b><u>DISTRICT ENGINEER’S REPORT 💧</u></b></p> <p><b>REPORT:</b></p>	

	<p><b><u>LAGUNA BLVD PROJECT, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Ortiz reported the following, followed by questions and answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On June 24, 2020, South Padre Island provided preliminary plans for Laguna Blvd Street and Drainage Improvements. Project limits begin at Sta. 0+00 (end of pavement south of Palm St.) and end at Sta. 111+50 (Laguna Blvd intersection with W. Morningside Dr.) for a total length of 2.11 miles. LMWD will use these plans as a starting point to prepare water and sewer upgrades that should be considered before the City proceeds with the major reconstruction of pavement.</li> <li>Mr. Ortiz noted as water demands increase, particularly on high demand days, it will be increasingly difficult to keep the Andy Bowie tank full. Upgrading the existing 12" line to 16" diameter pipe along Laguna Blvd has been identified as a possible solution to the problem. District Engineer first recommends completing the bypass line at the causeway to fix valves in front of the AEP substation that are broken closed. After valves are restored to working conditions, recalibrate model to determine upgrades required along Laguna Blvd to keep Andy Bowie tank full. Other water distribution needs along Laguna Blvd include replacing aged, 2-inch disjointed pipe with loops to serve the west side of Laguna Blvd. Proposed small waterline improvements include more effort than what is currently described in the Engineer's Report for November Bond Election.</li> <li>A 10" gravity sewer is located in the center of Laguna Blvd for the entire length. Hydraulic models, completed in 2012, indicate that 10" gravity sewer is undersized in the vicinity of Red Snapper from W. Campeche to W. Pompano Street and on the north end of Laguna Blvd from Constellation Dr to Morningside Drive. Flow monitoring has been completed, and the sewer model needs to be recalibrated to determine recommended improvements. Applicable projects identified in Technical Memorandum #10, dated October 1, 2012, were presented to the Board for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravity sewer on the north end of Laguna Blvd must be improved in conjunction with sewer replacement along Morningside from Laguna Blvd to Gulf Blvd. Sewer upsize must be considered on Gulf Blvd and E Sunset Dr from Padre Blvd to Gulf Blvd as well. For the Laguna Blvd section from Campeche to Pompano, sewer improvement along Red Snapper is needed from Laguna Blvd to Lift Station 22 (103 W. Red Snapper) to complete the required upgrade.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>TARPON STREET SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT –</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Ortiz noted LMWD's contractor, Cornett Construction, has completed all water and sewer improvements on Tarpon and Island Avenue in Port Isabel. The final pay request was presented to the Board of Directors, and District Engineer recommends approval of payment. The City's paving contractor was unable to complete the job. In response, the City of Port Isabel is rebidding the paving project. At the recent City Commission meeting, all bids were rejected. The District anticipates that reimbursement to the City of Port Isabel for District's portion of pavement repair will not be paid until the next Fiscal Year. Caliche or road subgrade maintenance, completed by Cornett Construction after Tropical Storm Hanna, will be the last time our contractor is expected to maintain the road. Public works will be responsible for additional maintenance as needed until City's Paving Contractor receives award and proceeds with work.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT</b></p>
<p>10</p>	<p><b><u>CONSIDER AND DISCUSS FOR POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED TAX RATE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 26, 2020, AT 5:30 PM, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPT THE TAX RATE AT THE REGULAR MEETING FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING. (E, SALAZAR) 💧</u></b></p> <p><b>DISCUSSION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E. Salazar noted the Hearing would take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting</li> <li>A newspaper ad is placed ten days before the Hearing</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last Year total tax rate 0.038821/\$100, This Year total tax rate 0.03991/\$100</li> </ul> <p>Moved by A. AVALOS, seconded by H. HOUSTON.</p> <p>Move to approve.</p>	
11	<p><b><u>CONSIDER AND DISCUSS FOR POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JUNE 2020. (E, SALAZAR) 💧</u></b></p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Financial Reports for June 2020 got approved as presented</li> </ul> <p>Moved by A. AVALOS, seconded by J. STARKY.</p> <p>Move to approve.</p>	MOTION CARRIED
12	<p><b><u>CONSIDER AND REVIEW EXPENDITURES FROM JULY 16, 2020 – JULY 31, 2020. (C. GALVAN) 💧</u></b></p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No questions or comments</li> </ul> <p>Expenditures acknowledged by H. HOUSTON and A. AVALOS.</p>	ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXPENDITURES
13	<p><b><u>CONSIDER AND REMOVE FROM THE TABLE THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM, UNDER SECTION 551.074, PERSONNEL MATTERS TABLED AT THE REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 24, 2020:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>DELIBERATION REGARDING THE EVALUATION OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES TO WIT: GENERAL MANAGER</u></b></p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board agreed to remove the item from the table for discussion</li> <li>The CHAIRMAN noted, would rather have all Board Members be present for the evaluation instead of through virtual meeting</li> <li>This item was deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting</li> </ul> <p>Moved by A. AVALOS, seconded by H. HOUSTON.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move to remove from the table.</li> </ul>	MOTION CARRIED
14	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE SESSION PERMITTED BY THE OPEN MEETING ACT, V. T. C. A., GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.001 ET. SEQ., UNDER SECTION 551.071, CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY; UNDER SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTER:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>DELIBERATION THE EVALUATION OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEE TO WIT: GENERAL MANAGER</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discussion for this item</li> <li>No action</li> </ul>	NO ACTION SEE ITEM #13 FOR MORE INFORMATION
15	<p><b><u>CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS, IF NECESSARY.</u></b></p>	EXECUTIVE SESSION

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DELIBERATION REGARDING THE EVALUATION OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEE TO WIT:</u> <u>GENERAL MANAGER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No discussion for this item</li> <li>• No action</li> </ul>	<p>RESULTS: NO ACTION SEE ITEM #13 FOR MORE INFORMATION</p>
16	<p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></p> <p>There being no further business, the CHAIRMAN adjourned the meeting at 6:52 PM.</p>	<p>MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:52 PM</p>

  
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ALEX AVALOS, SECRETARY

  
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SCOTT FRIEDMAN, CHAIRMAN

MINUTES APPROVED THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2020.