

**Camino Real Regional Utility Authority**  
**City of Sunland Park/Dona Ana County Joint Utility Authority**  
**Gadsden Independent School District- Board Room**  
**4950 McNutt Rd, Sunland Park, New Mexico 88063**  
**Special Meeting On-Line**  
**April 27, 2020**  
**5:30 pm**

**MINUTES**

A Special Meeting of the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority was held on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5:38 p.m. On-Line at 4950 McNutt Road in Sunland Park, New Mexico 88063.

**PRESENT**

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez  
Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez  
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo (present at 5:46)  
Commissioner Manuel Sanchez  
Mr. Alex Sierra  
Mr. Joshua Orozco

**ABSENT**

Mr. Gerardo Ibarra

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director  
Ms. Liliana Arevalo, CRRUA Office Manager  
Ms. Mary De Avila, CRRUA Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Enrique Palomares, CRRUA Attorney  
Dr. Letty Mora, Psychologist Services and Translation/Interpretation Services  
Mr. Eric Lopez, Bridel Facility Ops  
Mr. Gerald Smola, Camino Real Media Services  
Mr. Victor Quintanilla, Resident

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Mary De Avila, Administrative Assistant called roll call. A quorum was present.

**4. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

5. APPROVE MINUTES

A. FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez moved to approve the minutes for February 10, 2020; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Manuel Sanchez. The motion carried a 5-0 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Commissioner Manuel Sanchez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Limited to 3 minutes per person.

Mr. Victor Quintanilla complained about the smell, the flies, the noise, the dumpster and the lights at the North wastewater treatment plant. He asked when these issues are going to be resolved because it wasn't the first time he and other neighbors complained.

Mr. Eric Lopez, Bridel Facility Ops replied that he will get together with Mr. Westmoreland and address the fly issue and come up with a solution. He stated that for the smell he would use Bioxied, it's a solution to help with the odor abatement and corrosion. The noise, it is very limited to what we can do because the blowers are already in a room with double insulation boxes to minimize the noise. There is an EPA mandate that we have lights there to protect the wastewater plant but the option that we have is to send a letter to EPA with the residents' concerns in regard to the lighting. Mr. Lopez also stated that he will call El Paso Disposal to get a smaller open top dumpster were they could come and remove on a weekly bases.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director informed the board members and Mr. Quintanilla that CDM Smith is working on a preliminary design of a bubbling system for the blower area to help with the noise. He stated that he believes that the project will start next fiscal year. Chair Councilor Olga Nunez requested information on how the North wastewater plant was built in a residential area.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that he would send her that information. He stated that the plant has been in that location for 40 years. EPA asked to take the plant off line back on 2015 until it could be replaced with the new plant.

Mr. Eric Lopez stated that before the new plant was built there was a public notice posted in the area as a NMED and EPA requirement in case anyone from the area wanted to contest the project. We are managing a sludge issue currently based on the budget and equipment that CRRUA is struggling with but we are getting it back in order.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez stated that the issue was a quality of life issue that is impacting the residents around that area and ask Mr. Lopez to get her the cost to eliminate these issues and get back to her.

Mr. Eric Lopez stated that he would call El Paso Disposal and get options on getting the sludge removed on a weekly bases that should eliminate the fly issue. In addition, I will increase the Bioxied to reduced the odor. Mr. Lopez invited Mr. Quintanilla to come and get a plant tour.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked if the dumpster could be moved to a different area in the plant.

Mr. Lopez replied that's where it discharges to and there is no other option, but again maybe getting a smaller dumpster and removing the sludge weekly could help the problem. We will work something out to help with the odor and the flies just give me a week or so and with Mr.

Westmoreland's approval I will get something going.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked Mr. Enrique Palomares, CRRUA Attorney for legal advice and asked Mr. Brent Westmoreland to send a report to all the board members on how they are resolving the issues.

Mr. Lopez replied that once he gets the dumpster issue resolved he would put a report together for the board members.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez stated that with the residents staying home due to COVID-19 this becomes a bigger issue.

Commissioner Manuel Sanchez brought to the board member's attention that he understood the public input and the issues presented to the board, but he was wondering if they are bordering on any type of open meetings violation because this was not an agenda item to be discussed.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez stated that Commissioner Manuel Sanchez made a good point.

Mr. Enrique Palomares, CRRUA Attorney stated that he did not think they were any violations done because there was no action being taken but that it was best to not continue and addressed as an agenda item in a future meeting..

#### 7. STAFF COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director informed the board members that Bridel Facility monthly reports will be present on the next meeting.

#### 8. BOARD COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez stated that in the past meeting they had awarded the RFP for James, Cooke and Hobson for maintenance and repair.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director replied yes.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez stated that several residents in Sunland Park had very high bills and Mr. Westmoreland and her had been looking on how to get them a discount if they qualified and would like to meet in a future date and address on a one to one case. In addition, many customers are falling behind in their

bills due to what is happening and issues with their unemployment. There are some customers that are not going to receive a stimulus check. What is what our residents going to find when the governor's orders are lifted can we look into any source of funding that could help the people with financial issues.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that CRRUA had suspended the monthly disconnections for March, April and May. Once the government starts opening back up these past bills will be dealt with on a one to one case with a finance plan without interest. As for assistance for bill paying, we have not found any grants federal or local for that purpose.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked that if the late fee also fall into the plan or being waived.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that the board could approve to waive the late fee until this COVID-19 is passed us and business is back to normal.

#### 9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. APPROVE RFP AWARD 20-0022 TO CDM SMITH FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM DESIGN, DAY TO DAY ENGINEERING SERVICES AND AUTHORIZE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY OVER THE RELATED CONTRACT DOCUMENTS, AMENDMENTS, AND CHANGE ORDERS TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Joshua Orozco moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Councilor Alberto Jaramillo. The motion carried 6-0 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Commissioner Manuel Sanchez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo	aye

**BOARD COMMENTS ON ITEM 9A**

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez stated that on the last meeting the board awarded a RFP to James, Cooke and Hobson for water and wastewater maintenance and now they are awarding an RFP to CDM Smith for the same thing.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director replied that the RFP for James, Cooke and Hobson was for wastewater maintenance and repairs of pumps, lift stations and blowers and the RFP for CDM Smith is for day-to-day engineering service for water and wastewater system design.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked if the employees had any type of electrical knowledge on the pumps and blowers.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied yes but not to pull a pump and fix. That is when we contact James, Cooke and Hobson.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked how many companies applied for the RFP.

Mr. Eric Lopez, Bridel Facility Ops replied that only James, Cooke and Hobson applied. Over five to ten years it has been limited people that can work on this equipment. Flygt is a sole proprietary. James, Cooke and Hobson handles this region and is a sole source representative for Flygt pumps.

**B. APPROVE BUDGET REVISION AND BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE WASTEWATER AND WATER FUNDS.**

Mr. Joshua Orozco moved to approve the budget revision and budget resolution for the wastewater and water funds necessary to cover increased cost on various line items specifically addressing the well 14 electric connection, rehabilitation of the manhole located on Futurity and the work currently been preform at the Sunland Park wastewater treatment plan; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Manuel Sanchez. The motion carried 6-0 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Commissioner Manuel Sanchez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo	aye

**BOARD COMMENTS ON ITEM 9B**

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked how much money is going to the Sunland Park wastewater plan.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director replied that the money that is going

in for the rehabilitation design purpose would actually count for the match by Colonias. The Colonias grant is composed of the grant, loan and the match.

C. APPROVAL OF COLONIAS RESOLUTION FOR SUNLAND PARK WWTP.

Commissioner Manuel Sanchez moved to approve the approval of Colonias resolution and grant for the Sunland Park wastewater treatment plan and authorize signatory authority over the related documents, amendments, and change orders to the executive director; the motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez.

The motion carried 5-1 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	abstain
Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez	aye
Commissioner Manuel Sanchez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo	aye

BOARD COMMENTS ON ITEM 9C

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez informed the board members and Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director that the CRRUA meeting packet that she had with her was not the one that all board members had and that she was going to abstain to vote on item.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director informed Chair Councilor Olga Nunez that two meeting packets were delivered to City hall on Friday by Mary, one for her and one for Councilor Alberto Jaramillo. He also informed her that the grant was approved back in December but the terms of the agreement were updated and now CRRUA is getting additional funds. CRRUA is getting \$1,164,000.00 for the first and second phase of the rehabilitation of the Sunland Park wastewater treatment plan.

Mr. Enrique Palomares, CRRUA Attorney stated that the principle change was the amount of the loan grant. CRRUA is getting additional funding. In December, the amount was \$613,000.00 and now its \$1,164,000.00. The local match remains the same at \$130,000.00. The grant is for \$1,047,600.00, the loan at zero interest is \$116,400.00 and the local match is for \$130,000.00. The purpose of the resolution is for the approval of the grant and loan agreement.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked why was the match amount higher than the loan amount.

Mr. Enrique Palomares replied that the match amount was establish by the New Mexico Finance Authority policies and that was the amount set.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez stated that his idea was that a loan would be higher than the match would.

Mr. Enrique Palomares asked Mr. Westmoreland to e-mail a copy of the policy to Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked what is the Little Miller Act.

Mr. Enrique Palomares replied that the Little Miller Act is a state statute, based upon the federal Miller Act that deals with contractor's restrictions and ask them to set up a payment/performance bond.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez asked if the Little Miller Act is for the contractor applying for this project.

Mr. Enrique Palomares replied that this is a State construction project and grant so the Little Miller Act apply. If a contractor does not preform CRRUA can go and get the funds to finish out the project.

Commissioner Manuel Sanchez stated that with the Colonias Infrastructure board the project calls for an 80/10/10. That means 80% grant 10% loan and 10% local match that is my understanding.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland stated yes that is correct.

Ms. Liliana Arevalo, CRRUA Office Manager explained that if you pledge higher than the 10% on the local match that shows you are a better competitor and come up higher in the ranking list for you to get the funding. When somebody is going to this agencies to compete for funding they look in to how much you are willing to put up as a local match and that gives you additional points for you to gain the grant.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland asked for the board consent to waive the late fee during the COVID-19 time.

Mr. Enrique Palomares replied that it is not an agenda item and asked for it to not be addressed at the moment.


10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez moved to adjourn the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority Meeting with no objections.

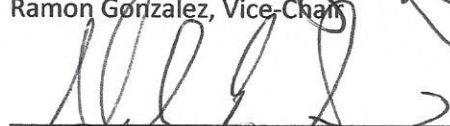
The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

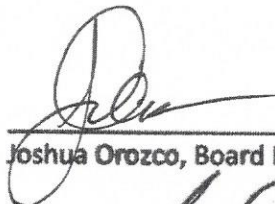
**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 22 day of June 2020.

CAMINO REAL REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Olga Nunez, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ramon Gonzalez, Vice-Chair

  
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Alex Sierra Delegate of State Senator Joseph Cervantes,  
Board Member

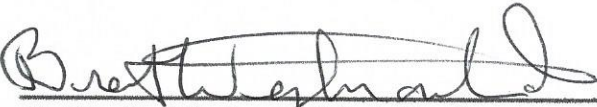
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua Orozco, Board Member

  
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Manuel Sanchez, Board Member

Absent  
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Gerardo Ibarra Delegate of State Representative Ray Lara,  
Board Member

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Alberto Jaramillo, Board Member

**ATTEST:**

  
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Camino Real Regional Utility Authority