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**Minutes—MRGWA Board Meeting (via Zoom)
June 30, 2020**

Present: Carolyn Kennedy, Lynn Montgomery, Norm Gaume, Theresa Cardenas, Bob Wessely, Jeff Goebel, Ralph Wrons, Mike Marcus, John Brown and Elizabeth Chestnut

Call to Order – Presence of a quorum was noted, and the meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Marcus moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Wrons seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

2. **Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2020:** Mr. Gaume made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020, Board Meeting, Mr. Marcus seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

FY20 Interim Financial Report: The FY20 Interim Financial Report as of June 26, 2020, had been distributed by email to the Board previously, along with the May 2020 Bank of the West Bank Statement. Ms. Kennedy gave the financial report as follows: As of June 26, 2020, the checking account balance (including outstanding checks totaling \$4,852.51 for website design and webhosting) was \$1,892.23 and the CD balance was \$11,042.53, for total available funds of \$12,934.76

Old Business::

1. **Water Advocates Website Presentation by the Executive Committee:**

www.MRGWaterAdvocates.org

Members of the Executive Committee presented the new website, page by page. Mr. Gaume will send an email to the Board with the current website URL, as it presently resides on the Oakley Studios server and is still undergoing updates before going live, subject to approval of the Board. During the discussion, concerning Issues, Mr. Goebel suggested adding Dust on Snow, Mr. Marcus suggested adding ESA and the MRG Riparian Zone, and Mr. Montgomery suggested adding the “Dirty Water” Act, each of whom will provide the Executive Committee with a short synopsis or information about his proposed Issue(s). On the Contribute page, under Donate, Mr. Wrons suggested that MRGWA’s mailing address be added. He also suggested adding a Healthy Soil link to the Resources page. Although Ms. Kennedy noted there was a link to the Healthy Soils Working Group under Other Water-Related Organizations, Ms. Cardenas suggested that perhaps it wasn’t given enough prominence. She also stated that we are planning a newsletter, as well as forming an Editorial Board for the website. She asked for volunteers.

2. **Strategic Plan—Executive Committee’s Recommended Short Version/Action Plan—for Discussion:**

Ms. Cardenas presented a short version of the Strategic Plan, which had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting. The short version of the Plan is mirrored by the new website.

a. **Proposed Projects of the MRG Water Advocates--**

- (1) **Basin Study / MRG Water Advocates Leadership Role**
- (2) **Water Planning—State and MRG Region—Status, Need and Vision**
- (3) **NM Water and Water Agencies Report Card and Benchmarks**

Mr. Wessely made a motion for the Board to (1) concur with the general direction of the short version of the Strategic Plan and (2) approve the three Advocacy Projects. Mr. Wrons seconded the motion. In the discussion, Board members present agreed with the concept and general direction of the Plan, but also that it is very ambitious. It was noted that, in particular, No. 3, Agency Report Cards, would be too large and complex for the Executive Committee or the Board to undertake, that staff and funding would be required and that a grant writer would be needed. It was suggested that perhaps the Advocates could team with other NGOs for a collaborative approach. Ms. Cardenas suggested that an open dialogue should be fostered concerning the Agency Report Card project, and that perhaps the Advocates could sponsor a speaker series focusing on the agencies to receive report cards, including the ABCWUA, MRGCD, OSE, ISC and possibly BOR. Mr. Gaume stated that the Water Advocates is the only water quantity organization in the State. Also, the government agencies are balkanized in their approach and we need to point out the gaps. It was the consensus of the Board members present that this Project should remain as an Advocacy Project and on the website until it could be fleshed out and funding obtained. The motion was then approved unanimously.

b. Becoming Effective—Outreach, Grow Membership. Fundraising, Executive Director--

To become effective at Outreach, the Advocates would need paid staff and an Executive Director. Ms. Cardenas, as well as Mr. Wrons and Mr. Montgomery, suggested that the Advocates partner with other NGOs to further our outreach goals.

c. Process for development and Approval of Strategic Plan—Approval of the long-form Strategic Plan will be an ongoing process and will be formalized at a future Board meeting. The concept is that it will be a living document.

New Business:

1. Campaign Funding Grant Application to Google: Ms. Cardenas explained that this was an advertising campaign grant proposal suggested by Noventum. Prior to the Advocates submitting a proposal for this grant, she will find out what the Advocates' obligations are if such a proposal were granted.

2. Announcement of Election of Officers at August Annual Business Meeting: Ms. Cardenas made the announcement.

3. MRG Water Advocates as the Nonprofit Home of the House Memorial 1 Working Group: Mr. Gaume explained that in the aftermath of the most recent MRG regional water planning effort, a Water Planning Committee was initiated including the Advocates, the Water Dialogue and other organizations in the region. This culminated in HM1 being passed by the Legislature, and a working group was formed to implement it, including the Advocates and the Dialogue, who are the only remaining members. Mr. Brown, on behalf of the Dialogue, had no objection to the group becoming part of the Advocates. Mr. Montgomery then made a motion to approve the HM1 working group becoming a committee of the Water Advocates. Mr. Marcus seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Wessely will circulate information on the history of HM1 and the Working Group.

Officers', Directors' and Public's Comments and Announcements: Mr. Wessely suggested that Advocacy Project descriptions on the website should be fashioned in a way that would encourage others to participate in working on the Projects.

Mr. Wrons made two comments: (1) he celebrated the ISC's decision not to proceed with the Gila Diversion and thanked Mr. Gaume for his efforts in that regard; and (2) he is part of a working group involved with making the case for a Green Amendment to the NM Constitution, and they have begun contacting legislators. He suggested this as a topic for a speaker series. Ms. Cardenas noted that it should be on the Advocates' agenda for the next Legislature. Mr. Wrons will send info about the Green Amendment to Mr. Gaume and Ms. Cardenas to be circulated to the Board. Mr. Montgomery stated that he and Ms. Kennedy have also been following this issue and attending meetings. Ms. Kennedy suggested that it might be added to the Advocates' Issues.

It was also noted that lobbying requirements for nonprofit corporations should be ascertained.

Schedule Next Board Meeting: The Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers was scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn – Ms. Cardenas made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes by Carolyn Kennedy

APPROVED

/s/ Theresa Cardenas
Theresa Cardenas, President