

Zapata Co. WCID
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 27, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Zapata County Water Control & Improvement District (Highway 16E) convened on March 27, 2024 at 10:02 a.m. at the office of the District, pursuant to notice duly given as required by law.

1. Call Meeting to Order. A quorum being present, Vice-President Jesse Porras called the meeting to order and presided.
2. Roll Call. Directors present when the meeting was called to order were: Jesse Porras, Ramiro Ramirez, Jr., Jaime Gonzalez and Sergio Lozano. Also present were: Mireya Bustamante, Office Manager and Neida Guerra, Office Assistant. Dr. Hildegardo Flores was absent.
3. Certification of Meeting Notice. It was determined that the notice of the date, place, and time of meeting was posted in accordance with Texas Government Code 551.043.
4. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Jesse Porras led the Board in the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
5. Public Comment Period. No one appeared. No comment was received in any form prior to the meeting.
6. Minutes: The minutes of the February 13, 2024 regular Board meeting were read, reviewed, and discussed. The motion was made by Mr. Ramirez and seconded by Mr. Lozano to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 regular Board Meeting. Following a discussion, the motion unanimously carried.
7. Field Supervisor's Report. – None
8. Attorney's Report. – A report was presented and discussed.
9. District Engineer's Report - A report was presented and discussed.
10. Booster Station Upgrades for La Mota and Bustamante – A status report was given by Manuel Gonzalez, District Engineer.
11. May 4, 2024 Election:
 - 11.1 Status. Secretary Ramirez presented a Certificate of Unopposed Status and announced that there is only one candidate for each place to be filled at the May 4, 2004 election, being Jaime Gonzalez for Place 1 and Jesse A. Porras for Place 2. The motion was made by Mr. Ramirez and seconded by Mr. Lozano that the

Certificate of Unopposed Status be accepted. Following a discussion, the motion unanimously carried.

- 11.2 Cancellation of Election. The motion was made by Mr. Ramirez and seconded by Mr. Lozano, that the election of May 4, 2024 be cancelled and that is Order Cancelling Election be adopted:

WHEREAS:

1. In accordance with the Texas Water Code and the Texas Election Code, Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E) shall hold an election on May 4, 2024, at which two (2) Directors are to be elected to membership on the Board of Directors of Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E), each to serve a term of four (4) years beginning May 12, 2024;
2. The deadlines for filing an application for place on the ballot and declaration of write-in candidacy have passed;
3. Pursuant to Texas Water Code § 49.101 and Election Code § 146.051, a write-in vote may not be counted unless the name written-in appears on the list of write-in candidates, and no declaration of write-in candidacy was filed;
4. The candidates whose names are to appear on the ballot are:

Place 1 Jaime Gonzalez
Place 2 Jesse A. Porras
5. No proposition is to appear on the ballot;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby determined by the Board of Directors of Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E) that in accordance with Texas Election Code Chapter 2, Subchapter C, the May 4, 2024 election can be cancelled and the unopposed candidates can be declared elected. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. The election to be held on May 4, 2024 is cancelled.
3. Each of the following unopposed candidates is hereby elected to membership on the Board of Directors of Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E), each to serve a term of four (4) years beginning May 12, 2024:

Place 1 Jaime Gonzalez

Place 2 Jesse A. Porras

3. A copy of this Order shall be posted on Election Day at each polling place that would have been used in the election.

Following a discussion, the motion unanimously carried.

12. Office. A motion was made by Mr. Jaime Gonzalez and seconded by Mr. Ramirez to comply with ADA law regulations and requirements by adding a “handicap accessible” sign in a designated parking area near the front entrance of the District’s main office. It was seconded by Mr. Ramirez. Following a discussion, the motion unanimously carried.
13. Board of Directors. It was noted that in addition to being absent this meeting, Dr. Flores has been absent 9 of the 12 regular Board meetings held during the 12 month period beginning March 1, 2023 and ending February 29, 2024. Whereupon, the motion was made by Mr. Ramirez and seconded by Mr. Lozano that Dr. Flores be removed as a Director of the District effective today, March 27, 2024, pursuant to Texas Water Code Section 49.052(g). Following a discussion, the motion unanimously carried. The motion was then made by Mr. Ramirez and seconded by Mr. Lozano that this resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores was elected as a Director of Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E) to a four year term beginning May 13, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores served as a Director of Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E) for almost eighteen years, from May 13, 2006 through March 27, 2024, having been re-elected to consecutive four year terms; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores served as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the District from May 2006 to May 2008; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores served as President of the Board of Directors of the District for more than fifteen years, from May 2008 to March 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, during his more than seventeen years as a Director, Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores rendered invaluable service to this community and managed the affairs of the District through periods of great stress and strain, and succeeded in keeping the business of the District moving forward at all times.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of *Directors of Zapata*

County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E), on behalf of the District, extend our thanks to *Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores* for the invaluable service rendered by him during his tenure as a Director of the District, and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the District, and a copy be furnished to *Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores*.

Done at Zapata, Texas this 27th day of March, 2024.

Following a discussion, the motion unanimously carried.

14. Personnel:

14.1 Due to medical conditions, Mr. Juan Benavides will no longer be available for employment in the District. The motion was made by Mr. Jaime Gonzalez and was seconded by Mr. Ramirez to approve transferring the permanent Field Supervisor position to Juan Delgado. Following a discussion, the motion unanimously carried.

14.2 The motion was made by Mr. Lozano and seconded by Mr. Jaime Gonzalez to approve Juan Delgado's hourly wages to be adjusted to an annual based salary of \$52,000.00, effective April 1st, 2024. Following a discussion, the motion unanimously carried.

14.3 The motion was made by Mr. Lozano and seconded by Mr. Jaime Gonzalez to approve this resolution:

WHEREAS, Juan Jose Benavides, more commonly known as J.J., was employed on November 11, 2008, as Field Supervisor of Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E); and

WHEREAS, as Field Supervisor, Juan Jose Benavides has rendered invaluable service to Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E), and has succeeded in keeping the business and projects of the District moving forward at all times.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Directors of Zapata County Water Control and Improvement District (Highway 16E), on behalf of the District, by this method express to Juan Jose Benavides our appreciation for his invaluable service and dedication to the District.

Done at Zapata, Texas this 27th day of March, 2024.

15. Financials Reports: The reports for February 2024 were presented, reviewed and discussed.
16. Payable accounts and payroll checks paid for the month of March 2024 were discussed and reviewed. Payments were approved as presented.
17. Communications: None
18. Adjournment: It was noted that the next Regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.

4/17/24
Date Approved

Jesse A. Porras
Jesse Porras, Vice-President

Ramiro Ramirez
Ramiro Ramirez, Secretary