

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF NAVIGATION AND
CANAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE BROWNSVILLE NAVIGATION DISTRICT OF
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS HELD MAY 13, 2026 AT 5:30 P.M.**

The Board of Navigation and Canal Commissioners of the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, held a regular meeting of the board on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.**

The following individuals were present and absent:

PRESENT: Esteban Guerra, Chairman (through Item 11)
Sergio Tito Lopez, Vice Chairman
John Reed
John Wood
Ernesto Gutierrez
Luis Villarreal (after Item 11)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: William Dietrich, Port Director and CEO
William Irwin, District Counsel

STAFF MEMBERS: Arturo Gomez
Janie Velasquez
Estela Rangel
Manuel Martinez
Zeus Yanez
Jorge Montero
Santos Barbosa
Julio Romo
Carlos Garza
Ervey Gonzalez
Margie Recio
Tony Rodriguez
Michael Davis
Yessenia Gonzalez
Maria Elena Sanchez
Juan Resendez
Michael Davis
Guillermo Rico

OTHERS PRESENT: Rev. Andreas Lewis
Jorge de la Colina
Senator Eddie Lucio Jr.
Family of Luis Villarreal
David Garcia

2. Public Audience

1. Georgette Betancourt Medellin addressed the Board, on behalf of Erin Gamez, presenting a Texas flag to newly elected Commissioner Luis Villarreal.
2. Larry Jokl addressed the Board on behalf of the Boy Scouts of the Rio Grande Valley.

3. Director's Report

The Board received the reports.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

4. Consideration and ACTION on the Following Consent Agenda Item:

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 15, 2026.
- b. Approval to authorize payments over \$25,000.
 1. Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, the amount of \$25,637.00, for progress billing related to audit services rendered for the FY 2025 BND Financial and Pension Plan Financial Audits.
 2. JV Equipment Inc., the amount of \$36,957.10, for the purchase of a 5,000 lb. Pneumatic Forklift.
 3. Konecranes, the amount of \$32,111.00, for repairs and replacement of the Model 6 Crane buffing seals.
 4. Russell Marine, LLC, the amount of \$1,085,493.75, for Cargo Dock 3 – Phase I & III Demolition and Construction project, and for the project to furnish and install new fenders to Oil Dock 5 and Cargo Dock 10.

Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items, Commissioner Wood seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Consideration and Action to accept a grant under the Fiscal Year 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP).

Mr. Yanez addressed the Board that the Brownsville Navigation District was selected as a recipient of a grant under the United States Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) Fiscal Year 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program. The grant funds will be used for a Vessel Suitability and Feasibility project. The project will examine existing infrastructure (docks and appurtenances) to provide repair and/or reconstruction recommendations, and to provide opinions of costs and schedules for future capital planning and budgeting purposes. The analysis will include Oil Docks 1 and 2; Cargo Docks 10 through 13; and Cargo Docks 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8. Commissioner Lopez moved to accept the grant award for the Vessel Suitability Analysis and Feasibility Project under the MARAD FY 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program and to further authorize the Port Director and CEO to execute all relevant documents incident thereto, Commissioner Gutierrez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATIONS

6. Proclamation of the Board of Navigation and Canal Commissioners of the Brownsville Navigation District Honoring Chairman Esteban “Steve” Guerra.

Mr. Dietrich read the proclamation honoring Chairman Esteban “Steve” Guerra. Chairman Guerra addressed Board and those present regarding his service to the District. Chairman Guerra thanked District staff for all their efforts during his tenure. Chairman Guerra also congratulated the newly elected commissioners.

7. Proclamation of the Board of Navigation and Canal Commissioner of the Brownsville Navigation District Honoring Commissioner John Wood.

Mr. Dietrich read the proclamation honoring Commissioner John Wood. Commissioner Wood addressed the Board and those present regarding his service to the District. Commissioner Wood thanked District staff for their efforts during his tenure. Commissioner Wood also congratulated the newly elected commissioners.

ELECTION ACTION ITEMS

8. Canvass the returns of the May 2, 2026, General Election. *Hacer el escrutinio de los resultados de la elección general del día 2 de mayo de 2026.*

Mrs. Recio addressed the Board regarding the canvass of the May 2, 2026 general election. The canvass cannot occur until the voting ballot board has: (1) qualified and counted all provisional ballots, if a provisional ballot has been cast in the election; (2) counted all timely received late-arriving ballots, including next business day, military and overseas ballots; and (3) counted all ballots contained in previously defective carrier envelopes which were corrected by voters by the required deadline. The unofficial canvass report was presented to the Commission for its acceptance of the electronic report received by Remi Garza, Cameron County Elections Administrator as the official results of the Brownsville Navigation District 2026 General Election for electing two Navigation and Canal Commissioners. Mrs. Recio commented that the canvass would include a note that a recount petition had been filed for Place 2. Commissioner Lopez moved to accept the canvass report as submitted by the Cameron County Elections Administrator, Remi Garza, as the official results of the election, Commissioner Gutierrez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Receive the bonds of the winners of the May 2, 2026 General Election.

Mrs. Recio addressed the Board that Board members for the Brownsville Navigation District are required to submit a bond in the amount of \$10,000 prior to taking office. The bond for Commissioner Luis Villarreal, Place 4, has been received by the District. Commissioner Wood moved to acknowledge receipt of the Bond received from Commissioner Villarreal for a term of 4 years each, Commissioner Lopez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Issue Certificates of Election to the winners of the May 2, 2026 General Election.

Mrs. Recio addressed the Board that the May 2, 2026 general election has concluded, and the winners have been determined. According to the regulations set forth by the State of Texas Election Code, it is necessary to formally notify the winners of their election to the Board of Commissioners of the Brownsville Navigation District. This notification is done through the issuance of a certificate of election, signed by the Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Lopez moved to

BROWNSVILLE NAVIGATION DISTRICT MINUTES

May 13, 2026

Page 4 of 6

authorize the issuance of the Certificate of Election to the winner of the May 2, 2026 General Election, Place 4, to Luis Villarreal, Commissioner Wood seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Administration of the Oath of Office to the winners of the May 2, 2026 General Election.

Mrs. Recio addressed to the Board that the Oath of Office may be administered under Texas law by a number of public officials, from Federal Judges to Notary Publics. The candidates are encouraged to select the official of their choice to administer their oaths. The Oath of Office forms will be prepared for use, and the Oath of Office is also on the back of the Official's Bond forms. Senator Eddie Lucio addressed the Board regarding Commissioner Luis Villarreal and the Port of Brownsville. Senator Lucio then administered the oath of office to Commissioner Villarreal. Commissioner Villarreal then addressed the Board and those present, thanking his wife and family for their support, and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Chairman Guerra then stepped down from the dais table and Commissioner Villarreal took his seat. Vice Chairman Lopez assumed the Chair.

12. Election of officers of the Board of Navigation and Canal Commissioners of the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas.

Mrs. Recio addressed the Board. Board Policy B501 (Local) provides for the Board to elect, from among its members, the officers of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. The two Commissioners who are not elected to one of these three positions will hold the position of Assistant Secretary. Election to office shall be by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting. This election is generally held at the meeting where the election is canvassed. Vice Chairman Lopez made a motion to table the item to ensure that David Garcia, following completion of the recount, would be able to vote on this item, Commissioner Wood seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. Adjourn into Executive Session, as authorized by Subchapter D of Chapter 551 of the Government Code to discuss with attorneys pending or contemplated litigation, and matters in which the duty of the attorneys under the Rules of Professional Conduct clearly conflict with Chapter 551; to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property (§551.072); to deliberate the deployment of security personnel or devices (§551.076); to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee (§551.074); and to conduct deliberations regarding economic development negotiations (§551.087).


There was none.

14. Possible ACTION on matters or items discussed in Executive Session.

There was none.

15. Adjournment.

Commissioner Gutierrez moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Reed seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:16 p.m.



Sergio Tito Lopez
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST



John Reed, Secretary