Minutes of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District
August 28, 2025
Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District was held on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 5:30 P.M., at the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District (PISBND) Office, located at 250 Industrial Drive, Port Isabel, Texas 78578.

Commissioners Present were:
Joe Martinez, Commissioner Chairman,
Duvie Woods, Commissioner Secretary,
Jose L. Morales, Commissioner,

Staff & Legal Counsel:
Victor Barrera, Port Director,
Julia Barrera, Administrative Assistant,
Jose Caso, Caso Law Firm

Others in Attendance were:
Deborah A. Morales, City of San Benito Commissioner Place 2,
Jason Buntz, Hicks & Company,
Luis Ramirez,
Brian Hangien, LMWD,
Jade Lees,

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Martinez at 5:30 P.M.

Item #2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Martinez. Invocation led by Commissioner Morales.

Item #3. Public Comments, Mr. Luis Ramirez addressed Item #5 and expressed questions and concerns regarding the LMWD desalination project.

Item #4. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2025, Board Meeting.

Mr. Morales stated he made recommendations to the board and to our accountant Mr. Rivera to look into moving our money to TexPool for higher interest rate to return to us and he also agreed with him on that particular point.

Mr. Martinez asked for following motion:

> **A motion was made by Mr. Morales and seconded by Mrs. Woods to approve August 14, 2025, board meeting minutes with the recommended changes. All voted in favor. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u>**

Item #5. Presentation by the Laguna Madre Water District on desalination project (no action).

Mr. Morales stated he would like to see the results of the samples they took and review the lease.

Item #6. Discussion and possible action to approve the renewal of TML Insurance policy. Mr. Martinez asked for the following motion:

> **A motion was made by Mr. Morales and seconded by Mrs. Woods to approve the renewal of TML Insurance policy for 1 year. All voted in favor. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u>**

Item #7. Discussion and possible action to approve the renewal of TWIA Insurance policy. The following motion was made:

> **Mr. Morales made a motion to obtain three proposals; since only one was available, he suggested extending the contract for six months due to hurricane season and then proceeding with a bid. <u>The motion failed for lack of a second.</u>**

Mr. Martinez asked for the following motion:

> **A motion was made by Mrs. Woods and seconded by Mr. Martinez to approve the renewal of TWIA Insurance policy. <u>Motion carried with Mr. Morales being opposed.</u>**

Mr. Morales stated for the record that we have no comparison in pricing, and we didn't go out for bids.

Item #8. Discussion and possible action to approve the renewal of the Employees Health Insurance with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Mr. Martinez asked for the following motion:

> **A motion was made by Mr. Morales and seconded by Mrs. Woods to approve the renewal of the Employees Health Insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield. All voted in favor. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u>**

Item #9. Discussion and possible action to approve the renewal of the Employees Life Insurance with Dearborn.

There was no action on this item since it wasn't up for renewal.

Item #10. Discussion and possible action on speed control measures, including installation of speed limit signs, speed bumps, road markings, and related road safety compliance.

Mr. Morales stated for the record that Mr. Barrera took initiative on the small things and in the pass they didn't.

Mr. Martinez asked for the following motion:

> **A motion was made by Mrs. Woods and seconded by Mr. Morales to approve for Mr. Barrera to put the speed bumps, road marks, and related road safety. All voted in favor. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u>**

Item #11. Port Director's Report, Mr. Barrera.

Mr. Barrera discussed the repairs needed in the Main Office and LAMEC building, outlined a security plan with the Constable's office for the SpaceX launch, followed up with tenants regarding their areas and leases, coordinated with Gomez Roofing on the roof and gutters, and addressed plans to bring the road into compliance with state requirements.

Mr. Morales suggested adding a pipe to the propeller to improve its appearance.

NO ACTION.

Item #12. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of bills paid from August 14, 2025, to present.

Mr. Barrera stated that the largest expenses were the deposit for Gomez Roofing and the annual carpet cleaning for the LAMEC building.

Mr. Martinez asked for the following motion:

> **A motion was made by Mr. Morales and seconded by Mrs. Woods to approve the bills paid from August 14, 2025, to present. All voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

Item #13. Discussion and possible action regarding the scheduling of the next Board meeting. Mr. Martinez asked for the following motion:

> **A motion was made by Mrs. Woods and seconded by Mr. Morales to have the regular Board meeting on Tuesday, September 25th at 5:30 pm and September 11th with the Laguna Madre Water District. All voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Barrera will follow up with the Commission to confirm the time and whether the Laguna Madre Water District is available to meet that day.

Item #14. **Executive Session**. The Board of Directors may convene into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Government Code §551.072. Deliberation Regarding Real Property.

a. Lease with Laguna Madre Water District regarding desalination project.
b. MerLion lease agreement.
c. Brazos Santiago lease agreement.
d. General Pipe's lease agreement.
e. Project Terra

The Commissioners entered into Executive Session at 6:56 PM, In accordance with Mr. Martinez, the following motion was proposed:

> **A motion was made by Mrs. Woods and seconded by Mr. Martinez to enter Executive Session at 6:56 pm. All voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Commissioners returned from Executive Session at 7:52 P.M., In accordance with Mr. Martinez, the following motion was proposed:

> **A motion was made by Mr. Morales and seconded by Mrs. Woods to return from Executive Session at 7:52 pm. All voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

Item #15. Open Session. The Board will convene in open session to take action on items discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Caso asked Chairman if we can please have a motion as follows:

a. **No Action**
b. **Proceed as Directed in Executive**
c. **Proceed as Directed in Executive**
d. **Proceed as Directed in Executive with Chairman Martinez and Commissioner Woods voting in favor and Mr. Morales going against.**

Mr. Morales wanted to go on record why I am voting NA, we should stick with our original agreement with General Pipe.

e. **Proceed as Directed in Executive Session.**

Mr. Martinez asked for the following motion to be accepted:

A motion was made by Mr. Morales and seconded by Mr. Martinez to accept the following motion. All voted in favor. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u>

Before the meeting adjourned, Julia clarified a correction regarding the TWIA insurance amount, noting that it remained the same as last year with no increase.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Morales and seconded by Mrs. Woods to adjourn at 7:54 pm. All voted in favor. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u>

Approved on September 25, 2025

Joe Martinez, Commissioner Chairman

Duvie Woods, Commissioner Secretary

Jose L. Morales, Commissioner

Secretary Notes:

September 26, 2025

After review, the secretary determined that the approved correction does not match the meeting recording. The minutes are filed as approved by the board on September 25. 2025.