

Minutes of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District
April 23, 2026
Regular Meeting

A Regular meeting of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2026, at 5:30 P.M., at the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District (PISBND) Office, located at 250 Industrial Drive, Port Isabel, Texas 78578.

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Port Isabel–San Benito Navigation District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Joe Martinez at 5:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call

All Commissioners stated their name:

Joe Martinez, Chairman
Duvie Woods, Secretary,
Jose Morales, Commissioner

Staff & Legal Counsel:

Victor Barrera, Port Director,
Julia Barrera, Administrative Assistant,
Jose Caso, Caso Law Firm,

Others in Attendance were:

Mark Nering, LMYC
Salomon Torres, Soluciones
Juan E. Rivera, District

3. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance to the Unites States Flag, and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Martinez and the Invocation was given by Commissioner Morales.

4. Public Comments.

No members of the public requested to speak.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes. April 2, 2026, Board Meeting minutes were presented.

Chairman Martinez called for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Woods and Seconded by Commissioner Morales; to approve the minutes of April 2, 2026. All voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

6. Discussion and possible action regarding Scholarship Program.

Chairman Martinez asked for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to approve the scholarship for San Benito IDEA and San Benito High School, as presented by Commissioner Morales, and to approve the scholarships for Santa Maria ISD as will be submitted by Commissioner Woods. All voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action to reimburse \$597.08 monthly to Victor Barrera for Health Insurance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinez and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to table the item until additional information is obtained for the next meeting. All voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding payment of 29.25 accrued vacation hours (equivalent to \$351.00) to former PISBND employee Robert Maldonado.

Chairman Martinez asked for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to approve payment of 29.25 accrued vacation hours (equivalent to \$351.00) to former PISBND employee Robert Maldonado. All voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action on approval of bills.

The Board reviewed the bills, noting a total of \$30,118.92, expenses include concrete repair, drainage work, utilities, payroll and related expenses.

Chairman Martinez asked for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods the approval of bills. All voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action on Quarterly Investment Report provided by Juan Rivera, CPA.

The Board received the first-quarter 2026 investment/financial report from the CPA, noting a beginning balance of \$2,184,996 in the Tex Pool investment account and total quarterly interest earnings of \$19,929, for an ending Tex Pool balance of \$2,204,925. The report also covered the IBC checking account, with a beginning balance of \$2,150,054, deposits of \$430,906, and interest of \$658.93, resulting in an ending balance of \$2,283,983.

Chairman Martinez asked for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and seconded by Commissioner Woods to approve the Quarterly Investment Report provided by Juan E. Rivera, CPA, with the condition that Port Director and CPA look into eliminating the current bank service charge with IBC. All voted in favor; the motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion and possible action to authorize Salomon Torres to submit a grant application to the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) administered by Maritime Administration (MARAD).

The Board received information from Salomon Torres on a potential federal grant under the Core Infrastructure Improvement Program for port infrastructure improvements. Staff explained that the grant could fund planning and/or construction projects to improve movement of commercial products and resilience of port operations, including: (1) planning and design for new docks and dredging in the turning basin and channel; and (2) infrastructure improvements in the shrimp basin/area, such as repairing docks, replacing or adding sheds, improving parking and laydown areas, fencing, and other facilities to better support shrimpers and seafood-related businesses. The Board discussed the competitive nature of the grant, the June 1 deadline, possible project scope and cost (up to approximately \$8 million), and that the Port qualifies as a small, rural port with no required local match, though a small contribution could improve scoring.

Chairman Martinez asked for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to purchase the trash pump. All voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Closed session pursuant to Texas Gov't Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney); 551.072 (Property Deliberation); 551.087 (Economic Development Negotiations); and 551.074 (Personnel Matters) related to:

12. Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.072)

13. Economic Development Negotiations (Texas Gov't Code 551.087)

The Commissioners tabled Executive Session, In accordance with the following motion:

Chairman Martinez asked for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to table Executive Session, all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Return to Open Session

Consideration and ACTION, if any, including but not limited to the adoption of board resolutions related to items discussed in executive session(s):

14. Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.072)

15. Economic Development Negotiations (Texas Gov't Code 551.087)

Since Executive Session was tabled and not held, no discussion occurred on these items in closed session, and no action was taken.

Report

16. Port Director's Report (Victor Barrera)

Port Director, Victor Barrera reported that temporary trash containers will be removed at the end of the month, and the survey work is temporarily delayed due to muddy ground conditions preventing access to the back disposal site. General Pipe office/warehouse has been vacated and is being shown to potential tenants. An equipment inventory has been completed for small tools and vehicles, with some surplus "non-functional" items identified, and electrical pole replacement by Line Tech recently required a full-day power shutdown.

Next Board Meeting

17. Discussion and possible action to confirm the next Board Meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2026 (subject to change).

Chairman asked for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to schedule the next board meeting on May 7, 2026, at 5:30 PM. All voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

18. Adjourn.


There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, Chairman Martinez called for following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Woods and Seconded by Commissioner Morales to adjourn at 6:28 P.M. All voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Approved May 21, 2026



Joe Martinez, Commissioner Chairman



Duvie Woods, Commissioner Secretary



Jose L. Morales, Commissioner