

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SYSTEM

POLICY NUMBER: EC009

TITLE: Policy Guide for Conduct Regarding Public Statements of Water Assembly Officers

1. Background. Public communications are an important aspect of education and outreach. Statements made by members of the Executive Committee play a vital role in explaining the mission of the Water Assembly. It is important that all such statements are representative of the considered views of the Executive Committee and that they be reviewed to reach agreement as to their intention.

2. Discussion. In the context of the implementation of the water plan, officers need to have the ability to represent the Water Assembly without micro-managing or approval before hand. Working on various committees and sub-committees of various entities, in particular, requires statements made that are consistent with agreed upon decisions of the Executive Committee. Review of the minutes of such meetings by those officers involved in them, either formally written or summarized verbally, will enable the Executive Committee to have a sound understanding of the direction and intention of the Water Assembly's participation within them at any given time. In the context of official statements, any action by someone representing the Board of Directors of the Water Assembly or statement representing their position would likewise be subject to review and consideration.

In addition, press releases, letters to the editors and other statements of a public nature that are made on behalf of the Water Assembly need to be agreed upon before they are released by the Executive Committee, so that their content is reviewed and their purpose is agreed to by members of the Executive Committee.

This policy is not intended to define the interaction of Committees and working teams with governmental and non-governmental entities. The activities of these bodies are a component part of the Water Assembly's work and summaries are regularly provided to the Executive Committee.

3. Policy. Accordingly, this policy is formulated with the intention of promoting a consistent and accurate representation of the desires and actions of the Water Assembly and its leadership body. It is intended to cover communication with the media, the general public and other organizations, governmental entities and individuals. Statements should be reviewed at Executive Committee meetings to promote accountability of all WA officers. Only members of the Executive Committee are authorized to speak in the name of the Water Assembly. The Executive Committee may specifically designate someone not on the Executive Committee should the need arise. In the event this is not possible, because of time considerations, the President is authorized to designate such a spokesperson.

Disclaimers should be made by individual officers of the Water Assembly when speaking in public in the context of events not directly associated with ongoing Water Assembly work.

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This Policy has been established by action of the Executive Committee on

November 29, 2005.

Signed

Secretary