



Edwards Aquifer Authority

900 E. Quincy
San Antonio, TX 78215
EdwardsAquifer.org

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Directors

*Enrique Valdivia, Chairman Ben Youngblood, Vice-Chairman
Rachel Sanborn, Secretary Byron Miller, Treasurer*

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

1:00 PM

EAA Board Room

A. Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Valdivia called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: 13 - Director Steve Cargil, Director Deborah Carington, Director J Carnes, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Maggie Hutchins, Director Gary Middleton, Treasurer Byron Miller, Director Carol Patterson, Director Abe Salinas, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Chair Enrique Valdivia, Director Scott Yanta and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

Absent: 3 - Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Randall Perkins and Director Russell Persyn

B. Public Comment

There were no citizens who requested to address the board.

C. General Manager's Announcements and Reports

C.1

- Staffing Items of Interest (anniversaries, new hires)
- Recent Activities/Events (reports on conferences attended, meetings held, etc.)
- Legislative Activity
- Upcoming Activities/Events (conferences, meetings, etc.)
- Operational Announcements (schedule changes, program updates, etc.)
- Recent Activities of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Program
- Aquifer Conditions

Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, made the following announcements:

- In response to an opportunity that originated through the EAA's participation in the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape program, the EAA and the EAC have been granted an opportunity to participate in the Nature Conservancy's "Nature for Water" program. Specifically, TNC and its collaborator, Pegasys, would be providing strategic support to both the EAA and the EAC to formulate a funding and marketing approach to acquiring conservation easements and implementing land management practices on the Recharge and Contributing Zone within the CBSL footprint (Bexar, Comal, and Kendall counties). We plan to formalize the collaboration by signing a memorandum of understanding.

- The filing period for the District 8 vacancy would close on February 24. Candidates would be presented to the board at the March meeting for appointment.

- The board would be receiving the following staff presentations in April and May, groundwater modeling program (history and status) and groundwater permitting (history and status).

- Mr. Paul Bertetti, Sr. Director - Aquifer Science Research & Modeling, briefed the board on current aquifer conditions.

D. Treasurer's Report**E. Board Reports****F. Consent Agenda****F.1****Approval of previous board meeting minutes****- Regular Board Meeting - January 13, 2026**

Approval of previous board meeting minutes

- Regular Board Meeting - January 13, 2026

- F.2 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$3,750 for legal services for December 2025.**

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$3,750 for legal services for December 2025.

A motion was made by Secretary Sanborn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed without opposition.

G. Individual Consideration

- G.1 Receive report from EAA staff and consider recommendation from the Executive Committee to authorize the General Manager to negotiate a contract with Carriage House Partners for legislative consultant services.**

Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, briefed the board regarding a contract with Carriage House Partners for legislative consultant services.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Patterson, the board authorize the General Manager to negotiate a contract with Carriage House Partners for legislative consultant services. The motion passed without opposition.

- G.2 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to amend the 2026 EAA Operating Budget by increasing the Abandoned Well Fund appropriation by \$150,000.**

Mr. Friberg briefed the board regarding amending the 2026 EAA Operating Budget by increasing the Abandoned Well Fund appropriation by \$150,000.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Patterson, the board amend the 2026 EAA Operating Budget by increasing the Abandoned Well Fund appropriation for Professional Technical Services by \$150,000. The motion passed without opposition.

G.3 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to ratify the General Manager's approval of forbearance agreements with Pamela McCasland Bendele; Donald Batot and wife, Jo Helen Batot and Batt Investments and Management Company L.P.; A & S Ranch, Ltd.; Turner-Pasche Ranch LLC; Daniel Maurice Rimkus, and Ginger Lynn Rimkus Patterson; John Aviel Persyn; William E. Schultz, Jr. and wife, Pamela M. Schultz; and Helen Ann Bourquin Hawes for Edwards groundwater withdrawal rights for the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option in support of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, in the total amount of not less than \$226,411.85, and not to exceed \$897,261.77.

Mr. Friberg briefed the board regarding ratifying the General Manager's approval of forbearance agreements with Pamela McCasland Bendele; Donald Batot and wife, Jo Helen Batot and Batt Investments and Management Company L.P.; A & S Ranch, Ltd.; Turner-Pasche Ranch LLC; Daniel Maurice Rimkus, and Ginger Lynn Rimkus Patterson; John Aviel Persyn; William E. Schultz, Jr. and wife, Pamela M. Schultz; and Helen Ann Bourquin Hawes for Edwards groundwater withdrawal rights for the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option in support of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, seconded by Secretary Sanborn, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 02-26-138 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors to ratify the General Manager's approval of VISPO forbearance agreements for permitted Edwards groundwater rights between the EAA and those entities listed on Agenda Item G.2 in an amount not to exceed \$897,261.77, for the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option in support of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, and authorizing the General Manager to execute the Agreements. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

H. Staff Reports

H.1 Receive report from EAA staff on the current settlement approach for groundwater use non-reporting and for exceeding authorized groundwater withdrawals during 2025 by both Permitted Users and Owners of Limited Production Wells.

Mr. Friberg introduced this item and Mr. Jorge Paramo, Sr. Regulatory Compliance Coordinator, briefed the board regarding the current settlement approach for groundwater use non-reporting and for exceeding authorized groundwater withdrawals during 2025 by both Permitted Users and Owners of Limited Production Wells.

H.2 Receive report from EAA staff regarding its Recharge Zone Protection programs.

Mr. Lawrence Jackson, Executive Director - External & Regulatory Affairs, introduced this item to the board and Mr. Kyle Craig, Recharge Zone Regulation Manager, and Ms. Laurel Torres, Groundwater Regulation Manager, briefed the board regarding Recharge Zone Protection programs.

Chairman Valdivia recessed the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

Chairman Valdivia reconvened the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

H.3 Receive report from Legal Contractor, Darcy Frownfelter, regarding the EAHCP and federal case law.

The board considered agenda item H.3 in closed session.

Chairman Valdivia closed the meeting to the public at 1:55 p.m.

Mr. Darcy Frownfelter, Legal Contractor, briefed the board regarding the EAHCP and federal case law.

I. Closed Session

The Board of Directors of the Edwards Aquifer Authority may go into a closed session under the authority of the Government Code, Chapter 551, Texas Open Meetings Act, to discuss:

I.1 Closed Session

1. Consultation with Attorney - Pending Litigation (§ 551.071)
2. **Consultation with Attorney - Attorney/Client Privileged Consultations (§ 551.071)**
3. **Consultation with Attorney - Settlement Offers (§ 551.071)**
4. **Deliberations Regarding Real Property (§ 551.072)**
5. Deliberations Regarding Personnel Matters (§ 551.074)
6. Deliberations Regarding Security Devices or a Security Audit (§§ 551.076, 551.089)

Chairman Valdivia reopened the meeting to the public at 3:05 p.m.

J. Consider recommendation(s) regarding matters discussed in closed session.

The board did not consider any recommendations.

K. Future Board Meeting Agendas

The board did not discuss future agenda items.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

*Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors*

*Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary*