



Edwards Aquifer Authority

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

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors

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

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

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: 16 - Director Steve Cargil, Director J Carnes, Director Deborah Carington, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Stuart Hansmann, Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Maggie Hutchins, Director Gary Middleton, Treasurer Byron Miller, Director Carol Patterson, Director Russell Persyn, Director Abe Salinas, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Chair Enrique Valdivia, Director Scott Yanta and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

Absent: 1 - Director Randall Perkins

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. Roland Ruiz, General Manager, made the following announcements:

- *Mr. Hunter Patterson was hired as a Regulatory Inspector II for Recharge Zone Regulation.*
- *Mr. Tamauj Thomas was promoted from Senior Permit & Conservation Coordinator to Water Resources Supervisor.*
- *Directors received a copy of the summary of the recent board work session as prepared by Dr. Richard Lewis.*
- *As part of the "EAA Speakers Bureau" outreach, staff created an EAA Introduction and Overview (aka "Aquifer 101") PowerPoint that is available to board members in the event they are invited to speak about the EAA at chambers, civic groups, or other community events.*
- *Mr. Paul Bertetti, Sr. Director - Aquifer Science Research & Modeling, briefed the board on current aquifer conditions.*

D. Treasurer's Report**D.1 Receive report from EAA staff on unaudited financial statements for April 2025.**

The board did not have any questions for Treasurer Miller regarding the unaudited financial statements for April 2025.

E. Board Reports**E.1 Receive report from Director Gary Middleton, South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee (SCTWAC) representative to the board, regarding downstream water conditions of the Guadalupe River Basin and current activities and issues of interest to SCTWAC.**

Director Gary Middleton, South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee (SCTWAC) representative to the board, briefed the board regarding downstream water conditions of the Guadalupe River Basin, and noted that rain was expected, but conditions were still dry and they were still below the normal average for rainfall in the area.

F. Consent Agenda**F.1 Approval of previous board meeting minutes**

- Regular Board Meeting - May 13, 2025
- Special Board Meeting - May 16, 2025

Approval of previous board meeting minutes

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F.2 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$58,850.53, for legal services for April 2025.

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$58,850.53, for legal services for April 2025.

A motion was made by Director Hutchins, seconded by Director Yanta, the board approve the consent agenda. The motion passed without opposition.

G. Individual Consideration

- G.1 Consider recommendation from the Permits/Enforcement Committee to approve forbearance agreements with Kessler Ranch, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership and Katherine Potter 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 \$6,642.00 and not to exceed \$26,322.00.**

Mr. Javier Hernandez, Special Projects Liaison, briefed the board regarding forbearance agreements with Kessler Ranch, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership and Katherine Potter for Edwards groundwater withdrawal rights for the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Yanta, the board approve VISPO forbearance agreements for permitted Edwards groundwater rights between the EAA and: (1) Kessler Ranch, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership; and (2) Katherine Potter in the total amount of not less than \$6,642.00 and not to exceed \$26,322.00, 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.

- G.2 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve an Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2025 Funding Application Amendment submitted by the Edwards Aquifer Authority and associated 2025 EAA Operating Budget amendment by increasing the Habitat Conservation Plan fund by \$50,000.**

Mr. Damon Childs, Contract Administrator, briefed the board regarding an Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2025 Funding Application Amendment submitted by the Edwards Aquifer Authority and associated 2025 EAA Operating Budget amendment by increasing the Habitat Conservation Plan fund.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Persyn, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 06-25-124 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving an amendment to the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2025 EAA Funding Application increasing the funding request from \$19,082,642 to \$19,132,642 and amending the 2025 EAA Operating Budget accordingly. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

- G.3 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2025 Funding Application Amendment submitted by the City of New Braunfels and associated 2025 EAA Operating Budget amendment by increasing the Habitat Conservation Plan fund by \$39,120.**

Mr. Childs briefed the board regarding the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2025 Funding Application Amendment submitted by the City of New Braunfels and associated 2025 EAA Operating Budget amendment by increasing the Habitat Conservation Plan fund.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Patterson, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 06-25-125 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving an amendment to the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2025 City of New Braunfels Funding Application increasing the funding request from \$871,259 to \$910,379 and amending the 2025 EAA Operating Budget accordingly. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

Agenda item G.4 was discussed in closed session.

H. Staff Reports

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:

Chairman Valdivia closed the meeting to the public at 1:27 p.m.

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 1:46 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, seconded by Director Patterson, the board authorize the General Manager to execute a Letter of Intent to enter into a 15-year lease for 646.850 acre-feet of unrestricted Edwards Aquifer Groundwater Withdrawal Rights between the Edwards Aquifer Authority and Clary Farms. The motion passed without opposition.

G.4 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve an engagement letter with Darcy Alan Frownfelter for independent legal advisement services.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Patterson, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 06-25-126 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving an engagement letter with Darcy Alan Frownfelter for independent legal advisement services for \$15,000 per month, for the period July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

K. Future Board Meeting Agendas

The board did not discuss future meeting agenda items.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors

Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary