



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, March 10, 2026

1:00 PM

EAA Board Room

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

Vice-Chairman Youngblood called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: 15 - Director Steve Cargil, Director Deborah Carington, Director J Carnes, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Maggie Hutchins, Director Gary Middleton, Treasurer Byron Miller, Director Carol Patterson, Director Randall Perkins, Director Russell Persyn, Director Abe Salinas, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Director Scott Yanta and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

Absent: 1 - Chair Enrique Valdivia

B. Public Comment

Ms. Virginia Parker, Executive Director - San Marcos River Foundation, addressed the board regarding recharge zone contamination concerns involving Solid Rocket Motor Testing at Freeman Ranch.

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:

- *Ms. Suzanne Wilson as hired as General Counsel.*
- *The EAA would be submitting two grant applications to the Texas Water Development Board through its Agricultural Water Conservation Grant Program. One application would request \$300,000 to support the purchase and installation of irrigation improvement equipment and the second application would request \$55,000 for a cover crop system project that would evaluate the long-term impacts of various cover crop strategies on soil water dynamics and water use efficiency. These funding opportunities would help advance our regional water conservation goals while leveraging state resources to improve agricultural water-use efficiency.*
- *The board was reminded to RSVP for the Board Work Session scheduled for May 14-15, 2026.*
- *The Edwards Aquifer Conservancy received a letter of resignation from its board member Luana Buckner.*
- *Mr. Paul Bertetti, Sr. Director - Aquifer Science Research & Modeling, briefed the board on current aquifer conditions.*

D. Treasurer's Report**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 Middleton briefed the board regarding downstream water conditions of the Guadalupe River Basin and noted they have recently received scattered rain, but the last six months have been dry. River flow at the Victoria gauge was low and there was a lack of contribution to the springs.

F. Consent Agenda**F.1**

**Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - February 10, 2026**

*Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - February 10, 2026*

F.2 Consider EAA staff recommendation to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$1,370, for legal services for January 2026.

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$1,370, for legal services for January 2026.

A motion was made by Director Hoyt, seconded by Director Persyn, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed without opposition.

G. Individual Consideration

G.1 Interview, select and appoint a candidate to fill the unexpired term for EAA Director District 8.

Vice-Chairman Youngblood asked the candidate for EAA Director District 8 to come before the board.

Mr. Andres Campos-Delgado introduced himself to the board and provided some background information.

A motion was made by Director Yanta, seconded by Director Cargil, the board appoint Mr. Andres Campos-Delgado to fill the unexpired term for the vacant Director - District 8 position on the EAA Board of Directors. The motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Youngblood administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Andres Campos-Delgado.

G.2 Consider EAA staff recommendation to approve an Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2026 Funding Application Amendment submitted by the City of San Marcos/Texas State University and associated 2026 EAA Operating Budget amendment by increasing the Habitat Conservation Plan fund by \$8,878.70.

Mr. Damon Childs, Contract Administrator, briefed the board regarding an Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2026 Funding Application Amendment submitted by the City of San Marcos/Texas State University and associated 2026 EAA Operating Budget amendment by increasing the Habitat Conservation Plan fund.

A motion was made by Director Hutchins, seconded by Secretary Sanborn, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 03-26-139 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving an amendment to the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2026 Funding Application for the City of San Marcos/Texas State increasing the funding request from \$616,600 to \$625,478.70 and amending the 2026 EAA Operating Budget accordingly. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

- G.3 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve a contract with Carriage House Partners, LLC, for legislative consultant services in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, for the period April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2028.**

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

A motion was made by Director Patterson, seconded by Secretary Sanborn, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 03-26-140 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Contract No. 26-008-EXE between the Edwards Aquifer Authority and Carriage House Partners, LLC, for legislative consultant services in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, for the period April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2028. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

H. Staff Reports

- H.1 Receive report from the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy Executive Director regarding recent and upcoming activities and related program updates.**

Ms. Sara Beesley, Chief Development Officer, briefed the board regarding recent and upcoming activities and related program updates for the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy.

- H.2 Receive report from EAA staff on current settlement guidelines regarding groundwater use regulations.**

Mr. Friberg briefed the board regarding current settlement guidelines regarding groundwater use regulations.

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)

The board did not meet in closed session.

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

K. Future Board Meeting Agendas

The board would like a report on the Hays County and Freeman Ranch matter.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

*Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors*

*Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary*