



# 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*

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Friday, May 15, 2026

8:00 AM

212 W. Crockett Street

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

*Chairman Valdivia called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.*

*Present: 12 - Director Andres Campos, Director Deborah Carington, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Maggie Hutchins, Treasurer Byron Miller, Director Carol Patterson, Director Russell Persyn, Director Abe Salinas, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Chairman Enrique Valdivia, and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood*

*Absent: 5 - Director Steve Cargil, Director J Carnes, Director Gary Middleton, Director Randall Perkins, and Director Scott Yanta*

#### B. Public Comment

*There were no citizens who requested to address the board.*

#### C. Introduction and Overview: The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP)

*Dr. Richard Lewis, Round Top Consulting Associates, led the board in ice breaker exercises.*

*Mr. Roland Ruiz, General Manager, briefed the board on what we do as it related to the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP).*

## **D. The New EAHCP: What, When and Why**

*Mr. Ruiz provided background information on the new EAHCP.*

*Mr. Lucas Bare, ICF, briefed the board on the process and current status of the EAHCP. The update included key components, a permit renewal update, and next steps.*

*Dr. Lily Sweikert, Senior Manager and Conservation Biologist - ICF, briefed the board on the background, context, and benefits of the current EAHCP, the need for a permit renewal, the consequences of not having it, and what the renewed plan entails.*

*Mr. Bare briefed the board on the EAHCP renewal process, specifically regarding transparency and stakeholder involvement.*

*Chairman Valdivia recessed meeting at 9:17 a.m.*

*Chairman Valdivia reconvened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.*

## **E. The EAHCP Success Story**

*Mr. Ruiz briefed the board on the EAHCP mission and how it has been incorporated into the EAA's overall mission since 2013.*

*Ms. Shelly Hendrix, Senior Director/Chief Financial Officer, briefed the board on the rate history for aquifer management fees, budget impacts, EAHCP general fund support, budget trends, reserves, and rate structures.*

*Mr. Scott Storment, Executive Director - Threatened & Endangered Species, and Dr. Chad Furl, Chief Science Officer, briefed the board on the state of the EAHCP today; the update covered the budget, program implementation, and permit renewal.*

*Ms. Kristina Tolman, Senior HCP Coordinator, briefed the board on the 2025 annual report, covering program implementation highlights, the program budget, springs activities, and covered species.*

*Mr. Ed Oborny, BioWest, briefed the board on the 2025 incidental take analysis, including the status of species and habitats, alongside an overview of EAHCP biological monitoring components in the San Marcos and Comal springs.*

*Chairman Valdivia recessed the meeting at 11:28 a.m.*

*Chairman Valdivia reconvened the meeting at 1:20 p.m.*

**F. Let's Revisit Why and What: Historical Context**

*Dr. Lewis provided a recap of the morning session.*

*Mr. Ruiz briefed the board on the EAHCP from a historical context, including the statutory, legal, and administrative perspectives.*

*Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, briefed the board on the Edwards water market, specifically how forbearance and leasing programs function.*

*Chairman Valdivia recessed the meeting at 2:15 p.m.*

*Chairman Valdivia reconvened the meeting at 2:33 p.m.*

**G. The Future: Our Guiding Principles**

*Mr. Ruiz briefed the board on challenges and recommendations, with the goals of regional and resource sustainability, as well as financial, legal, and regulatory certainty.*

*The board engaged in open discussion.*

**H. Adjournment**

*There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.*

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*Rachel Sanborn  
Secretary, Board of Directors*

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*Jennifer Wong-Esparza  
Assistant to Board Secretary*