



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, April 8, 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 Randall Perkins, Director Abe Salinas, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Chair Enrique Valdivia, Director Scott Yanta and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

Absent: 1 - 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. Roland Ruiz, General Manager, made the following announcements:

- *Ms. Laurel Torres was promoted from Senior Regulatory Inspector to Groundwater Regulation Manager for Regulatory Affairs.*
- *Mr. Logan Schmidt was promoted from Senior Modeler to Principal Geoscientist for Aquifer Science Research & Modeling.*
- *Mr. Jeffrey Robinson, Principle Well Analyst, completed 25 years of service with the EAA.*
- *Mr. Omar Garcia, Senior Director of Water Resources, was accepted into the 2025 Texas Water Leaders program.*
- *Senate Bill 863 by Perry received hearing before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs, and passed. The board would be provided with ongoing updates.*
- *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 February 2025.

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

E. Board Reports**F. Consent Agenda****F.1**

Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - March 11, 2025

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F.2 Consider recommendation from the Permits/Enforcement Committee to approve a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by Continental Homes of Texas, L.P.

Adopt a Final Order Granting Application to Convert Base Irrigation Groundwater to Unrestricted Irrigation Groundwater based on changes in land use submitted by Continental Homes of Texas, L.P.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

F.3 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$33,385, for legal services for February 2025.

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$33,385, for legal services for February 2025.

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

G. Individual Consideration

G.1 Receive report from independent auditor, RSM US LLP, and consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to accept the audit report for the 12-month period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Mr. Bob Williams, Robert J. Williams, CPA, briefed the board on the audit.

Mr. Marc Sewell, RSM US LLP, briefed the board on the initial draft audit document and a report on the conduct of the audit for the 12-month period of January through December 2024.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Patterson, the board accept the audit report as presented by independent auditor, RSM US LLP, for the 12-month fiscal period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

- G.2 Consider recommendation from the Permits/Enforcement Committee to approve forbearance agreements with USA Modern Agriculture, LLC; Kincaid Sabinal, LLC; Hugo and Eva Sanchez; and Aldridge Nursery, Inc. 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 \$349,179.23 and not to exceed \$1,383,784.35.**

Mr. Javier Hernandez, Special Projects Liaison, briefed the board regarding forbearance agreements with USA Modern Agriculture, LLC; Kincaid Sabinal, LLC; Hugo and Eva Sanchez; and Aldridge Nursery, Inc. 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 Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Yanta, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 04-25-119 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors to approve VISPO forbearance agreements for permitted Edwards groundwater rights between the EAA and: (1) USA Modern Agriculture, LLC; (2) Kincaid Sabinal, LLC; (3) Hugo and Eva Sanchez; and (4) Aldridge Nursery, Inc. in the total amount of not less than \$349,179.23 and not to exceed \$1,383,784.35 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.]

- G.3 Consider recommendation from the Permits/Enforcement Committee to approve an ASR springflow protection program forbearance agreement with Gay Nell Seewald for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Forbearance Program, in support of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, in the total amount of \$40,400.00.**

Mr. Hernandez briefed the board regarding an ASR springflow protection program forbearance agreement with Gay Nell Seewald for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Forbearance Program.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Yanta, the board approve a springflow protection program forbearance agreement with Gay Nell Seewald and the EAA for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program in support of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

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 1:31 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 1:57 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 (1) approve Resolution and Order 04-25-121 authorizing the General Manager to execute Purchase Agreements for the Maloy Track and Maverick Ranch properties; (2) approve a related Memorandum of Understanding for the EAA's use of the two properties; (3) approve a related budget amendment to release \$1 million dollars from the EAA Designated Reserve's Conservation / Recharge Zone Protection Fund to the General Fund to pay for the purchases; and (4) direct the General Manager and General Counsel to take all actions necessary to close on the properties. The motion passed without opposition.

K. Future Board Meeting Agendas

Mr. Ruiz noted that staff would bring the agenda for the Work Session before the board after approval at the next Executive Committee meeting.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors

Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary