



Edwards Aquifer Authority

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Directors

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

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

4:00 PM

EAA Board Room

A. Call to Order – Roll Call

Chairman Valdivia called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Present: 14 - Director Fohn Bendele, Director Austin Bodin, Director Deborah Carington, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Gary Middleton, Treasurer Byron Miller, Director Carol Patterson, Director Russell Persyn, Director Abe Salinas, Vice Chair Rachel Sanborn, Chair Enrique Valdivia, Director Scott Yanta and Secretary Ben Youngblood

Absent: 3 - Director Don Baker, Director Kathleen Krueger and Director Randall Perkins

B. Public Comment

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. Amjad "AJ" Rashid was hired as Director for Information Technology.
- Ms. Elizabeth Posada, Human Resources Coordinator II, completed five years of service with the EAA.
- Ms. Robin Tremallo – Senior Analyst, was retiring after 25 years of service with the EAA.
- Mr. Marc Friberg was appointed to the position of Deputy General Manager.
- Staff tentatively identified the dates of September 21 and 22 for the next board work session.
- The San Marcos Aquatic Research Center (SMARC) experienced a power outage that lead to species mortality.
- Several tables have been sold for the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy Gala and help was needed with identifying auction and raffle items for fundraising.
- Mr. Paul Bertetti, Director of Aquifer Science, briefed the board on current aquifer conditions.

D. Treasurer's Report**D.1 Receive report from EAA staff on unaudited financial statements for January 2023.**

The board did not have any questions for Treasurer Miller regarding the unaudited financial statements for January 2023.

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 the ground was dry and rain was needed.

F. Consent Agenda**F.1 Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - February 14, 2023**

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Secretary Youngblood, to approve previous board meeting minutes - Regular Board Meeting - February 14, 2023. The motion passed without opposition.

F.2 Consider recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$49,535.00 for legal services for January 2023.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Patterson, to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$49,535.00, for legal services for January 2023. The motion passed without opposition.

G. Individual Consideration

G.1 Consider recommendation from the Executive Committee to update EAA signatories for banking transactions made in the name of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Ms. Shelly Hendrix, Director/Controller Financial Services, briefed the board regarding updating EAA signatories for banking transactions made in the name of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

A motion was made by Secretary Youngblood, seconded by Director Patterson, the board approve EAA signatories for banking transactions made in the name of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, as follows: Enrique Valdivia, Rachel Sanborn, Byron Miller, Roland Ruiz, Marc Friberg, and Felix Marquez. The motion passed without opposition.

H. Staff Reports

H.1 Receive report from EAA staff regarding the Notice of Intent to Finish Out a Crop program and a process to identify and address potential changes.

Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, briefed the board regarding the Notice of Intent to Finish Out a Crop program and a process to identify and address potential changes.

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)

Active Litigation:

Schindel v. Edwards Aquifer Auth. (W.D. Tex. Sept. 2, 2022)

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.

The board did not consider any recommendations.

K. Future Board Meeting Agendas

The board did not discuss future board meeting agenda items.

Mr. Ruiz noted that policy briefing sessions would begin next month preceding the board meeting at 3:00 p.m.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Benjamin F. Youngblood III
Secretary, Board of Directors

Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary