



Edwards Aquifer Authority

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

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors

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

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

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:** 14 - Director Bruce Alexander, Director Deborah Carington, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Maggie Hutchins, 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

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. Omar Garcia was promoted from Water Resources Manager to Senior Director of Water Resources.*
- *Mr. Bryan Anderson, Director of Data Management, completed five years of service with the EAA.*
- *Mr. Walker Cagle, Regulatory Inspector II, completed five years of service with the EAA.*
- *The filing deadline for the EAA director election for the even-numbered districts was August 19.*
- *EAA staff was having a team building day on Thursday, August 15.*
- *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 June 2024.

The board did not have any questions for Treasurer Miller regarding the unaudited financial statements for June 2024.

Ms. Shelly Hendrix, Director/Controller Financial Services, briefed the board regarding highlights of the investment report for the quarter ending June 30, 2024.

E. Board Reports

E.1 Receive report on 2023 activities associated with the South Texas Weather Modification Association's Precipitation Enhancement Program.

Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, introduced this item to the board and Mr. Javier Hernandez, Special Projects Liaison, introduced Ms. Bria DeCarlo, State Licensed Program Meteorologist for the South Texas Weather Modification Association.

Ms. DeCarlo briefed the board regarding 2023 activities associated with the South Texas Weather Modification Association's Precipitation Enhancement Program.

E.2 Receive report from EAA staff on the General Manager's 2025 Proposed Operating Budget.

Ms. Hendrix briefed the board regarding the Five-Year Financial Forecast for fiscal years 2025-2029.

F. Consent Agenda

**F.1 Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - July 9, 2024**

*Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - July 9, 2024*

F.2 Consider recommendation from the Research & Technology Committee to approve a Joint Funding Agreement between the EAA and the United States Geological Survey for data collection services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,167,225.00.

Adopt Resolution and Order No. 08-24-098 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Joint Funding Agreement No. 24-008-AMS between the EAA and the United States Geological Survey for data collection services for a total amount of \$1,167,225.00, for the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027, and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

F.3 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to declare certain personal property of the EAA to be surplus and to authorize the disposal of the surplus property.

Adopt Resolution and Order No. 08-24-099 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors declaring certain personal property of the EAA to be surplus and authorizing the General Manager to sell or otherwise dispose of the surplus property.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

F.4 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve an interlocal agreement with Region 8 Education Service Center to provide cooperative purchasing services through The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS).

Adopt Resolution and Order No. 08-24-100 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving an interlocal agreement with Region 8 Education Service Center to provide cooperative purchasing services through The Interlocal Purchasing System and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

F.5 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$30,914.32, for legal services for June 2024.

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$30,914.32, for legal services for June 2024.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Vice-Chairman Sanborn, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed without opposition.

G. Individual Consideration

G.1 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve water conservation grant contracts with Malcolm Richey, McFadin Strube, L.P. Medina Robles, LLC, and Michael J. and Gail Saathoff and E&S Farms, Inc.

Mr. Friberg briefed the board regarding water conservation grant contracts with Malcolm Richey, McFadin Strube, L.P. Medina Robles, LLC, and Michael J. and Gail Saathoff and E&S Farms, Inc.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Yanta, the board approve water conservation grant contracts with: Malcolm Richey (\$53,673.02); McFadin Strube, L.P. (\$78,450.25); Medina Robles, LLC (\$118,919.62); and Michael J. and Gail Saathoff and E&S Farms, Inc. (\$48,957.11), and authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute the contracts. The motion passed without opposition.

- G.2 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve the purchase of employee medical insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas through Marsh McLennan Agency, in the approximate amount of \$1,203,948, for the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.**

Mr. Felix Marquez, Executive Director - Administration & Financial Services, briefed the board regarding the purchase of employee medical insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas through Marsh McLennan Agency for the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Hoyt, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 08-24-101 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving the purchase of employee medical insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, through Marsh McLennan Agency, in the approximate amount of \$1,203,948, for October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, and authorizing the General Manager to execute the necessary documents. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

- G.3 Consider recommendation from the Research & Technology Committee to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the EAA and the San Antonio River Authority for hydrologic modeling services, in an amount not to exceed \$240,000.**

Mr. Brent Doty, Research Manager, briefed the board regarding an Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the EAA and the San Antonio River Authority for hydrologic modeling services.

A motion was made by Director Patterson, seconded by Secretary Youngblood, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 08-24-102 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Interlocal Cooperation Contract No. 24-011-AMS between the EAA and the San Antonio River Authority for hydrologic modeling services for a total amount of \$240,000.00, for the period August 21, 2024, through December 31, 2026, and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement. Director Persyn abstained from the vote on the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

- G.4 Consider recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve a Services Agreement between the Edwards Aquifer Authority and the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy.**

By consensus, the board pulled this item for consideration at this meeting.

G.5 Receive update from EAA staff on current re-branding initiatives and consider possible action to approve a logo redesign.

Mr. Michael De La Garza, Executive Director - Communications & Development, and Mr. Eduardo Flores, Creative Manager, briefed the board regarding current re-branding initiatives and a logo redesign.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Yanta, the board approve the redesigned EAA logo as presented. Director Patterson voted in opposition to the motion. The motion passed viva voce.

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 2:23 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 3:19 p.m.

I.2 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve the EAA's key priorities related to renewal efforts of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan and associated Incidental Take Permit.

Mr. Ruiz briefed the board regarding the EAA's key priorities related to renewal efforts of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan and associated Incidental Take Permit.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Sanborn, seconded by Director Persyn, the board approve the presented key priorities related to renewal efforts of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan and associated Incidental Take Permit. The motion passed without opposition.

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

The board did not consider any recommendations.

K. Future Board Meeting Agendas

Mr. Ruiz and Mr. Friberg noted that the contract for precipitation enhancement activities and some election items would come before the board next month for consideration.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

*Benjamin F. Youngblood III
Secretary, Board of Directors*

*Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary*