



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, January 13, 2026

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 Steve Cargil, Director J Carnes, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Maggie Hutchins, Director Gary Middleton, Treasurer Byron Miller, Director Carol Patterson, Director Russell Persyn, Director Abe Salinas, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Chair Enrique Valdivia, Director Scott Yanta and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

Absent: 3 - Director Deborah Carington, Director Stuart Hansmann 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:

- *Ms. Elizabeth Daniela Bartels was hired as a Regulatory Inspector II for Regulatory Affairs.*
- *Ms. Gizelle Luevano, Senior Geoscientist, completed 25 years of service with the EAA.*
- *Mr. Roger Andrade, Senior Director, completed 20 years of service with the EAA.*
- *Mr. Joe Gonzales, Field Inspection Technician IV, completed 20 years of service with the EAA.*
- *Mr. Roel Loera, Senior Aquifer Environmental Scientist, completed 20 years of service with the EAA.*
- *Mr. Ben Urbanczyk, Principal Regulatory Inspector, completed 20 years of service with the EAA.*
- *Directors received an invitation to “An Evening of Gratitude” hosted by The Headwaters at Comal on Tuesday, March 3 at 6:00 p.m.*
- *Directors were asked to mark their calendars for May 14-15 for the 2026 board of directors work session with more details to come.*
- *Directors received copies of the EAA’s Code of Ethics and an Acknowledgement of Review form and were asked to sign and date the review form.*
- *Directors also received a copy of the EAA board directory.*
- *Mr. Brent Doty, Associate Director - Research, briefed the board on current aquifer conditions.*

D. Treasurer's Report

E. Board Reports

F. Consent Agenda

F.1

**Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - December 9, 2025**

*Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - December 9, 2025*

F.2 Consider recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$6,225 for legal services for November 2025.

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$6,225 for legal services for November 2025.

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

G. Individual Consideration

G.1 Consider accepting the resignation of Director Stuart Hansmann; declaring the vacancy of EAA Director District 8 in Comal County; and directing the General Manager to initiate the necessary procedures for filling the vacancy consistent with EAA Bylaws.

Mr. Ruiz briefed the board regarding the resignation of Director Stuart Hansmann, EAA Director District 8 in Comal County.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, seconded by Director Hoyt, the board accept the resignation of Director Stuart Hansmann; declare EAA Director District 8 in Comal County to be vacant; and direct the General Manager to initiate the necessary procedures to fill the vacancy consistent with EAA Bylaws. The motion passed without opposition.

G.2 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to partially approve a Notice of Claim to Interest by Sharon Eisenhauer in Initial Regular Permit No. P100-175 (BE00067).

Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, and Mr. Larry Jackson, Executive Director - External & Regulatory Affairs, briefed the board regarding partially approving a Notice of Claim to Interest by Sharon Eisenhauer in Initial Regular Permit No. P100-175 (BE00067).

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, seconded by Director Hoyt, the board approve a Final Order Partially Approving the Notice of Claim to Interest by Sharon Eisenhauer relative to Initial Regular Permit No. P100-175 (BE00067) and authorize the General Manager to take all actions necessary to amend the affected permit and issue regular permits accordingly. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

G.3 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by Continental Homes of Texas, L.P.

Mr. Tamauj Thomas, Sr. Permit & Conservation Coordinator, briefed the board regarding a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by Continental Homes of Texas, L.P.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Yanta, the board 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. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

Item G.4 was taken out of order on the agenda and would be discussed by the board in closed session.

Item H.1 was taken out of order on the agenda and considered after Item G.3 and before Item G.4.

H. Staff Reports

H.1 Receive report from EAA staff regarding current EAA research programs.

Mr. Mark Hamilton, Executive Director - Aquifer Management Services, briefed the board regarding current EAA research programs.

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 2:00 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 2:09 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, seconded by Director Persyn, the board authorize the General Manager to execute a 10-year lease of 111.520 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer groundwater withdrawal rights with Jess Bryan Culpepper under the terms discussed in closed session. The motion passed without opposition.

G.4 Consider recommendation from the Executive Committee to accept amendments to the employment agreement with General Manager Roland Ruiz.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Cargil, the board amend the employment agreement with Mr. Roland Ruiz, as presented. The motion passed without opposition.

K. Future Board Meeting Agendas

The board did not discuss future board meeting agenda items.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

*Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors*

*Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary*