



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*

Wednesday, November 12, 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: 15 - Director Steve Cargil, Director J Carnes, 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 Russell Persyn, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Chair Enrique Valdivia, Director Scott Yanta and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

Absent: 2 - Director Deborah Carington and Director Abe Salinas

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. Akhil Varma Sakhinetti was hired as a Web Developer II for Information Technology.*
- *For efficiency purposes and to ensure that all necessary agreements are timely processed, the General Manager would begin executing VISPO and ASR agreements through the end of the year. For transparency purposes, a ratification order would be brought before the board in 2026 that summarizes what agreements were executed.*
- *Directors would receive an email with a link to complete the 2025 General Manager Evaluation. The deadline for completing the survey was November 30. Please contact Chairman Valdivia if there are any questions regarding the evaluation.*
- *This year's board Christmas dinner was scheduled for Thursday, December 11. An invitation was handed out, and an electronic invitation would be emailed. Please RSVP to Sandy no later than Thursday, November 20.*
- *Mr. Paul Bertetti, Sr. Director - Aquifer Science Research & Modeling, briefed the board on current aquifer conditions.*

D. Treasurer's Report**E. Board Reports****F. Special Acknowledgments****F.1 Acknowledgment of appreciation for Bill Taylor and KENS 5 Television.**

Mr. Ruiz acknowledged Mr. Bill Taylor and KENS 5 Television.

F.2 Acknowledgment of 2026 calendar photo contest winners - "Rooted in Saving Water"

Mr. Ruiz acknowledged the 2026 calendar photo contest winners - "Rooted in Saving Water."

G. Consent Agenda**G.1 Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - October 14, 2025**

*Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - October 14, 2025*

- G.2** Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve amendments to Article X of the ByLaws of the Edwards Aquifer Authority pertaining to the EAA Investment Policy and Investment Strategy and designating investment officers.

Adopt Resolution and Order No. 11-25-134 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving amendments to Article X of the EAA Bylaws pertaining to the EAA Investment Policy and Investment Strategy and recommend the board reflect in the minutes that the named persons occupying the positions of Executive Director - Administration and Financial Services and Controller are the Investment Officers under Article X of the Bylaws.

Reflect in the minutes that the named persons occupying the positions of Executive Director - Administration and Financial Services and Controller are the Investment Officers under Article X of the Bylaws.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

- G.3** Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve purchase orders with Mario Mendez Electrical Services for EAA main office HVAC preventative maintenance, HVAC building automation system maintenance and an IT server room/office reconfiguration, in the total amount of \$87,331.

Adopt Resolution and Order No. 11-25-135 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors to approve purchase orders with Mario Mendez Electrical Services, for EAA main office HVAC preventative maintenance, HVAC building automation system maintenance, and an IT server room/office reconfiguration, in the total amount of \$87,331, and authorize the General Manager to execute the necessary documents.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

- G.4** Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve an engagement letter with RSM US, L.L.P., to provide independent audit services for fiscal year 2025, in the amount of \$82,000.

Approve an engagement letter with RSM US, L.L.P., to provide independent audit services for fiscal year 2025, in the amount of \$82,000.

- G.5** Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$10,750, for legal services for September 2025.

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$10,750, for legal services for September 2025.

- G.6 Consider recommendation from the Research & Technology Committee to approve a contract with the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma for Assessing the Capacity to Downscale Evapotranspiration Using Remotely Sensed Observations, in an amount not to exceed \$78,452.**

Approve Contract No. 25-021-AMS between the EAA and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma for Assessing the Capacity to Downscale Evapotranspiration Using Remotely Sensed Observations, in an amount not to exceed \$78,452, for the period November 13, 2025, April 30, 2026.

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

H. Individual Consideration

- H.4 Consider settlement counter-offer from the City of Lytle related to exceeding authorized groundwater withdrawals during 2024.**

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

Mr. Jorge Paramo, Sr. Regulatory Compliance Coordinator, briefed the board regarding the settlement counter-offer from the City of Lytle related to exceeding authorized groundwater withdrawals during 2024.

J. 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 1:21 p.m.

J.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 2:01 p.m.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, the board authorize the General Manager to continue to negotiate a settlement agreement with the City of Lytle for alleged over-pumping violations under the terms discussed in closed session. The motion passed without opposition.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, seconded by Secretary Sanborn, the board authorize the General Manager to execute a 15-year lease of 646.850 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer groundwater withdrawal rights from Sidney Clary, d.b.a. Clary Farms under the terms discussed in closed session. The motion passed without opposition.

H.1

Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve a contract with Texas State University for a Comal Springs Riffle Beetle Genetics Study, in the amount of \$73,790.

Dr. Chad Furl, Chief Science Officer - HCP EAA Projects, briefed the board regarding a contract with Texas State University for a Comal Springs Riffle Beetle Genetics Study.

A motion was made by Secretary Sanborn, seconded by Director Patterson, the board approve Contract No. 25-025-TES between the EAA and Texas State University, for a Comal Springs Riffle Beetle Genetics Study, in the amount of \$73,790, for the period November 13, 2025 through December 31, 2027 and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract. The motion passed without opposition.

- H.2 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2026 Funding Applications submitted by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (\$18,162,608), the City of New Braunfels (\$1,027,495), and the City of San Marcos/Texas State University (\$616,600).**

Mr. Damon Childs, Contract Administrator, briefed the board regarding approve the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2026 Funding Applications submitted by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (\$18,162,608), the City of New Braunfels (\$1,027,495), and the City of San Marcos/Texas State University (\$616,600).

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 11-25-136 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan FY2026 Program Funding Applications submitted by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, in an amount not to exceed \$18,162,608; the City of New Braunfels, in an amount not to exceed \$1,027,495; and the City of San Marcos/Texas State University, in an amount not to exceed \$616,600, for the purpose of implementing the Conservation Measures and Program Activities as required by the EAHCP, for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

- H.3 Receive report from EAA staff regarding the public hearing process and consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to adopt the annual operating budget and associated aquifer management fee and program aquifer management fee rates for fiscal year 2026.**

Ms. Shelly Hendrix, Director/Controller Financial Services, briefed the board regarding the public hearing process and consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to adopt the annual operating budget and associated aquifer management fee and program aquifer management fee rates for fiscal year 2026.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, seconded by Secretary Sanborn, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 11-25-137 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors adopting the annual operating budget for fiscal year 2026, as amended, and assessing the aquifer management fee and program aquifer management fee rates for 2026, as follows:

**Agricultural aquifer management fee (General Fund) -- \$2 per acre-foot
Non-agricultural aquifer management fee (General Fund) -- \$62 per acre-foot
Non-agricultural program aquifer management fee (EAHCP Fund) -- \$35 per acre-foot**

The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

I. Staff Reports

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

The board did not consider any recommendations.

L. Future Board Meeting Agendas

The board did not discuss future meeting agenda items.

M. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

*Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors*

*Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary*