



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, July 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: 15 - Director Steve Cargil, Director J Carnes, Director Deborah Carington, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Stuart Hansmann, Director Matthew Hoyt, 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: 2 - Director Maggie Hutchins 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. Erica Martinez was hired as a Groundwater Use Coordinator I for Water Resources.*
- *Mr. Jim Boenig, Director for Aquifer Sustainability, completed 10years of service with the EAA.*
- *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 May 2025.

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

E. Board Reports

E.1 Receive report regarding Aquifer Storage and Recovery and its activity in Texas.

Ms. Andrea Croskrey, P.G., Team Lead of the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program - Texas Water Development Board, briefed the board regarding Aquifer Storage and Recovery and its activity in Texas.

E.2 Receive report from the Carriage House Partners regarding the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature.

Mr. James Mathis, Carriage House Partners, briefed the board regarding the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature.

E.3 Receive report from EAA staff on the Five-Year Financial Forecast for fiscal years 2026-2030.

Ms. Shelly Hendrix, Director/Controller Financial Services, briefed the board regarding the Five-Year Financial Forecast for fiscal years 2026-2030.

F. Consent Agenda

**F.1 Approval of previous board meeting minutes
 - Regular Board Meeting - June 10, 2025**

*Approval of previous board meeting minutes
 - Regular Board Meeting - June 10, 2025*

F.2 Consider recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$37,763.16, for legal services for May 2025.

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$37,763.16, for legal services for May 2025.

A motion was made by Director Patterson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed without opposition.

G. Individual Consideration

G.1 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by Excelite Development Ventures LLC.

Mr. Paul Aton, Sr. Permit & Conservation Coordinator, briefed the board regarding a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by Excelite Development Ventures LLC.

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 Excelite Development Ventures LLC. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

G.2 Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve forbearance agreements with BNSF Railway Company and Barbara Jane Moore 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 \$61,637.11 and not to exceed \$244,265.59.

Mr. Javier Hernandez, Special Projects Liaison, briefed the board regarding forbearance agreements with BNSF Railway Company and Barbara Jane Moore 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. 07-25-127 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors to approve VISPO forbearance agreements for permitted Edwards groundwater rights between the EAA and: (1) BNSF Railway Company; and (2) Barbara Jane Moore in the total amount of not less than \$61,637.11 and not to exceed \$244,265.59, 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.]

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:

The board did not meet in closed session.

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)

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.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Rachel A. Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors

Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary