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

Edwards Aquifer Authority

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors

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

Tuesday, April 14, 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: 17 - Director Andres Campos, Director Steve Cargil, Director Deborah Carington, Director J Carnes, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Maggie Hutchins, Director Gary Middleton, Treasurer Byron Miller, Director Carol Patterson, Director Randall Perkins, Director Russell Persyn, Director Abe Salinas, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Chair Enrique Valdivia, Director Scott Yanta and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

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:

- Directors received a copy of the 2025 Edwards Aquifer Conservancy Report provided by Ms. Sara Beesley in accordance with the requirements of the EAA-EAC support agreement.
- We received recharge estimates from the USGS for the calendar year 2025 and the resulting 10-year rolling average. The total recharge for last year was estimated to be 461,000 ac-ft. The resulting 10-yr average was 464,610 ac-ft. Because this number was less than 500,000 acre feet, water enrolled for the purposes of aquifer storage and recovery under provisions of the HCP, would need to be forborne in 2027. This amounts to 50k acre feet of water controlled by the EAA either through lease agreements or ASR forbearance agreements.
- Staff met with Eric Algoe, Executive VP for Operations and Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Shreek Manayam, VP for Research of Texas State University. With respect to the rocket engine testing matter, we learned that there would be an additional environmental protection plan as well as a monitoring plan for the testing at the Freeman Ranch, and drafts of these plans were to be made public via their website. Also, because the research was funded, at least in part by federal grant monies, the project must comply with certain federal standards/requirements addressing protections and safety, among other requirements. The university also affirmed that while four outdoor tests each year were anticipated at the Freeman Ranch property, the majority of the research would occur within an enclosed chemistry lab environment elsewhere on campus. The outdoor tests would occur with static engine models not more than 24 inches in length, meaning there would not be any "launches" of rockets and therefore it was not anticipated that any material would leave the confines of the constructed concrete pad. With regard to any "plume" that may result from the testing, the contractor X-Bow was responsible for air quality permits that may be applicable but given the diminutive size of the engines to be tested it would seem dispersion of any chemical(s) should be quite limited. In summary, I noted to Texas State that we were not intending to get in their business, so to speak, but were merely trying to be responsive to concerns expressed to our board and spread amongst the public.
- Directors received a new iPad and accessories.
- Directors were reminded about the work session on May 14-15 and noted that more details would follow.
- The lobby area of the EAA office was in the process of being remodeled.
- Mr. Paul Bertetti, Sr. Director - Aquifer Science Research & Modeling, briefed the board on current aquifer conditions and provided a report on aquifer science and modeling.

D. Treasurer's Report

E. Board Reports

F. Consent Agenda

F.1 **Approval of previous board meeting minutes**

- Regular Board Meeting - March 10, 2026

F.2 **Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of $6,580, for legal services for February 2026.**

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

G. Individual Consideration

G.1 **Receive report from independent auditor, RSM US LLP, and consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to accept the audit report for the 12-month period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.**

Mr. Marc Sewell, RSM US LLP, briefed the board on the audit report for the 12-month period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Mr. Robert Williams, Robert J. Williams CPA, with the small business audit team was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Hoyt, the board accept the draft audit report as presented by independent auditor, RSM US LLP, for the 12-month fiscal period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

G.2 **Consider recommendation from the Research & Technology Committee to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with The University of Texas at Austin, in an amount not to exceed $165,299.43, for a historical climate variability study.**

Mr. Brent Doty, Research Manager, briefed the board regarding an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with The University of Texas at Austin for a historical climate variability study.

A motion was made by Director Patterson, seconded by Director Hutchins, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 04-26-141 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Contract No. 26-007-AMS between the EAA and the University of Texas at Austin, in an amount not to exceed $165,299.43, upon signature by both parties, through December 31, 2027. 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 with The University of Texas at San Antonio, in an amount not to exceed $232,943.00, for a metagenomic approach to monitoring water within the contributing zone of the Edwards Aquifer.**

Mr. Doty briefed the board regarding an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with The University of Texas at San Antonio for a metagenomic approach to monitoring water within the contributing zone of the Edwards Aquifer.

A motion was made by Director Patterson , seconded by Director Carington, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 04-26-142 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Contract No. 26-001-AMS between the EAA and the University of Texas at San Antonio, in an amount not to exceed $232,943.00, upon signature by both parties, through December 31, 2027. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

G.4 **Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Texas A&M University AgriLife Research, in an amount not to exceed $1,248,500.00, for a land management and recharge study.**

Mr. Doty briefed the board regarding an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Texas A&M University AgriLife Research for a land management and recharge study.

A motion was made by Director Patterson, seconded by Director Perkins, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 04-26-143 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Contract No. 26-009-AMS between the EAA and the Texas A&M University AgriLife Research, in an amount not to exceed $1,248,500.00, upon signature by both parties, through December 31, 2031. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

G.5 **Consider recommendation from the Permits/Enforcement Committee to approve a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by EDMRGE Farms 1, Ltd.**

Mr. Tamauj Thomas, Sr. Permit & Conservation Coordinator, briefed the board regarding a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by EDMRGE Farms 1, Ltd.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Cargil, the board adopt a Final Order Granting Application to Convert Base Irrigation Groundwater to Unrestricted Irrigation Groundwater based on the installation of water conservation equipment submitted by EDMRGE Farms 1, Ltd. Director Yanta abstained from the vote on the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

G.6 **Consider recommendation from the Permits/Enforcement Committee to approve a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by Mr. Scott Yanta and Mrs. Kimberly Cole Yanta.**

Mr. Thomas briefed the board regarding a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by Mr. Scott Yanta and Mrs. Kimberly Cole Yanta.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Cargil, the board adopt a Final Order Granting Application to Convert Base Irrigation Groundwater to Unrestricted Irrigation Groundwater based on the installation of water conservation equipment submitted by Mr. Scott Yanta and Mrs. Kimberly Cole Yanta. Director Yanta abstained from the vote on the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

H. Staff Reports

H.1 **Receive report from EAA staff on settlement guidelines regarding groundwater use regulations.**

Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, briefed the board regarding discussions on the EAA's settlement approaches for exceeding annual authorized groundwater withdrawal amounts ("over pump"), including an analysis of a potential "tiered" approach to settlement offers for overpumping.

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 2:30 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 2:44 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, seconded by Director Hoyt, the board authorize the General Manager to approve an amendment to the Classen-Steubing Ranch Conservation Easement to accommodate the landowner's request to allow for the negotiated location of a natural gas pipeline and associated utility easement. The motion passed without opposition.

K. Future Board Meeting Agendas

The board did not discuss future agenda items.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

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Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors

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Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary