



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*

Friday, May 16, 2025

8:30 AM

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort & Spa

A. Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Valdivia called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Present: 13 - Director Deborah Carington, Director Rader Gilleland, Director Stuart Hansmann, Director Matthew Hoyt, Director Maggie Hutchins, Treasurer Byron Miller, Director Carol Patterson, Director Randall Perkins, Director Russell Persyn, Director Abe Salinas, Secretary Rachel Sanborn, Chair Enrique Valdivia and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

Absent: 4 - Director Steve Cargil, Director J Carnes, Director Gary Middleton and Director Scott Yanta

B. Public Comment

There were no citizens who requested to address the board.

C. Discuss the state of the EAA Mission.

Dr. Richard Lewis, Round Top Consulting Associates, welcomed directors and introduced his staff, Ms. Joanne Ford-Robertson and Ms. Ashley Moreno, to the board.

Ms. Ford-Robertson led the board in an icebreaker exercise.

Dr. Lewis led the board in a discussion regarding the State of the EAA mission, what it looks like today and a review of general operations at the present time versus previously.

Chairman Valdivia recessed the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Chairman Valdivia reconvened the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

D. Review the three pillars of the EAA Mission: Manage, Enhance, and Protect.

Mr. Ruiz led the discussion of the review of the three pillars of the EAA Mission: Manage, Enhance, and Protect.

Mr. Lawrence Jackson, Executive Director - External & Regulatory Affairs, discussed protection with the board which included enforcement and permitting.

Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, provided additional comments and answered questions from the board.

Mr. Mark Hamilton, Executive Director - Aquifer Management Services, discussed enhancement with the board which included aquifer science research initiatives, modeling, technical support of the EAHCP, and watershed initiatives.

Mr. Mike De La Garza, Executive Director - Communications & Development, discussed enhancement with the board regarding the public understanding of the EAA mission and utilizing the Education Outreach Center and Field Research Park.

Mr. Jackson briefed the board regarding abandoned wells within the EAA jurisdiction.

Chairman Valdivia recessed the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Chairman Valdivia reconvened the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

E. Recap of the morning session.

A morning recap was provided by Dr. Lewis.

F. Looking Ahead: Determine the key challenges to the EAA Mission moving forward.

Mr. Hamilton briefed the board regarding climate change and the aquifer, recurring droughts, population growth, and general water scarcity.

Mr. Ruiz answered questions and provided additional comments.

Chairman Valdivia recessed the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Chairman Valdivia reconvened the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

G. Review the next Habitat Conservation Plan. Relate it to the EAA Mission pillars of Manage, Enhance, and Protect.

Mr. Scott Stormont, Executive Director - Threatened & Endangered Species, briefed the board regarding the current Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) and the permit renewal.

Dr. Chad Furl, Chief Science Officer - HCP EAA Projects, briefed the board regarding the research component of the EAHCP.

Mr. Ruiz provided additional comments on the EAHCP.

Mr. Friberg briefed the board regarding the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option and the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Forbearance Program in support of the EAHCP.

H. Next Generation. Discuss what manage, enhance, and protect means as the EAA faces a challenging future.

Mr. Ruiz led a discussion with the board regarding the Next Generation vision statement and guiding principles.

I. Session wrap-up and identification of the next steps.

Dr. Lewis provided a session wrap-up and led the board in a discussion of next steps.

Chairman Valdivia provided closing remarks.

J. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

*Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors*

*Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary*