



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, September 9, 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: 16 - Director Steve Cargil, Director J Carnes, Director Deborah Carington, 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, Director Abe Salinas, Chair Enrique Valdivia, Director Scott Yanta and Vice Chair Ben Youngblood

Absent: 1 - Secretary Rachel Sanborn

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. Charles (Chuck) Crawford, Data Collection Supervisor, completed five years of service with the EAA.*
- *Because the regular board meeting day in November falls on a holiday, Veteran's Day, staff recommends moving the meeting to Wednesday, November 12. This recommendation would be considered by the Executive Committee as they consider the agenda for that meeting.*
- *The special session of the Texas Legislature was adjourned on September 4. There was nothing significant to report in terms of legislation affecting the EAA. Staff had to play defense to prevent unintended consequences of some proposed legislation that ended up not happening, but otherwise the session was a success for us.*
- *On September 27, the EAA would be hosting the 2nd annual Rooted in Texas Drive-Thru Plant Pick-up at EAA headquarters. Free native plants and goodies would be given away to help promote sustainable gardening in our community.*
- *The EAA Summit has been scheduled for October 23 at the Education Outreach Center.*
- *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 July 2025.

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

E. Board Reports**E.1**

Receive report from Director Gary Middleton, South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee (SCTWAC) representative to the board, regarding downstream water conditions of the Guadalupe River Basin and current activities and issues of interest to SCTWAC.

Director Middleton briefed the board regarding downstream water conditions of the Guadalupe River Basin and noted that it was still dry in the region, river flow was low, but steady, and it was still hot.

E.2 Receive report from EAA staff on the General Manager's 2026 Proposed Operating Budget.

Ms. Shelly Hendrix, Director/Controller Financial Services, briefed the board regarding the General Manager's 2026 Proposed Operating Budget.

F. Consent Agenda

**F.1 Approval of previous board meeting minutes
 - Regular Board Meeting - August 12, 2025**

*Approval of previous board meeting minutes
 - Regular Board Meeting - August 12, 2025*

F.2 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve the renewal of interlocal cooperation contracts with the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for property, casualty, cyber liability and data breach response, and workers' compensation insurance, in the total amount of \$160,215, for the period of October 1, 2025 through October 1, 2026.

Adopt Resolution and Order No. 09-25-130 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving the renewal of interlocal cooperation contracts with the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for property, casualty, cyber liability and data breach response, and for workers' compensation insurance, in the total amount of \$160,215, for the period October 1, 2025 through October 1, 2026, and authorize the General Manager to take any necessary steps to execute and renew the contracts.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

F.3 Consider recommendation from the Finance/Administrative Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$7,207.46, for legal services for July 2025.

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of \$7,207.46, for legal services for July 2025.

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

G. Individual Consideration

G.1 Consider settlement counter-offer from the Army Retirement Residence Supporting Foundation related to exceeding authorized groundwater withdrawals during 2024.

Mr. Jorge Paramo, Sr. Regulatory Compliance Coordinator, briefed the board regarding the settlement counter-offer from the Army Retirement Residence Supporting Foundation related to exceeding authorized groundwater withdrawals during 2024.

Mr. James DeBorja, Director of Facilities - Army Retirement Residence Supporting Foundation, addressed the board regarding the enforcement matter and answered questions.

A motion was made by Director Gilleland, seconded by Director Carington, to accept the counter-offer as proposed regarding the pending enforcement matter. Director Hoyt and Director Hutchins objected to the motion. Director Perkins abstained from the vote on the motion. The motion passed viva voce.

G.2 Consider settlement counter-offer from the City of Lytle related to exceeding authorized groundwater withdrawals during 2024.

Mr. Paramo briefed the board regarding the settlement counter-offer from the City of Lytle related to exceeding authorized groundwater withdrawals during 2024.

Mr. Ruben Gonzalez, Mayor - City of Lytle, and Mr. Zachary Meadows, City Administrator - City of Lytle, addressed the board regarding the enforcement matter and answered questions.

A motion was made by Director Hoyt, seconded by Director Yanta, to send this item back to the Permits/Enforcement Committee for consideration. The motion passed without opposition.

G.3 Consider recommendation from the Research & Technology Committee to approve a contract with Southwest Research Institute, for development of a hydrologic model to estimate recharge, in an amount not to exceed \$725,040.

Mr. Bertetti briefed the board regarding a contract with Southwest Research Institute, for development of a hydrologic model to estimate recharge.

A motion was made by Director Patterson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Youngblood, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 09-25-131 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors authorizing approval of Contract No. 25-018-AMS between the EAA and Southwest Research Institute, for the development of a hydrologic model to estimate recharge, in an amount not to exceed \$725,040 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 the Research & Technology Committee to approve a contract with BIO-WEST, Inc., for the Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle Monitoring Study, in the amount of \$107,897.**

Mr. Damon Childs, Contract Administrator, briefed the board regarding a contract with BIO-WEST, Inc., for the Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle Monitoring Study.

A motion was made by Director Patterson, seconded by Director Yanta, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 09-25-132 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Contract No. 25-019-TES between the EAA and BIO-WEST, Inc., for the Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle Monitoring Study, in the amount of \$107,897, for the period October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. 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 forbearance agreement with Hedwig Eben Hardie 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 \$1,782.00 and not to exceed \$7,062.00.**

Mr. Javier Hernandez, Special Projects Liaison, briefed the board regarding a forbearance agreement with Hedwig Eben Hardie 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 Cargil, the board approve a VISPO forbearance agreement for permitted Edwards groundwater rights between the EAA and Hedwig Eben Hardie in the total amount of not less than \$1,782.00 and not to exceed \$7,062.00, for the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option in support of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, and authorizing the General Manager to execute the Agreement. The motion passed without opposition.

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:

Chairman Valdivia closed the meeting to the public at 2:16 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 4:22 p.m.

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 agenda items.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:23

Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors

Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary