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 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: 15 - Director Andres Campos, Director Steve Cargil, Director Deborah Carington, Director J Carnes, 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 and Director Scott Yanta

Absent: 2 - Director Rader Gilleland 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:

- Ms. Kristina Tolman, Senior Habitat Conservation Program Coordinator, completed 10 years of service with the EAA.
- Regarding data center development across the state, and for clarification from an EAA perspective, all data center water use, within the EAA jurisdiction, would be monitored and regulated through the existing permitting system. Water use would be subject to all applicable reporting requirements and critical period management reductions as it would be with any other permit within our jurisdiction. There are distinctions to be made between statewide data center impacts and those within the EAA jurisdiction.
- In the October to November time frame, staff would be presenting the legislative priority agenda to the board for consideration and approval for the next legislative session. The session promises to be heavy water oriented.
- Mr. Paul Bertetti, Sr. Director - Aquifer Science Research & Modeling, briefed the board on current aquifer conditions.

D. Treasurer's Report

E. Board Reports

E.1 **Receive report from EAA staff on the Five-Year Financial Forecast for fiscal years 2027-2031.**

Ms. Shelly Hendrix, Director/Controller Financial Services, briefed the board regarding the Five-Year Financial Forecast for fiscal years 2027-2031.

E.2 **Receive report from EAA staff and take possible action on a Financial Assistance Application for Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant to the Texas Water Development Board.**

Mr. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, briefed the board regarding a report on a Financial Assistance Application for Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant to the Texas Water Development Board.

F. Consent Agenda

F.1 **Approval of previous board meeting minutes**
- Regular Board Meeting - June 9, 2026

Approval of previous board meeting minutes
- Regular Board Meeting - June 9, 2026

F.2 **Consider recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of $3,050, for legal services for May 2026.**

Approve payment to Kemp Smith, in the amount of $3,050, for legal services for May 2026.

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 recommendation from EAA staff to approve forbearance agreements with Carpenter Land and Cattle Company I, Inc.; Robert M. Hendry; and Amy Wolff Hendry and Tina Marie Weynand Mumme 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 $447,077.56 and not to exceed $1,771,751.80.**

Mr. Javier Hernandez, Special Projects Liaison, briefed the board regarding forbearance agreements with Carpenter Land and Cattle Company I, Inc.; Robert M. Hendry; and Amy Wolff Hendry and Tina Marie Weynand Mumme 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 Yanta, seconded by Director Patterson, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 07-26-150 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors to approve VISPO forbearance agreements for permitted Edwards groundwater rights between the EAA and Carpenter Land and Cattle Company I, Inc.; Robert M. Hendry; and Amy Wolff Hendry and Tina Marie Weynand Mumme in the total amount of not less than $447,077.56 and not to exceed $1,771,751.80 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.]

G.2 **Consider recommendation from EAA staff to approve water conservation grant contracts with: Thomas Ekbaum & Gretel Seidel Ekbaum; K&L Farms Legacy; Wilde Family Farms, LTD; and Rodney Carl Hitzfelder for a total amount of $192,034.14.**

Mr. Lawrence Jackson, Executive Director - External & Regulatory Affairs, briefed the board regarding water conservation grant contracts with: Thomas Ekbaum & Gretel Seidel Ekbaum; K&L Farms Legacy; Wilde Family Farms, LTD; and Rodney Carl Hitzfelder.

A motion was made by Director Carington, seconded by Director Yanta, the board approve water conservation grant contracts with: Thomas Ekbaum & Gretel Seidel Ekbaum ($53,178.04); K&L Farms Legacy ($57,500.00); Wilde Family Farms, LTD ($33,178.05); and Rodney Carl Hitzfelder ($48,178.05) and authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute the contracts. The motion passed without opposition.

G.3 **Consider recommendation from EAA staff calling for the election of nine voting members to the EAA Board of Directors from nine single-member districts within the boundaries of the EAA to be held on November 3, 2026.**

Mr. Friberg briefed the board regarding the election of nine voting members to the EAA Board of Directors from nine single-member districts within the boundaries of the EAA to be held on November 3, 2026.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Campos, the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 07-26-151 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors calling for the election of nine voting members to the EAA Board of Directors from nine single-member districts within the boundaries of the EAA to be held on November 3, 2026, and providing for matters related to the holding of said election in accordance with applicable law. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

H. Staff Reports

H.1 **Receive report from the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy Executive Director regarding recent and upcoming activities and related program updates.**

Ms. Sara Beesley, Chief Development Officer, briefed the board regarding recent and upcoming activities and related program updates for the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy.

H.2 **Receive report from EAA staff regarding activities related to renewal efforts of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan.**

Mr. Scott Storment, Executive Director - Threatened & Endangered Species, briefed the board regarding activities related to renewal efforts of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan.

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 1:59 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 2:18 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Secretary Sanborn, seconded by Director Campos, the board authorize the General Manager to: (1) amend the VISPO agreement with Frank Verstraeten to reduce the enrolled amount of groundwater withdrawal rights from 71.9 acre-feet to 21.9 acre-feet; and (2) enter into a 15-year lease with Frank Verstraeten for the remaining 50 acre-feet under the terms discussed in closed session. The motion passed without opposition.

A motion was made by Secretary Sanborn, seconded by Director Campos, the board authorize the General Manager to enter into a 10-year lease for 600 acre-feet of groundwater withdrawal rights with T-Slash Bar Texas, Ltd. under the terms discussed in closed session. The motion passed without opposition.

A motion was made by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director Campos, the board approve Resolution and Order No. 07-26-152 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors Authorizing the Submission of an Application to the Texas Water Development Board for the Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant and authorize the submittal of TWDB Application Form TWDB-0201A as part of the application process. The motion passed without opposition.

[Attached and made a part of these minutes.]

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 2:21 p.m.

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Rachel Sanborn
Secretary, Board of Directors

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Jennifer Wong-Esparza
Assistant to Board Secretary