

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes**

**June 12, 2025**

**Board members present at commencement:** Blayne Stansberry, Jon Cradit, Lily Lucas, and Christy Williams joined virtually.

**Staff present:** Tim Loftus, Erin Swanson, Jacob Newton, Jeff Watson, Bri Moore, Justin Camp, Shay Hlavaty, and Hannah Riggs.

These minutes represent a summarized version of the meeting; the complete discussion of the following items is recorded digitally.

**Note:** The Board of Directors of the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed on this agenda, as authorized by the Texas Government Code Sections §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), 551.087 (Economic Development) 418.183 (Homeland Security). No final action or decision will be made in Executive Session.

**1. Call to Order.**

Vice President Stansberry called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

**2. Citizen Communications (Public Comments of a General Nature).**

Representatives from Rolling Oaks Club were in attendance. They Commented on their permit, which covers the pool and clubhouse. They expressed support for the recent changes implemented by the District, acknowledging the importance of water conservation. However, they noted challenges with monthly usage limits, as their total annual use remains within their permitted volume, but monthly fluctuations can result in overages and fines. They indicated that, under the new framework, their only practical option may be to request an increase in their permitted volume.

**3. Consent Agenda.** *(Note: These items may be considered and approved as one motion. Directors or citizens may request any consent item be removed from the consent agenda, for consideration and possible approval as a separate item of Regular Business on this agenda.)*

- a. **Approval of Financial Reports under the Public Funds Investment Act, Directors' Compensation Claims, Specified Expenditures greater than \$5,000.**
- b. **Approval of minutes of the Board's March 13, 2025, Regular Meeting.**

There were no questions or comments on any item in the Consent Agenda.

Director Lucas moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Cradit seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

#### **4. General Manager's Report. Discussion and possible action.**

##### **Topics**

##### **a. Review of key team activities/projects.**

Dr. Loftus called attention to the Status Report and Team Summaries prepared by Staff in the Board Back-Up materials.

##### **b. Trinity Sustainable Yield.**

Dr. Loftus reported that the committee is scheduled to meet on June 18th to resume previous discussions and review a study proposal from one of the District's consultants regarding the delineation of a potential GMZ. This effort is a natural progression from the recently completed Well Impact Analysis. Additionally, Bri is supporting the Phase II TAS model effort, which is currently focused on recalibrating the model to produce more defensible outputs. Extra staff resources are being allocated to the in-house modeling work led by Jeff.

##### **c. Public Funds Investment Act**

Dr. Loftus updated that he completed the required four hours of annual training under the Public Funds Investment Act to maintain compliance in his role as the District's Investment Officer. This training, which must be provided by a qualified professional source, was made available through TAGD.

##### **d. Antioch Cave Operations House**

Dr. Loftus stated that Staff is working with Brad Neighbor and the property owner to acquire a small portion of land, as discussed in the previous meeting. A meeting is also scheduled with the City of Buda to discuss road access, and a land survey is being arranged. The property owner has proposed a land trade; however, the District is not interested in pursuing that option.

##### **e. Aquifer status update.**

Justin Camp provided the drought update. He reported that in May 2025, Central Texas saw above-average rainfall and severe weather, including a storm that dropped up to 3 inches of rain. However, most of it fell outside key recharge zones, offering limited benefit to aquifers. Barton Springs flow and groundwater levels remain critically low, hovering near Stage IV drought thresholds. The Trinity Aquifer also continued to decline. Despite a slight increase in Highland Lakes storage, sustained rainfall is still needed, and the District remains in Stage III Critical Drought.

##### **f. Upcoming events of possible interest.**

Dr. Loftus called attention to several events of possible interest.

## **5. Discussion and possible action.**

### **a. Discussion and possible action related to proposed amendments to District Rules: 2-1. Definition of Terms; 3-1.18. Emergency Approvals; 3-1.20 General Permits by Rule; 3-1.23 Maximum Allowable Withdrawals for Management Zones; 3-1.24. Conditional Production Permits; 3-3.7. Proscribed Water Use During Declared Droughts; 3-7.3. Drought Stages and Triggers; 3-7.5. User Drought Contingency Plans; 3-7.6. Permittee Responsibilities; 3-7.7. District Action; and 3-7.10. Enforcement/Penalties During Drought;**

Erin Swanson and Shay Hlavaty presented proposed updates to District rules focused on improving clarity and consistency in drought-related terminology and communications. Key changes include renaming drought stages using numbers instead of Roman numerals (e.g., Stage 1 instead of Stage I) and consolidating the terms “No Drought Status” and “Water Conservation Period” under a single term: Water Conservation Period.

The presentation also recommended lowering the thresholds for excessive water use during drought stages to align with updated User Drought Contingency Plans (UDCPs), and standardizing the use of the word “percent” throughout the rules. Outdated references and monitoring well language were updated for accuracy. Additionally, a correction was proposed to Rule 3-1.24 to ensure that permit amendments exceeding 2 million gallons from the Edwards Aquifer are properly classified as Class C permits, correcting a prior inconsistency believed to be a typo.

Director Lucas moved to set a Public Hearing on August 14, 2025, to discuss the proposed Rules changes. Director Cradit seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

### **b. Discussion and possible action related to the performance and compliance of District permittees with their User Drought Contingency Plan curtailments.**

Jacob Newton presented the UDCP, updated through May.

#### **a. Discussion and possible action related to proposed amendments to District Rules...**

Vice President Stansberry reopened Item 5a to allow Director Cradit to ask additional questions. Director Cradit raised a concern about the definition of an “abandoned well,” noting that the current language could be interpreted to include any well not registered with the District, rather than specifically older, unused wells. There was also discussion about the lack of definitions for “transition zone” and “contributing zone.”

The definition of “impervious cover” was also discussed. While some cities consider brick to be pervious, the District’s rules define brick as impervious. Staff noted that the current definition is appropriate for the way the District uses the term.

Director Lucas moved to amend the motion to schedule a Public Hearing to incorporate Staff’s update to the definition of “abandoned well.” Director Jon Cradit seconded the amendment. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

**c. Discussion and possible action on preliminary FY 26 budget.**

Dr. Loftus presented the proposed FY 26 budget, highlighting key points. Total income is projected to increase by 1.3%. The increase in salaries and wages is primarily due to the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Team expenditures vary, with some increasing and others decreasing, resulting in an overall 9% decrease. Operational expenses are down by 3%. Professional and legal expenses have been reorganized.

Director Lucas motioned to schedule a Public Hearing on August 14, 2025. Director Cradit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**d. Discussion and possible action on Report of Investigation and Notice of Alleged Violation for resolving and enforcement proceeding concerning Aqua Texas, Oak Creek Meadows failure to reduce pumping during District -declared drought.**

Erin Swanson presented an enforcement case regarding Aqua Texas Inc.'s Onion Creek Meadows system for overpumpage violations in December 2024 and April 2025. After reviewing the non-compliance history and applicable enforcement criteria, staff recommended a mid-range penalty of \$10,200 based on the permit size, level of overuse, and drought conditions at the time.

At 6:27 p.m., the Board Vice President announced that the Board would recess into a closed executive session under Section 551.071, Government Code, for consultation regarding attorney-client matters.

At 6:38 p.m., the Board Vice President announced board was reconvening in an open public session. No further action was taken by the Board.

Director Lucas motioned to move forward with the penalty amount Staff recommended. Secretary Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**e. Discussion and possible action related to drought declaration or authorizing GM to declare the next stage of drought.**

Dr. Loftus updated that it is likely that we could enter Stage IV drought before the next Board Meeting.

Director Lucas moved to authorize the GM to declare the next stage of drought. Director Cradit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**f. Discussion and possible action related to the 89th Texas Legislative Session.**

**6. Director Review of the performance of the General Manager: GM Quarterly Report: FY 25, 3rd qtr. (March through May)**

Vice President Stansberry opened Items 5f and 6 concurrently for discussion.

At 6:40 p.m., the Board Vice President announced that the Board would recess into a closed executive session under Section 551.071, Government Code, for consultation regarding attorney-client matters.

At 7:20 p.m., the Board Vice President announced board was reconvening in an open public session. No further action was taken by the Board.

## 8. **Director Reports.**

Directors may report on their involvement in activities and dialogue that are of likely interest to the Board, in one or more of the following topical areas:

- Meetings and conferences attended or that will be attended;
- Board committee updates;
- Conversations with public officials, permittees, stakeholders, and other constituents;
- Commendations; and
- Issues or problems of concern.

During Director Reports, Director Williams noted that the EPA was facing budget cuts.

## 9. **Adjournment.**

With no objection, Vice President Stansberry adjourned the meeting at 7:21pm.

Approved by the Board on July 10, 2025.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Blayne Stansberry, Board Vice President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christy Williams, Board Secretary