

Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 13, 2025

Board members present at commencement: Blayne Stansberry, Christy Williams, Jon Cradit, and Lily Lucas who arrived at 5:02pm. Staff present included: Tim Loftus, Erin Swanson, Jacob Newton, Justin Camp, Jeff Watson, Bri Moore, 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 5:00pm.

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

There were no public comments at this time.

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 January 9, 2025, Regular Meeting.**

Director Lucas arrived during the discussion of the Financial Reports.

There were no questions or comments on the Financial Reports, invoices over \$5,000, or the previous meeting minutes.

Secretary Williams moved to approve the financial reports, the three invoices over \$5,000, and the January 9, 2025, minutes. Director Lucas seconded the motion. The motion 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. Update on NOAV and proposed Agreed Order with Aqua Texas, Bliss Spillar Lower Trinity

Dr. Loftus reported that Aqua Texas has opted not to enter into an agreed order and has instead submitted payment for the full penalty. As a result, any future over-pumping within this system will require Board review.

c. Teambuilding workshops: Feb. 19 and 3rd qtr.

Dr. Loftus noted that staff will be participating in a retreat on February 19th, which will include a two-hour Cultural Competency workshop led by Austin Alliance Group, followed by lunch, an all-staff meeting, and a group activity outside of the office. He noted that the office will close at 2 p.m.

d. Trinity Sustainable Yield.

Dr. Loftus provided an update on a meeting scheduled for the 20th to discuss the results of the Well Impact Analysis and determine the next steps for utilizing that information moving forward.

Dr. Loftus also provided an update on the RFQ for modeling support, stating that proposals are currently being reviewed, and an update will be provided at the next meeting. Additionally, a no-cost extension was granted to LRE Water to complete Phase 2 of the database. The new recording technology has been implemented, and further discussions will take place regarding additional implementation strategies.

e. Aquifer status update.

Justin Camp provided the drought update, reporting that January rainfall was below average, while February's rainfall has so far aligned with expected levels for the month. Lovelady remains half a foot above the Stage 4 threshold. The 10-day average for Barton Springs is approximately 19 cfs, though the most recent measurement was postponed due to rainfall. The Trinity Aquifer continues its steady decline, and while Jacob's Well showed a brief response to recent rainfall, it has since dropped back down.

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 authorizing GM to declare the next stage of drought.

This item was tabled as it was determined that granting the General Manager the authority to declare the next stage of drought before the next Board meeting was unnecessary.

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

Jacob Newton went through the UDCP.

c. Discussion and possible action related to authorizing publication of draft amendments to the District Rules and setting a rulemaking hearing relating to amending the aquifer-test requirement tiers as reflected in the Guidelines for Hydrogeologic Reports and Aquifer Testing, and related District Rules: 3-1.4, 3-1.6, 3-1.9, 3-1.24, and 3-1.25.

Jeff Watson presented the scientific reasoning behind the proposed changes, while Erin Swanson outlined the specific rule modifications. Board members provided several suggestions for revisions to be incorporated before the Public Hearing. These included changing the term “tiers” to “anticipated production volume,” ensuring the correct terminology is used (e.g., monitor well vs. observation well), updating tables to clearly distinguish between Trinity and Edwards rules, and refining the language in Rule 3-1.9 to ensure minor permit amendments align with the new aquifer testing cutoffs.

Director Lucas motioned to set the Public Hearing for the proposed rule changes for April 10, 2025. Director Cradit seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

d. Discussion and possible action on approval of the draft FY 24 HCP/ITP report prepared for U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Justin Camp presented on the HCP/ITP report, providing background on the permit and the purpose of the annual report. He reviewed the overall health of the aquifer and explained the annual take, leading to a discussion on its implications.

Secretary Williams motioned to approve the HCP/ITP report. Director Lucas seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

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

At 6:38 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 7:35 p.m., the Board Vice President announced board was reconvening in an open public session.

6. 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.

No updates were reported.

7. Adjournment.

With no objection, Vice President Stansberry adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

Approved by the Board on March 13, 2025.

By: _____
Vanessa Puig-Williams, Board President

Attest: _____
Christy Williams, Board Secretary