

Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting and Public Hearing
April 10, 2025

Board members present at commencement: Vanessa Puig-Williams, Blayne Stansberry, Jon Cradit, and Lily Lucas. Christy Williams joined virtually at 5:01pm. **Staff present:** Tim Loftus, Erin Swanson, Jacob Newton, Jeff Watson, Bri Moore, Justin Camp 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.

President Puig-Williams 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.

Secretary Williams joined the meeting virtually.

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.**

President Puig-Williams reported discussing with General Counsel Brian Sledge the possibility of streamlining the consent agenda, allowing for all items to be approved collectively unless a Board member or the General Manager requests discussion on a specific item.

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

Vice President Stansberry moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Lucas seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

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 Trinity Sustainable Yield Committee is scheduled to meet the following week. He also noted that the Lower Trinity Aquifer Study launched last week, with preliminary results expected in December.

c. Aqua Texas, Sierra West minor amendment

Dr. Loftus approved a minor amendment allowing use of the well previously approved in June 2024. No additional production was requested as part of this amendment.

d. Staff professional development activity

Dr. Loftus provided an update on staff professional development activities. Justin Camp and Jeff Watson attended the 2025 GSA South Central Section Meeting in Arkansas. Jacob Newton earned a certification from Princeton Groundwater, and Bri Moore completed an ESRI certification. Erin Swanson submitted an application to the Texas Water Leaders Program. Shay Hlavaty attended a meeting of the American Meteorological Society chapter, where Jeff Watson delivered a presentation.

e. Aquifer status update.

Justin Camp provided the drought update. He reported that the District remains in Stage III Critical Drought. March rainfall was below average, but late-month precipitation helped maintain current drought status. Barton Springs flow has increased slightly, while the Lovelady well remains just above the Stage IV threshold. Without additional rainfall, Stage IV could be triggered by mid-May.

f. Upcoming events of possible interest.

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

5. Discussion and possible action.

a. Public hearing, discussion, and possible action related to proposed amendments to District Rules: 3-1.4 – Application for Registration, Production Permits, Source and Recovery Permits, Transport Permits, Well Plugging, Well Development, Well Drilling, or Well Modifications Authorization; 3-1.6 – Action on Permits; 3-1.9 – Permit Amendments; 3-1.24 – Conditional Production Permits; and 3-1.25 – Variance Requests: General; including consideration and adoption of amendments to the rules and the related Guidelines for Hydrologic Reports and Aquifer Testing. .

President Puig-Williams opened the Public Hearing at 5:15pm.

Jeff Watson and Erin Swanson presented the proposed rule changes. There were no questions or comments from the Board or the public.

The Public Hearing concluded at 5:28pm.

Director Lucas moved to approve the proposed rule changes. Director Cradit seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

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 March.

c. Discussion and possible action on a Conditional Edwards Class C, Individual Production Permit (IPP) application by Prominence Midtown, LP for residential, common-area irrigation. The IPP application is for 550,000 gallons per year from state well no. 58-50-201 located at 30.130971, - 97.473641 on the property at 5107 Menchaca Road, Austin, Texas

Erin Swanson presented the Production Permit Application for Prominence Midtown, LP, a request for a Class C Conditional Edwards permit to support irrigation for the Grove Place development. Bruce Johnson from Prominence Midtown, in attendance. The project includes 12 homes, common areas, and seven rain gardens. The total annual water demand is estimated at 550,000 gallons. Conservation measures outlined in the application include native plantings, artificial turf, and submitted User Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans. Staff recommended approval of the application, noting that it meets relevant District rules and does not exceed available Edwards Aquifer withdrawal limits under the Habitat Conservation Plan.

At 5:41 p.m., the Board 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 5:56 p.m., the Board President announced the Board was reconvening in an open public session and that no decisions or actions were taken while in executive session.

Director Lucas moved to approve the Production Permit Application for Prominence Midtown, LP. Director Cradit seconded the motion, and it passed 4-1 with Vice President Stansberry opposed.

d. Discussion and possible action on FY25 budget amendment.

Dr. Loftus reviewed the proposed budget amendments.

Vice President Stansberry moved to approve the amendments. Director Lucas seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

e. Discussion and possible action related to drought declaration or 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.

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

At 6:01 p.m., the Board 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 6:35 p.m., the Board President announced the Board was reconvening in an open public session and that no decisions or actions were taken while in executive session.

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.

No updates were reported.

9. Adjournment.

With no objection, President Puig-Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:36pm.

Approved by the Board on May 8, 2025.

By: _____
Vanessa Puig-Williams, Board President

Attest: _____
Christy Williams, Board Secretary