

## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

Notice is given that a **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Directors of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District will be held at the **District office**, located at 1124 Regal Row, Austin, Texas, on **Thursday, May 24, 2018**, commencing at **6:00 p.m.** for the following purposes, which may be taken in any order at the discretion of the Board.

Note: The Board of Directors of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District reserves the right to meet in 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.**
2. **Citizen Communications (Public Comments of a General Nature).**
3. **Routine Business.**
  - a. **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.)*
    1. Approval of Financial Reports under the Public Funds Investment Act, Directors' Compensation Claims, and Specified Expenditures greater than \$5,000. **NBU**
    2. Approval of minutes of the Board's May 10, 2018, Regular Meeting. **Not for public review at this time**
    3. Approval of promotions of two staff members to Senior level employees. **NBU**
  - b. **General Manager's Report.** *(Note: Topics discussed in the General Manager's Report are intended for general administrative and operational information-transfer purposes. The Directors will not take any action unless the topic is specifically listed elsewhere in this agenda for consideration.)*
    1. **Standing Topics.**
      - i. Personnel matters and utilization
      - ii. Upcoming public events of possible interest
      - iii. Aquifer conditions and status of drought indicators
    2. **Special Topics.** *(Note: Individual topics listed below may be discussed by the Board in this meeting, but no action will be taken unless a topic is specifically posted elsewhere in this agenda as an item for possible action. A Director may request an individual topic that is presented only under this agenda item be placed on the posted agenda of some future meeting for Board discussion and possible action.)*

- i. Update on regulatory and enforcement activities
- ii. Update on HCP and ITP status
- iii. Update on certain projects and activities of individual teams and of Board committees.

**4. Award Presentations.**

- a. Recognition of the winners of the scholarships to the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center's Aquatic Science Adventure Camp at Texas State University-San Marcos. **Pg. 9**
- b. Recognition of the winner of the District's essay contest and the Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship College Scholarship. **Pg. 15**

**5. Discussion and Possible Action.**

- a. Discussion and possible action related to approving an Interlocal Funding Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Travis County for conducting hydrogeologic studies and education and outreach support in southwestern Travis County. **NBU**
- b. Discussion and possible action related to approving certain changes to the Employee Policy Manual proposed for improving operations and fostering a more equitable workplace. **NBU**
- c. Discussion and possible action related to establishing the District's legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative session and setting a work session to identify and discuss topics, District role, and priorities for 2018-2019. **NBU**
- d. Discussion and possible action related to the staff's assessment of possible future Rules revisions arising from the comparison to rules of other GMA-10 GCDs and the ability to have substantially similar rules in certain regulatory program areas. **NBU**
- e. Discussion and possible action related to the City of Dripping Springs application for a TPDES permit to authorize direct discharge of treated wastewater to Onion Creek in the contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. **NBU**

**6. Adjournment.**

**Please note:** This agenda and available related documentation, if any, have been posted on the District website, [www.bseacd.org](http://www.bseacd.org). If you have a special interest in a particular item on this agenda and would like any additional documentation that may be developed for Board consideration, please let staff know at least 24 hours in advance of the Board Meeting so that we can have those copies made for you.

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the District office at 512-282-8441 at least 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed.

## **Item 1**

### **Call to Order**

**Item 2**  
**Citizen Communications**

## **Item 3**

### **Routine Business**

#### **a. 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.)*

- 1. Approval of Financial Reports under the Public Funds Investment Act, Directors' Compensation Claims, and Specified Expenditures greater than \$5,000.**
- 2. Approval of minutes of the Board's May 10, 2018, Regular Meeting.**

## **Item 3**

### **Routine Business**

- b. General Manager's Report.** *(Note: Topics discussed in the General Manager's Report are intended for general administrative and operational information-transfer purposes. The Directors will not take any action unless the topic is specifically listed elsewhere in this agenda.)*

**1. Standing Topics.**

- i. Personnel matters and utilization**
- ii. Upcoming public events of possible interest**
- iii. Aquifer conditions and status of drought indicators**

- 2. Special Topics.** *(Note: Individual topics listed below may be discussed by the Board in this meeting, but no action will be taken unless a topic is specifically posted elsewhere in this agenda as an item for possible action. A Director may request an individual topic that is presented only under this agenda item be placed on the posted agenda of some future meeting for Board discussion and possible action.)*

- i. Update on regulatory and enforcement activities**
- ii. Update on HCP and ITP status**
- iii. Update on certain projects and activities of individual teams and of Board committees.**

## **Item 4**

### **Award Presentations**

- a. Recognition of the winners of the scholarships to the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center's Aquatic Science Adventure Camp at Texas State University-San Marcos.**
  
- b. Recognition of the winner of the District's essay contest and the Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship College Scholarship.**



**Barton Springs  
Edwards Aquifer**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

Date: 5/17/2018  
From: Robin Gary  
Re: Camp Scholarship Winners

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The District would like to thank Creedmoor-Maha WSC, Dennis Dorsett Ditching, Goforth SUD, and Texas Lehigh Cement Company for donations in support of the scholarship fund. The scholarship program would not be a success without these generous donations!

Overnight Camp Winners (\$550)

Lucas Goodman	14	Homeschool-Mjolinir Academy
Piper Camarillo	9	Barton Hills Elementary
Stella Seligson	12	O. Henry Middle School
Taylor Holzman	13	Dahlstrom Middle School

Day Camp Winners (\$350)

Caleb Lowary	10	Mills Elementary
Charlotte Hill	12	Gorzycki Middle School
Elianna Agobe	11	San Marcos Adventist Academy
Forest Goodman	10	Homeschool-Mjolinir Academy
Genevieve Hill	12	Gorzycki Middle School
Julia Rennels	12	Danforth Jr High School
Natalee Scholl	11	Sycamore Springs Middle School
Owen Mielke	15	Rawson Saunders School
Quinn Sprute-Saunders	9	Jacob's Well Elementary School
Riley Fall	13	Dahlstrom Middle School
Serenity Rincon	12	Dahlstrom Middle School
Slade Holzman	11	Carpenter Hill Elementary School
Sophia Thurman	9	Buda Elementary School
Lily Butler	9	Carpenter Hill Elementary School



## Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Scholarship Essay

Taylor Holzman

The Aquatic Science Adventure Camp has been a dream of mine for many years. I attended the 3 day one last summer, and it was awesome. I have been ecstatic about the prospect of a week long sleep-away version of that experience since then. I mean, who couldn't be excited for a week filled with cave exploring, scuba diving, and climbing around?

My family and I are all nerds, so we do a lot of science related activities. We have explored many caves, including Carlsbad Caverns. That cave was one of the best experiences on a vacation I've ever had. Even that was just walking around a cave made for tourists, complete with railings and everything else. I can't wait for a cave experience that is more realistic, more natural.

Along with being a science nerd, my dad is as much a daredevil as I am and loves water almost as much as I do. Because of this, my brother, dad, and I have been wanting to go scuba diving and maybe even get certified before too much longer. Because of this, the chance to go scuba diving for even a few hours is a total game changer.

Of course, no matter how much of a nerd I am, I am still a 13 year old. I enjoy climbing around on things. In fact, one of my best friends birthday parties was at a cave very near here that has a massive ropes course. Another one of her birthday parties was the one this year, and that was at an actual rock climbing place, and that was one of the best parts of last year. Coincidentally, that girl is also attending this camp.

Thank you for reading this essay, and I am extremely excited to be attending the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp this summer!

# Aquatic Science Adventure Camp

Slade Holzman

I would like to go to this camp because last year I went to a 2 day one and it was super fun. At this camp I would like to go white water rafting, and explore caves. I would like to go white water rafting because we have had multiple chances but they always get canceled. I would like to go cave exploring because we went to Carlsbad Caverns and it was super fun. I would like to learn how caves are made and the levels of rapids. I am also interested in learning about the aquifer. I am really looking forward to this camp.

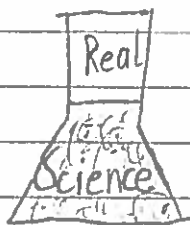


# Robo Science, Real Fun!

Attending the Aquatic Sciences Adventure camp would be amazing because I love water and science. The opportunity to experience both at a college campus would be awesome!

I just visited the Meadows Center during spring break and had the chance to search for bugs samples taken from Spring Lake. It was tough to catch the damselfly nymph and stonefly nymph I found, but I enjoyed it. My favorite part of the glass bottom boat tour was seeing the under water geysers and the scuba divers learning to garden under water. It's an incredible place and I can't wait to go back!

The activities I most look forward to at Camp are scuba diving, the invertebrate lab and the chemistry lab. Spending time at University Camp on the ropes course and natural water slide would be great to. I have never gone river rafting or caving but I'm excited to try. It all sounds like the best adventure!



Real



Fun!

## Why I want to go to the Aquatic science adventure camp

The first reason I want to go to the Aquatic Science Adventure camp is to learn more about the compound that consumes seventy one percent of our planet's surface and the biotic factors thriving in the biome it provides. I want to explore and get a feel of what real hydrologists do in the field .

One of the most important factors of our biotic population in Austin is the Edwards Aquifer. The Edwards Aquifer is a source of clean drinking water for roughly two million people in the southern state of Texas and is the primary water source for the agricultural industry in its region . But sadly due to littering and not cleaning up domestic animal waste the water of the aquifer is tainted. I would like to learn more about how we can protect the aquifer and the biosphere . Another reason I would like to participate in this camp is to use college grade scientific instruments to look at invisible biotic and abiotic treasures hidden in the dihydrogen oxide. The final reason I would like to go to this camp is to participate in all the camp activities and come home with an enlightened set of eyes.

By Genevieve Hill

# Why I would love to attend the Aquatic Science Camp

Edwards Aquifer is one of the most intriguing natural water sources to me. While my school does talk about the way the aquifer works it really hasn't mentioned the wildlife life of Edwards Aquifer, nor have they mentioned how it was formed. I have always been exceedingly curious and hard-working, but I haven't the chance to further understand the aquifer. So in my mind, I see this camp as an opportunity to get the chance/ability to understand this with a deeper meaning. For instance, how does our careless act of littering affect the lives the aquifer supports? Or how does global warming affect the temperature of the aquifer. From what I know most formations of water are fairly cool, but is that the same with Edwards Aquifer? I also want to form a personal opinion and perhaps if I can be well educated maybe I can conclude an informed opinion. What I do know is that Edwards Aquifer is an entire ecosystem on its self, supporting both abiotic and biotic, that brings me to my last reason I would like to attend the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp.

Thank you for reading this

-Charlotte Hill

2018 Kent S. Butler Memorial  
Groundwater Stewardship Essay Scholarship

**CONTEST WINNER**

Elizabeth Beggs, Dripping Springs HS

Essay Title: "Protect the Future"

## Protect the Future

### Statement of Purpose

Dear Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District,

I am honored to be applying for the Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship, as it is an honor to participate in such a special dedication. When looking at potential scholarships to apply for, this one stood out to me by far because it concerns a topic that I am most passionate about, groundwater stewardship. I live on a portion of Onion Creek, and as many are aware, there is currently a large issue as the city of Dripping Springs is trying to pass a permit to discharge nearly one million gallons of treated wastewater into Onion Creek every day. My family and I decided to become members of Protect Our Water in hopes of saving our creek. By attending multiple city council meetings, I have learned the importance of groundwater conservation, and I have decided to share what I have learned through those meetings and from additional research by discussing the current issue concerning Onion Creek in my essay. My goal for the future is to continue to further my knowledge in the possible ways of preventing groundwater pollution, as I do not wish to see the results of the future damage that contamination, or in this case treated wastewater, could potentially do to the creek water. Compared to other scholarships, this topic in particular concerns something that affects my future, which is one of the main reasons for my application. Along with my interest in this topic, I am applying for this scholarship because I want to do everything I can to help fund my college tuition. I plan on attending Baylor University next fall to major in business, and I am looking for possible ways to cover my finances for my college education. In a few weeks, I will be resuming my part time job at the Salt Lick Bar-B-Que, as I had to take a break due to my schedule for competition cheerleading, and in addition to a job, I believe that this scholarship would allow more financial freedom for both me and my family. With that freedom, the money saved would be able to go towards other areas where finances are more tight. If given the honor, this scholarship would allow me to become even closer to being able to cover costs that are mandatory in order to be able to attend all four years at Baylor. Thank you for your time and consideration in my application.

APPLICANT 4

Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship

March 21, 2018

Protect the Future

With graduation just around the corner, I recently started to reflect on my four years in high school. Most people, when they think of high school, generally recall the basics, such as friends, sports, school dances, and more. But for me, some of my most vivid memories from my high school years will be of time spent along Onion Creek. I remember joining my parents in the process of finding a place to live when I was in middle school, and we found a three-acre piece of land in Driftwood where Onion Creek literally ran through the middle of the backyard. My parents were still considering other properties but I was dead set on this one from the first moment I saw it. To my luck, we ended up buying the land, and ever since then, that creek has brought so many special moments into my life. From teaching my little cousins how to paddle board, to having all of my friends over to swim and canoe whenever it is nice out, to walking my dogs across the dam of the creek, to spending all day with my Dad putting crawfish back into the water after floods, this little section of the creek means so much to me. However, an issue came to my attention in 2015 that could forever alter the creek in my backyard.

With the rapid population growth and development of Dripping Springs in the last few years, the city requested a permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to “discharge treated sewage into a tributary of Onion Creek,” dumping up to 995,000 gallons of treated wastewater into the creek every single day year round (Goldenstein). Onion Creek would not be the only waterway impacted by this discharge because it “ultimately feeds the Barton Springs portion of the Edwards Aquifer” (Price) resulting in potential issues both above and below



Applicant 4

ground far beyond the boundaries of Dripping Springs. The reasons for concern about this discharge are numerous. Water pollution in local waterways is already increasing due to non-point source pollution causes. Additionally, human error or plant failure can result in actual untreated or partially treated wastewater being released into the water as we have seen in nearby communities like Kyle and Liberty Hill. The bottom line, though, is that this permit could cause a "threat to public health, Onion Creek and drinking water quality" (Barer) and other options must be considered for disposing of Dripping Springs' wastewater.

Adding treated effluent to Onion Creek will dramatically alter the chemical makeup and the water levels of the creek, forever changing its ecosystem. For example, the current amount of phosphorus per year in Onion Creek is one pound, and if the proposed permit were to be passed, that amount would increase to four hundred fifty pounds per year. Additionally, the treated wastewater would add nitrogen and residual chlorine. Both phosphorus and nitrogen are "contaminants that can severely degrade water quality," and lead to algal blooms (King). Large amounts of algae can create dead zones by consuming the oxygen that is necessary for the various species in the creek to live. Algae also produces toxins that can harm and potentially hurt both people and wildlife. Even if the toxins were not present, algae can still be harmful by "blocking out sunlight and clogging fish gills" ("Climate Adaptation and Harmful Algal Blooms").

The potential harm to both humans and wildlife who use Onion Creek is clear but less obvious, initially, was evidence that treated wastewater would impact the drinking water of well users along the creek. When questions began to arise of where the discharged surface water would end up once sent downstream and how the surface water reacted with groundwater, hydrogeologic and dye-trace studies were planned by the "Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Applicant 4

(HTGCD), City of Austin (CoA), Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD), and the Meadows Center for the Environment (Texas State University, TSU)" (Broun et al). In December of 2017, dye was injected into Onion Creek at several locations. Samples were taken from local wells to find any dye and to determine the source. The early results from the experiment showed that Onion Creek was connected to wells that were supplying water to several homes. Clear evidence was presented to support the opposition of the Dripping Springs permit when Sharon Darley, a woman whose water comes directly from the Trinity Aquifer, frighteningly discovered her water to be bright pink just twenty-four hours after red dye was injected into Onion Creek. The "Pepto-Bismol pink" water was flowing from her sinks and faucets, as well as the water used for her family's barn (Lanmon). The initial results of the dye-trace test demonstrated that "dumping treated wastewater into the creek will directly impact some homes that use well water," and it would put many people's water supply at risk (Lanmon). If small dye tests could turn someone's water bright pink, people are fearful of what nearly a million gallons a day of treated effluent could do!

The proven possibility that treated wastewater could end up in drinking water raises concerns as to the level of treatment of that wastewater, the possible things that would not be filtered out (household chemicals and pharmaceuticals), and the potential for treatment plant failure. As it is clear that the drafted permit by the city of Dripping Springs will have negative effects on Onion Creek, alternatives are being proposed in hopes of avoiding this daily discharge from happening. One of the solutions is to continue to irrigate using treated wastewater underground, or to continue spraying it onto land, which both are much "less likely to pollute nearby creeks" (King). Another potential alternative is called "direct potable reuse" (Price). This solution would bring the treated wastewater "directly piped back to a water treatment plant," completely

Applicant 4

avoiding the creek and following the example of several other communities in California and Texas (Price).

I believe that there are several options in handling the growth of Dripping Springs that do not involve harming Onion Creek or the people who love it. I have attended city council and TCEQ meetings as well as Dripping Springs Town Hall Meetings and I am disappointed that the City of Dripping Springs has done zero scientific research to justify the permit. The evidence that I have seen and read makes it clear that "any dumping could pose a risk to the area's drinking water supply and cause algae blooms that would threaten wildlife" (Goldenstein). I am passionate about saving this creek because of what it means to me and because I believe my family, friends, and community are at risk. People need to become informed and recognize that pollution prevention is crucial when it comes to saving Onion Creek, as well as other creeks out there that are facing the same issue. The bottom line is that adults are not the only ones being affected by a potential treated wastewater discharge. Future generations are going to have to live and pay the price for the decisions that are made now. I can only hope that the adults act responsibly and protect Onion Creek!

# Applicant 4

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## **Item 5**

### **Board Discussions and Possible Actions**

- a. Discussion and possible action related to approving an Interlocal Funding Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Travis County for conducting hydrogeologic studies and education and outreach support in southwestern Travis County.**



## **Item 5**

### **Board Discussions and Possible Actions**

**b. Discussion and possible action related to approving certain changes to the Employee Policy Manual proposed for improving operations and fostering a more equitable workplace.**

## **Item 5**

### **Board Discussions and Possible Actions**

**c. Discussion and possible action related to establishing the District's legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative session and setting a work session to identify and discuss topics, District role, and priorities for 2018-2019.**

## **Item 5**

### **Board Discussions and Possible Actions**

**d. Discussion and possible action related to the staff's assessment of possible future Rules revisions arising from the comparison to rules of other GMA-10 GCDs and the ability to have substantially similar rules in certain regulatory program areas.**

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### **Board Discussions and Possible Actions**

**e. Discussion and possible action related to the City of Dripping Springs application for a TPDES permit to authorize direct discharge of treated wastewater to Onion Creek in the contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.**

**Item 6**

**Adjournment**