

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Special Called Meeting  
January 30, 2020**

Board members present at commencement: Blayne Stansberry, Mary Stone, Bob Larsen, Blake Dorsett, and Craig Smith. Staff present included: Dana Wilson, Brian Smith, Vanessa Escobar, Kendall Bell-Enders, Brian Hunt, Justin Camp, Jackie Vay, Erin Swanson, Lane Cockrell and Tammy Raymond. 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 Stansberry called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., noting a quorum of the Board was present.

**2. Citizens Communications.**

There were no public comments of a general nature.

**3. Discussion and possible action on approval of a contract with USGS for geophysical studies that are a part of the ILA with Travis County.**

President Stansberry had questions regarding the contract and the staff time that would be needed.

Brian Hunt answered saying that the contract was previously budgeted, and that it would not take staff time away from other projects.

After discussion, Director Smith moved approval of the contract with USGS for geophysical studies with Travis County.

Director Stone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with a vote of 5 to 0.

**4. Discussion and possible action relating to legal representation and engagement of legal counsel in connection with litigation against United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Kinder Morgan Texas Pipeline, LLC, Permian Highway Pipeline, LLC (and their affiliates), relating to violations of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act**

President Stansberry stated that at the last meeting the Board voted to join in the law suit with the Kinder Morgan Pipeline. She said that at the time TREAD was going to pay the attorney fees, but the City of Austin requested to engage with a law firm instead of a non-profit. She went on to say that David Braun will now be the point of contact for attorney's fees instead of TREAD, and that all of the agreements have been finalized, and Board approval is needed.

Director Smith moved that the Board authorize entering into an Agreement and Consent to Multi-Party Representation with Braun & Gresham, PLLC, Richard Rodrigues & Skeith, LLP, the Law Office of Max Renea Hicks, the Law Office of David P. Smith, Eubanks and Associates, LLC and Lynn E. Blais collectively. As well as the letter of engagement with Braun & Gresham, PLLC. And to authorize Vanessa Escobar as the Assistant General Manager to sign the documents.

Director Stone seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 1. Director Larsen voted nay.

**5. Board interviews. The Board will go into Executive Session to conduct interviews with two candidates for the General Manager position.**

President Stansberry stated that the Board would meet in Executive Session as authorized by the Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) at 4:22 p.m.

President Stansberry stated that no final actions or decisions would be made while in Executive Session.

The Board reconvened into open session at 7:03 p.m. President Stansberry stated that no final actions or decisions were made while in Executive Session.

**6. Discussion and possible action related to the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a new General Manager.**

Director Stone moved to direct the Board to offer Vanessa Escobar the General Manager position.

Director Dorsett seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 1. Director Larsen voted nay.

President Stansberry thanked Dana Wilson for stepping up as Interim General Manager during the transition.

**7. Adjournment.**

Without objection, President Stansberry adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Approved by the Board on February 13, 2020

By: Blayne Stansberry  
Blayne Stansberry, President

Attest: Blake Dorsett  
Blake Dorsett, Board Secretary