

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
Telephone & Videoconference
February 11, 2021**

Board members present at commencement: Blayne Stansberry, Craig Smith, and Dan Pickens. Christy Williams arrived at 5:55 p.m. and Blake Dorsett was absent. Staff present included: Vanessa Escobar, Michael Redman, Dana Wilson, Brian Smith, Justin Camp, Erin Swanson, Jackie Vay, Jeff Watson 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 virtual meeting to order at 4:38 p.m., noting that a quorum of the Board was present.

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

There were no public comments of a general nature.

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, and Specified Expenditures greater than \$5,000.**
- b. Approval of minutes of the Board's January 14, 2021 Special Meeting.**

Director Smith moved approval of Consent Agenda Items 3.a. and b. noting an invoice from Bickerstaff, Heath in the amount of \$19,307.20.

Director Pickens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with a vote of 3 to 0.

4. General Manager's Report.

- a. Update on personnel matters.
- b. Aquifer conditions and status of drought indicators.

- c. Update on Strategic Planning Activities.
- d. Update on Rule Making planning activities.
- e. Update on Trinity Aquifer Sustainable Yield Study.
- f. Scholarship program update.
- g. Upcoming public events of possible interest.
- h. Review of Status Report and update on team activities/projects.

Ms. Escobar and staff gave updates on the items above.

5. Discussion and Possible Action.

5a. Discussion and possible action on the approval of a Well Drilling Authorization request from Aqua Texas Inc. to drill a Lower Trinity Well for the Bliss Spillar Water System in Hays, County.

Mr. Redman explained that Aqua Texas requested to drill a well in the Lower Trinity Aquifer for the purpose of supporting their Bliss Spiller water system, which supplies three existing subdivisions. He said that a separate Production Permit Application will be required in order to operate and produce from this well. He went on to say that the applicant intends to diversify their groundwater portfolio which will help mitigate any future issues in the existing Edwards and Middle Trinity wells, such as reduced yield or declining water levels during times of drought or exceptionally high water demands. He explained the well location and design, and said that after review, the staff has determined that the application has satisfied all of the requirements and recommends approval of the well drilling authorization application.

After Board discussion, Director Smith moved approval of the well drilling authorization application requested by Aqua Texas Inc.

Director Pickens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with a vote of 3 to 0.

5b. Discussion and possible action related to the Management Plan Overview. Prerecorded presentation: <https://vimeo.com/508617705>

Ms. Escobar explained that she had previously shared her presentation on the Management Plan Overview and answered questions from the Board.

No formal action was needed.

5c. Discussion and update on the Education & Outreach programmatic activities.

At 4:10 p.m. Ms. Vay gave a presentation on the Education & Outreach programmatic activities for the last year. President Stansberry allowed her to give her update before the meeting was commenced, in the event the meeting would be cancelled due to not having a quorum, and the fact that this would be her last Board meeting before her departure from the District.

5d. Discussion and possible action on approval of the draft US Fish & Wildlife ITP Annual Report.

Ms. Escobar gave a presentation on the contents of the draft US Fish & Wildlife ITP Annual Report.

Director Smith moved approval of the draft US Fish & Wildlife ITP Annual Report as presented.

Director Pickens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with a vote of 4 to 0.

President Stansberry stated that a lot of work was put into the report and commended the staff on a job well done.

The Board took a brief recess from 6:05 p.m. to 6:22 p.m.

5e. Discussion and possible action related to a legislative update by Sledge Law Group.

President Stansberry stated that the Board would meet in Executive Session as authorized by the Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) at 6:23 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.

No Board action was taken in open session.

6. Directors' 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.

Board members that had outside and Zoom meetings gave reports.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, President Stansberry adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Approved by the Board on March 11, 2021

By: Blayne Stansberry
Blayne Stansberry, Board President

Attest: Tammy Raymond
~~Blake Dorset~~, Board Secretary (DEPUTY)
TAMMY RAYMOND