

Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 12, 2020

Board members present at commencement: Blayne Stansberry, Bob Larsen, Blake Dorsett, and Craig Smith. Mary Stone was absent. Staff present included: Vanessa Escobar, Dana Wilson, Brian Smith, Kendall Bell-Enders, Justin Camp, Erin Swanson, Jackie Vay, 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 4:03 p.m., noting that a quorum of the Board was present.

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

No public comments of a general nature were given.

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. 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.)*

Topics

1. Personnel matters.
2. **Aquifer conditions and status of drought indicators.**
3. Upcoming public events of possible interest.
4. Review of Status Report Update – at directors' discretion.
5. Update on projects and activities of individual teams.
6. Update on Roadway Projects
7. Update on Sustainable Yield Study of the Trinity Aquifer.
8. Update on GMA and regional water planning activities.

Mr. Camp stated that data shows that the two monitor wells should cross over into drought by March 20th or 21st.

President Stansberry stated that once the Board declares drought it starts a chain of events.

Ms. Escobar stated that staff would notify permittees, update the website, and send out a press release.

President Stansberry suggested a different approach due to the unknowns of the Covid-19 virus.

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 February 13, 2020, Regular Meeting.**
3. **Approval of adding Vanessa Escobar as a signature on the District bank accounts and removing the past General Manager.**
4. **Approval to seek GMA 9 and GMA 10 approvals that request TWDB to authorize moving the boundary between GMA 9 and GMA 10 to coincide with the District's Current western edge boundary.**
5. **Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District related to the construction of a monitor well in the Trinity Aquifer.**
6. **Approval of purchase order for \$8,500.00 for Westbay equipment for multiport monitor well to be installed near Jacob's Well as part of ILAs with Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (HTGCD) and Hays County. Purchasing of equipment will only be done following approval of ILA (Consent Agenda Item #5 above) by HTGCD.**

Director Smith moved approval of Consent Agenda Items 3a. 1 through 6.

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

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. 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.)*

Topics

9. Personnel matters.
10. Aquifer conditions and status of drought indicators.
11. Upcoming public events of possible interest.
12. Review of Status Report Update – at directors’ discretion.
13. Update on projects and activities of individual teams.
14. Update on Roadway Projects
15. Update on Sustainable Yield Study of the Trinity Aquifer.
16. Update on GMA and regional water planning activities.

Ms. Escobar and staff gave updates to the Board.

No action was taken.

5. Discussion and Possible Action.

5a. Discussion and Possible Action related to Drought status and possibly authorizing the General Manager to declare drought when thresholds are crossed and to notify permittees to initiate the appropriate actions under their User Drought Contingency Plan.

After discussion, Director Smith moved to authorize the General Manager to declare Alarm Stage Drought when one of the two monitor wells crosses over the threshold and to notify permittees to take appropriate actions under their User Drought Contingency plans.

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

4. Presentations.

President Stansberry stated that the Strategic Planning stemmed from the last budget cycle where Director Larsen mentioned having a fiscal plan longer than a single year at a time. She went on to say that since HB 3405 was passed in 2015 there has been a larger work load on the staff. We had to hire additional employees, have higher vehicle exposure, with no additional revenue. The Board is tasked with policy and budget planning and this is a good opportunity for staff to reevaluate and review tasks that may be able to be crossed off, and an excellent way for the Board to get a sense of the staff’s workload. She ended with saying that she appreciates staff taking the time to put this together for the Board, and that they are looking forward to hearing the presentations.

Ms. Escobar stated that the circumstances have changed in the last five years and that looking at what our needs are and the budget to plan for them is needed. Our Management Plan Goals and Objectives drive the required priorities of the District, and we need direction on allocating funds to those resources. As an organization we have a policy based governance system where the Board develops the policies to guide the actions of the District and the General Manager. She said that the Education and Regulatory Compliance teams will give

their presentations tonight and that the Administration and Aquifer Science teams will give their presentations at a future Board meeting.

4a. Presentations by Regulatory Compliance and Education teams on Strategic Planning.

Ms. Jackie Vay gave a presentation on Strategic Planning for the Education team.

Ms. Kendall Bell-Enders gave a presentation on Strategic Planning for the Regulatory Compliance Team.

5. Discussion and possible action.

5b. Discussion and possible action on Strategic/Budget Planning.

No action was taken by the Board.

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.

The Directors gave reports on their activities for the month.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, President Stansberry adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Approved by the Board on May 14, 2020


By: _____
Blayne Stansberry, President


Attest: _____
Blake Dorsett, Board Secretary