

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 13, 2014**

Board members present at commencement: Gary Franklin, Bob Larsen, Craig Smith and Blake Dorsett. Mary Stone was out of town. Staff present: John Dupnik, Brian Hunt, Vanessa Escobar, Dana Wilson and Tammy Raymond. Bill Dugat of Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, and Acosta, Kirk Holland of Holland Groundwater Management Consultants, and Kevin Connelly of US Fish and Wildlife Service also participated in the meeting. Also present were those on the attached sign-in sheet. These minutes represent a summarized version of the meeting; the complete discussion of the following items is recorded digitally.

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Franklin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., noting that a quorum of the Board was present.

2. Citizen Communications (Public Comments).

There were no 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 an item of Regular Business.

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 27, 2014, Regular Meeting.**
3. **Review and approval of District's quarterly financial performance reports.**
4. **Approval of the effectiveness of Directors' communications with stakeholders and constituents for the 2nd Quarter FY 2014 per the collective judgment of the Board, as required by the District's Management Plan.**

Mr. Dupnik briefed the Board on the consent agenda items above.

Mr. Smith moved approval of consent agenda items 3a. 1 through 3, noting invoices from Holland Groundwater Management in the amount of \$9240.00 and Hicks and Company in the amount of \$17,226.72.

Mr. Dorsett seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 0.

3a. 4. Approval of the effectiveness of Directors' communications with stakeholders and constituents for the 2nd Quarter FY 2014 per the collective judgment of the Board, as required by the District's Management Plan.

Mr. Smith moved satisfactory approval of the 2nd Quarterly Directors' Communications.

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

4. Discussion and Possible Action.

4c. Discussion and possible action related to the transition from Citibank to BB&T to continue providing District banking services.

Ms. Wilson informed the Board that BB&T has taken over our Citibank accounts. She went on to say that paperwork is needed to complete the transition, and asked the Board's permission to begin the process.

The Board had no objection to the transition. No formal action was taken.

4d. Discussion and possible action related to approving revisions to the District's Leave of Absence Policy and other minor changes to the employee policy manual.

Mr. Dupnik presented proposed revisions to the Employee Policy Manual. Revisions included: 1) a new leave of absence policy which would allow for continuing benefits for up to 12 weeks for certain conditions (general medical) with Board approval, and 2) providing compensatory time to nonexempt employees rather than pay at an hour per hour rate when holiday and work hours exceed the 40-hour weekly total.

Mr. Smith moved approval of the revisions to the Leave of Absence Policy and Employee Policy Manual, as presented by Mr. Dupnik.

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

4e. Discussion and possible action related to approving upcoming leaves of absence for Robin H. Gary and Vanessa Escobar.

Mr. Smith moved approval of maternity leave of absence requests for Robin H. Gary and Vanessa Escobar.

Mr. Dorsett seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 0.

4a. Discussion and possible action related to approval of the District's review draft of the HCP, direction to submit to the Management Advisory Committee for review and comment, and setting public meetings on the HCP.

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 6:22 p.m. under Texas Government Code section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney. Mr. Franklin stated that no decisions or actions would be made while in Executive Session.

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Franklin stated that no decisions or actions were made while in Executive Session.

Mr. Dupnik referenced the backup material which provided an overview of the revisions to the document in response to Board discussion and comments in the two previous Board work sessions, and consultation with the USFWS. He also provided an overview of the measures and commitments of the most current version of the review draft of the HCP, emphasizing the four research and mitigation measures specific to the HCP.

After discussion, Mr. Smith moved to authorize the release of the review draft of the HCP to the Management Advisory Committee (MAC), the City of Austin, and Hicks and Company for feedback.

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

4b. Discussion and possible action related to: a) consideration of the draft elements of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Austin to coordinate activities associated with our respective HCPs, and b) direction to staff on continuing negotiation of the ILA with the City of Austin.

Mr. Dupnik provided a high-level overview of the draft ILA emphasizing 1) that an ILA was a required component of the City of Austin (City) HCP and the prospective District HCP, 2) the proposed ILA elements were in the very draft stages, and 3) staff was seeking input of the draft elements for further negotiation with the City.

Dr. Larsen stated that he felt that it was premature to enter into anything substantive before receiving feedback from the Scoping Meeting, and the Management Advisory Committee.

Mr. Dupnik suggested that a Board committee could be formed to provide input into the draft ILA to be used for further negotiation with the City.

Mr. Franklin appointed a committee of Dr. Larsen and Mr. Smith to work with staff on the draft ILA.

No Board action was taken.

3b. 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 on them in this meeting, unless the topic is specifically listed elsewhere in this as-posted agenda.

1. Standing Topics.

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

Mr. Dupnik and staff updated the Board and answered directors' questions on the items listed above.

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. Review of Status Update Report – at directors' discretion**
- ii. Update on activities related to GMA and regional water planning**
- iii. Update on efforts to characterize the saline zone of the Edwards Aquifer**
- iv. Update on the progress of area roadway projects**

Mr. Dupnik and staff updated the Board and answered Directors' questions on the items listed above.

3c. Directors' Reports. *(Note: Directors' comments under this item cannot address an agenda item posted elsewhere on this agenda and no substantive discussion among the Board Members or action will be allowed in this meeting. Communications reported under this item may be used to support Performance Standard 4-1 of the District's Management Plan related to demonstration of effective communication with District constituents.)*

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;**
- Conversations with public officials, permittees, stakeholders, and other constituents;**
- Recognition of people doing good things for groundwater management in the District;**
- Issues or problems of concern.**

Dr. Larsen reported the following:

A meeting is set on March 25th with Carl Rubenstein, Cutis Seton, TDS and the District on reconsidering a Desal project.
Spoke with KB Homes about land available for a saline well.

Mr. Smith reported the following:

Attended the RWQPP meeting at Ira's retreat along with members of the District, Hays County, and Hill Country Alliance.

Mr. Dorsett reported the following:

Spoke about Creedmoor capping a well.
Passed out maps to landowners who may be interested in a saline well on their property.
Meeting with Mario of Goforth Special Utility.
Attended the Creedmoor Maha Board Meeting.
Spoke with landowner Mr. Irvin.

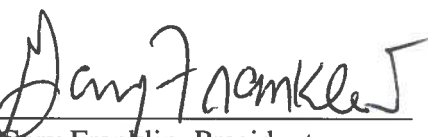
Mr. Franklin reported the following:

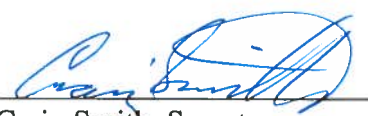
Attended a meeting with the City of Austin Water Utility regarding re-use.

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, Mr. Franklin adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Approved by the Board on March 27, 2014:

By: 
Gary Franklin, President

Attest: 
Craig Smith, Secretary