

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 24, 2018**

Board members present at commencement: Blayne Stansberry, Mary Stone, Craig Smith, Bob Larsen, and Blake Dorsett. Staff present: Kirk Holland, Dana Wilson, Brian Smith, Robin Gary, Vanessa Escobar, Kendall Bell-Enders and Tammy Raymond. 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.

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 6:02 p.m., noting that a quorum of the Board was present.

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

Ms. Louis Bond stated that she lives on the border of the District and Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, and thanked the Board and staff for their efforts in protecting their aquifers. She asked that the Board continue to do so.

4. Award Presentations.

4a. 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.

Camp scholarship winners were congratulated, certificates were awarded, and pictures were taken.

4b. Recognition of the winner of the District's essay contest and the Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship College Scholarship.

Elizabeth Beggs was awarded the Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship College Scholarship for her essay titled "Protect the Future."

At 6:13 p.m. a brief recess was taken in order to take group pictures with the winners.

The meeting reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

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.**
3. **Approval of promotions of two staff members to Senior level employees.**

President Stansberry stated that item 3.a.3 would be pulled from the agenda explaining that promotions should be granted by the General Manager.

Director Larsen disagreed with pulling the item.

Director Smith moved approval of items 1 and 2.

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

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.

Updates were given by Mr. Holland, staff, and Bill Dugat.

5. Discussion and Possible Action.

5a. 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.

After discussion, Director Smith moved approval of the Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Travis County for the hydrogeologic investigations project in southwestern Travis County.

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

5b. Discussion and possible action related to approving certain changes to the Employee Policy Manual proposed for improving operations and fostering a more equitable workplace.

President Stansberry stated that this item would be returned to the agenda of a future meeting.

5c. 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.

The Board discussed tentative dates to hold a work session for the upcoming legislative session. A final decision would be made at the next Board meeting.

5d. 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.

President Stansberry stated that this item would be returned to the agenda of a future Board meeting.

5e. 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.

Mr. Dugat stated that the District appeared at the SOAH hearing that would determine party status of the City of Austin, BSEACD, and the Hays Trinity District. He said that party status was denied to the City of Austin, but that after testimony by Dr. Brian Smith, the District and the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District were granted party status.

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 7:19 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 8:20 p.m. President Stansberry stated that no final actions or decisions were made while in Executive Session.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, President Stansberry adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Approved by the Board on June 14, 2018

By: 
Blayne Stansberry, President

Attest: 
Blake Dorsett, Board Secretary