

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting via
Telephone & Videoconference
June 11, 2020**

Board members present at commencement: Blayne Stansberry, Craig Smith, Mary Stone, Bob Larsen and Blake Dorsett. Staff present included: Vanessa Escobar, Dana Wilson, Brian Smith, Brian Hunt, Kendall Bell-Enders, Justin Camp, Erin Swanson, Jackie Vay, 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 virtual meeting to order at 4:00 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.

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 May 14, 2020 Special Meeting.
- c. Approval of a contract extension with Sledge Law for legislative services.
- d. Approval of a contract extension with Brian Zavala for website maintenance and development services.

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

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

4. Discussion and Possible Action.

4a. Discussion and possible action on the Preliminary FY 2021 Budget and setting a public hearing date.

Ms. Wilson went through the proposed budget line items and answered questions from the Board.

After discussion, Director Larsen moved approval of the Preliminary FY 2021 Budget and to schedule a Public Hearing on July 9th to consider approval of the Proposed FY 2021 Budget.

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

4b. Discussion and possible action on approving a Cybersecurity Policy and a Board Resolution to ensure compliance and implementation of that policy.

Ms. Escobar explained that a Cybersecurity Policy was passed in HB 3834 in the last legislative session. The bill requires any local government agency's employees and Board of Directors to take a Cybersecurity online training class once a year. All staff and Board have taken the class through TAGD and a Policy and Resolution to ensure compliance and implementation is required.

Director Smith moved to adopt the Cybersecurity Policy in the backup.

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

Director Smith moved to adopt Resolution 061120-01.

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

4c. Discussion and possible action on a Desired Future Condition Technical Memo.

Ms. Escobar stated that in January the staff presented a review of how we use DFC's in the overall management policy, and how it is an essential part of the planning process. She said that we are in the third round of the DFC planning process and are working on a deadline of May 2021 for a proposed DFC expression. We recognize that we need to consider revising this DFC expression to make it a more meaningful tool, especially when it comes to larger scale permits. We have had many discussions on the GMA level and internally along with the Water Development Board to refine the concepts in the memo.

Mr. Hunt touched on some of the take-a-ways of the memo and answered questions from the Board.

No action was required.

4d. Discussion and possible action on the Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart Grant Program.

Ms. Escobar explained that we learned about the Water Smart Grant through communication with Vanessa Puig-Williams at Environmental Defense Fund and Charlene at the Texas Water Trade. The Grant is for Drought Resiliency Projects such as modeling, monitoring, storing and recharging of groundwater supplies. The Bureau of Reclamation will fund up to \$300,000 over 2 years or up to \$750,000 over 3 years. Applicants must be able to cost share 50% of the total project costs. We would be able to bring in partners like Hays County and Hays Trinity, but the District would be the applicant and take on the administration, which is quite significant. The deadline to submit a full proposal is July 8th.

Ms. Puig-Williams stated that the funding announcement didn't come out until early May but that she felt like it fits with all of the work that the District is already doing.

After discussion, Director Smith moved to direct the General Manager to prepare a grant application under this program and devise the application to be consistent with work we are already doing, especially the determination of the Sustainable Yield of the Trinity.

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

- a. Update on personnel matters.**
- b. Update on District's response to COVID-19.**
- c. Update on Aquifer conditions and status of drought indicators.**
- d. Update on Hays County Elections coding corrections.**
- e. Update on modeling activities.**
- f. Review of Status Report and update on team activities/projects.**
- g. Discussion and update on recent case law decisions affecting groundwater districts.**
- h. Upcoming public events of possible interest.**

Ms. Escobar, Mr. Dugat, and staff gave updates to the Board.

5. 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.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, President Stansberry adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Approved by the Board on July 9, 2020

By: Blayne Stansberry
Blayne Stansberry, President

Attest: Blake Dorsett
Blake Dorsett, Board Secretary