

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Special Called Meeting
August 12, 2014**

Board members present at commencement: Bob Larsen, Craig Smith, and Mary Stone. Blake Dorsett was absent. Staff present: John Dupnik, Brian Smith, Dana Wilson, and Tammy Raymond. These minutes represent a summarized version of the meeting; the complete discussion of the following items is recorded digitally.

1. Call to Order.

Dr. Larsen called the meeting to order at 6:04 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. Discussion and possible action related to the initial staff review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for State Highway 45 Southwest and written comments to be submitted by August 13, 2014.

The Board discussed the initial staff review of the draft EIS Statement for State Highway 45 Southwest, and the changes made by the Board Subcommittee composed of Dr. Larsen and Ms. Stone.

After discussion, Mr. Smith moved to delete the word “formally” in the second paragraph on page three.

Ms. Stone seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 3 to 0.

Mr. Smith made a second motion to add the specific recommendations regarding Flint Ridge Cave on page three, the fourth paragraph, under assessment of Karst Features, an additional bullet under Karst Features to read: Examples of BMPs that should be considered include, and then add paragraph one under assessment and protection of Karst features in the staff’s original comments.

Dr. Larsen stated that the subcommittee was trying to get away from that.

Ms. Stone agreed, and explained that they were trying to keep the document concise. She went on to say that they could add a sentence to say: examples successful and other area projects may include: grade separation, move the alignment, curb and gutter, and convey runoff through culverts and pipes.

Mr. Smith agreed with the friendly amendment suggested by Ms. Stone.

Dr. Larsen stated that he did not agree with any of those additions saying that they were overly specific, and explained why he felt that way.

Ms. Stone seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 2 to 1, with Dr. Larsen voted nay.

Mr. Smith made a third motion to add a sentence on page three asking TxDOT to hold up the record of decision until the Geologic assessment is done and comments have been received and responded to.

Dr. Larsen stated that it would be impossible, and read a statement from the EIS that says everyone would get a chance to comment, that it is contrary to protocol, and that it is another delaying tactic.

Ms. Stone asked for Mr. Dupnik's opinion.

Mr. Dupnik said that they were told by TxDOT that there would be other opportunities to comment.

After consideration, Mr. Smith withdrew his motion.

At that time Ms. Stone moved approval of sending the document with the District's comments on the draft EIS to TxDOT, with the amendments as presented from this evening.

Mr. Smith seconded the motion.


Dr. Larsen stated that he would say aye, with the qualification that he does not agree that the examples should be included in the final comment document.

The motion passed with a vote of 3 to 0.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, Dr. Larsen adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Approved by the Board on August 28, 2014:

By: 
Robert D. Larsen, Acting President

Attest: 
Craig Smith, Secretary