

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Minutes of Work Session**  
**May 14, 2012**

Board members present at commencement: Mary Stone, Gary Franklin, Craig Smith, Jack Goodman and Bob Larsen. Staff present: Kirk Holland, John Dupnik, Robin Gary, and Brian Smith. Bill Dugat and Claudia Russell of Bickerstaff also participated in the meeting. There were no members of the public present, so there is no sign-in sheet attached. These minutes represent a summarized version of the meeting; as this was a work session only, with no action to be taken, there was no digital audio recording made.

**1. Call to Order.**

Ms. Stone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m., noting that a quorum of the Board was present.

**2. Work Session: Discussion concerning legislative initiatives and related issues of importance to groundwater conservation districts in general and the BSEACD in particular, and identifying possible elements of the District's legislative agenda for the upcoming session.**

Mr. Holland characterized and provided the staff assessment of six possible legislative initiatives for the upcoming legislative session, and mentioned two others that could be considered. Directors asked clarifying questions as Mr. Holland described each of the initiatives. Directors identified two additional possible initiatives, and generally discussed each.

Mr. Holland and Ms Gary then led the directors through an exercise that provided equal opportunity for each director to individually express the sense of importance of the various initiatives, which when aggregated yielded a prioritization among the initiatives, including an indication of whether reserve funds should be used to pursue a particular initiative. Mr. Holland noted that this was just an exercise to inform, and not decision-making or action of the Board.

The outcome of the exercise indicated that two initiatives were considered by the directors as having considerably higher priority than the others: 1) "Enabling cost-efficient desalination in Hays and Travis Counties", by allowing injection of non-Edwards and altered Edwards water into and through the saline zone in those counties; and 2) "Increasing the cap on the water use fees", so expenses associated with evaluating and promoting alternative water supplies could be underwritten. Three directors felt these were of sufficient importance that some reserve funds could be used to support passage of both; no other initiatives earned that distinction.

The directors also considered of relatively high priority (but not nearly as high as the first two mentioned above) a bill for "Restricting wastewater discharges in the Contributing Zone", to require immediate water treatment following advanced wastewater treatment before discharge. However, the directors seemed to agree that before the District commits to pursuing this legislation again, which will be more costly in both financial and political capital than usual, the District should receive input from the development community, the environmental community, local legislators, potential authors/sponsors, and committee chairs and key members.

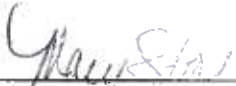
One new bill was identified that was related to the desalination initiative but it was felt that, if pursued, it needs to be in a separate bill: "Appropriating funds specifically for a more detailed feasibility study of the Edwards Saline Zone." All other possible initiatives that were considered by the directors appeared to be of lower priority, with little distinguishing among them. However, the point was made that the District will certainly need to respond in a defensive posture, as appropriate, to bills filed by others that could harm the District's mission, its financial and other resources, or the aquifers it manages.

No Board action was taken in the work session.

### **3. Adjournment.**

Without objection, Ms. Stone adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Approved by the Board:

By:   
Mary Stone, President

Attest:   
Craig Smith, Secretary