

Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2025

Board members present at commencement: Blayne Stansberry, Jon Cradit, Lily Lucas, and Christy Williams.
Staff present: Tim Loftus, Erin Swanson, Jeff Watson, Bri Moore, Justin Camp, Shay Hlavaty, and Hannah Riggs.

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.

Vice President Stansberry called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

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

There were no public comments at this time.

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, Specified Expenditures greater than \$10,000.
- b. Approval of minutes of the Board's June 12, 2025, Regular Meeting.

There were no questions or comments on any item in the Consent Agenda.

Director Lucas moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Williams seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

4. General Manager's Report. Discussion and possible action.

Topics

a. Review of key team activities/projects.

Dr. Loftus called attention to the Status Report and Team Summaries prepared by Staff in the Board Back-Up materials.

b. Trinity Sustainable Yield.

Dr. Loftus reported that the District has embarked on a nine-month study of the Lower Trinity Aquifer, with three months of work completed to date. Elsewhere, staff are currently developing a timeline for Phase Two of the in-house TAS model.

c. Antioch Cave Operations House

Dr. Loftus and staff are working with Sledge Law on land acquisition related to the Antioch Cave Operations House. The City of Buda has expressed interest in meeting with the District to discuss planned work on Cold Springs Road, which may impact the area. Following this meeting, a property survey will be conducted to help inform the District's offer to the landowner.

d. Regional developments of interest

Dr. Loftus and staff met with members of Zilker 351 and the Siglo Group to learn more about stormwater runoff challenges in and around Zilker Park, which affect the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and Barton Creek. Dr. Loftus stated that he believes it would be appropriate for the District to provide a letter of support to these organizations, should they appear before City Council, to advocate for earmarking funds in the next bond issue to address these concerns at Zilker Park.

e. Aquifer status update.

Justin Camp provided the drought update. He reported that in June 2025, the region experienced below-average rainfall. By the end of June and into early July, the 10-day average groundwater level at the District's Lovelady monitor well dropped to the Stage IV drought threshold.

Early July brought 2 to 6 inches of rain across our territory and recharge zones. Creeks that feed segments of the Edwards and Trinity aquifers in our District—such as Bear, Onion, and Barton—are now experiencing sustained flow, a positive sign for groundwater levels.

The District is actively monitoring the Lovelady well to assess how it responds to the recent rainfall. Because aquifer levels can have a delayed response to recharge events, the full impact of the storms may not be evident for several weeks. In the meantime, staff will continue to closely track groundwater conditions.

f. Upcoming events of possible interest.

Dr. Loftus called attention to several events of possible interest.

5. Staff Presentation: Drought Analysis

Bri Moore presented an exploratory analysis using hydrographs and linear regression to understand underlying trends in historic and current drought patterns. A principal component analysis was used to

illuminate the relationship between environmental variables and drought patterns affecting the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Bri indicated that the current work is the beginning of a broader research effort. Future statistical modeling will deepen understanding of drought stressors and help build predictive models to more accurately forecast future drought and inform water management strategies.

6. **Discussion and Possible Action**

a. **Discussion and possible action related to the performance and compliance of District permittees with their User Drought Contingency Plan curtailments.**

Erin Swanson presented the UDCP, updated through June.

b. **Discussion and possible action on Report of Investigation and Notice of Alleged Violation for resolving and enforcement proceeding concerning Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks failure to reduce pumping during District-declared drought.**

Erin Swanson presented an enforcement case regarding Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks for overpumpage violations in March and May of 2025. After reviewing the non-compliance history and applicable enforcement criteria, staff recommended a low-range penalty of \$1,800 based on the permit size, level of overuse, and drought conditions at the time. Additionally, staff also recommended that the Board reduce the penalty by 30% (\$540) using the penalty adjustments in Section 4.3 of the Enforcement Plan related to Compliance History. The reduced penalty amount would then be \$1,260.

At 5:44 p.m., the Board Vice President announced that the Board would recess into a closed executive session under Section 551.071, Government Code, for consultation regarding attorney-client matters for agenda items 6b, 6c, and 7.

At 6:21 p.m., the Board Vice President announced board was reconvening in an open public session. No further action was taken by the Board.

Director Lucas motioned to move forward with the penalty amount that Staff recommends. Director Cradit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

c. **Discussion and possible action related to Texas Land Application Permit No. WQ0016373001 and the Decision of the TCEQ Executive Director for Hays Commons Development, Inc.**

No action was taken by the Board.

d. **Discussion and possible action on declaring Stage IV Exceptional Drought or authorizing the GM to declare the next stage of drought.**

Dr. Loftus recommends the District wait for two weeks to see how the Lovelady monitor well responds to recent rainfall.

Director Lucas moved to authorize the GM to declare the next stage of drought. Director Cradit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

7. **General Counsel's Report**

The District's legal counsel will brief the Board on pertinent legal issues and developments impacting the District since the last Board meeting, and legal counsel's activities on behalf of the District, including without limitation waste injection well monitoring activities including any protests of injection well applications with the Railroad Commission of Texas or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), monitoring or protests of water rights, wastewater discharge, or other waste-related applications at the TCEQ that may impact groundwater resources in the District; District rules enforcement activities, rules and management plan implementation issues, groundwater-related legislative activities, joint planning and DFC development activities, developments in groundwater case law and submission of legal briefs, contractual issues related to the District, open government, policy, personnel, and financial issues of the District, threatened or pending claims or litigation against the District, and other legal activities on behalf of the District—Brian Sledge, Legal Counsel, Sledge Law Group, PLLC

8. Director 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.

Vice President Stansbury noted that the Personnel Committee have an upcoming meeting.

9. Adjournment.

With no objection, Vice President Stansberry adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Approved by the Board on July 10, 2025.

By: _____

~~Blayne Stansberry, Board Vice President~~

Vanessa Puig-Williams

Attest: _____

Christy Williams, Board Secretary