

Minutes
February 12, 2025
UGRA Board of Directors Workshop

Notice having been duly given, a Workshop of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Board of Directors was held at the Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center, 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, Texas, at 9:03 am on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Bill Rector, President; Maggie Snow, Vice-President; Austin Dickson, Secretary (arrived 9:06 am, departed 1:32 pm); Dick Eastland, Treasurer; Frances Lovett; Diane McMahon; Jeanne Stacy; and Blake Smith were present and constituted a quorum. Also present were: Tara Bushnoe, General Manager; Tammy Thompson, Business Manager/Assistant General Manager; Shelby Taber, Natural Resources Manager; Travis Linscomb, Natural Resources Specialist; Matthew Wilkinson, Natural Resources Specialist; Becky Etzler, Riverside Nature Center; Weir Labatt, Kerr County Water Alliance; Katy Kappel, Bird City Kerrville; Elizabeth McGreevy, Project Bedrock; and Colin Walden (via Zoom), Texas Agricultural Land Trust.

President Rector introduced Item II. Visitors/Citizens Forum. There were no comments from the audience.

President Rector introduced Item III. A. Update on recent activities from Kerr County Water Alliance, Weir Labatt. Mr. Labatt shared the history and main objectives of Kerr County Water Alliance with the Board. The group is a grassroots organization that formed out of concerns for water quantity and growth. General discussion followed. President Rector introduced Item III. C. Update on recent activities from Riverside Nature Center, Becky Etzler. Ms. Etzler shared the history of Riverside Nature Center, an overview of

current programs including UGRA 2nd Grade Science Day, and summary statistics for 2024. General discussion followed. President Rector introduced Item III. D. Introduction to Land Trusts and Conservation Easements, Colin Walden, Texas Agricultural Land Trust. Mr. Walden presented virtually via Zoom and shared an overview of the role of land trusts, how conservation easements can preserve the core value of land, and the priorities of the Texas Agricultural Land Trust. General discussion followed. President Rector introduced Item III. B. Update on recent activities from Bird City Kerrville, Katy Kappel. Ms. Kappel presented the work of the local coalition over the past three years to obtain the Bird City designation and outlined future initiatives. General discussion followed. President Rector introduced Item III. E. Aquatic Life in the Guadalupe River, Travis Linscomb, UGRA. Mr. Linscomb presented an overview of flora and fauna common to the Guadalupe River ecosystem and answered questions from the Board. General discussion followed. President Rector introduced Item III. F. Mountain Cedars: Junipers that Benefit Texas Karst Country, Elizabeth McGreevy, Project Bedrock. Ms. McGreevy presented the history of ashe juniper in the Hill Country, its role as a pioneer species to regenerate soils, the benefits of cedar to the watershed, and answered questions from the Board. General discussion followed.

President Rector introduced Item IV.A. Riparian park property business plan update. Ms. Bushnoe presented an overview of planned tasks and considerations once final closing occurs on Lot 902, and a portion of Lot 13, of The Landing in Kerrville, TX and UGRA obtains ownership. General discussion followed.

President Rector introduced Item IV. E. Project Priorities for 2025 and 2026. Ms. Bushnoe outlined the following project goals: continue existing high-quality programs, construct

first three Water Resources Preservation Grant program projects, acquire riparian park, implement flood warning dashboard, and maximizing reach of each event or project. General discussion followed on the following topics: reevaluation of UGRA's existing Water Enhancement Cost Share Program, incentivizing land conservation in riparian areas, and strategic land acquisition. President Rector introduced Item IV. B. Compliance with endangered species mussel listing. Director Smith provided a status update on activities by local entities to comply with the endangered species listing for freshwater mussels. President Rector introduced Item IV. C. Flood warning system next steps. Ms. Bushnoe provided an overview of the process currently underway to develop a dashboard to aggregate data related to flood warning. General discussion followed. President Rector introduced Item IV. D. Public awareness campaign regarding use of chemicals adjacent to waterways. General discussion followed and direction was provided to the General Manager to include this topic in UGRA's routine public awareness messages.

President Rector introduced Item V. Presentation and Discussion – Recap of 2025 Leadership Summit and State of the State Address. President Rector provided an overview of the Appointee Leadership Seminar he attended on January 31, 2025 and of Governor Abbott's State of the State Address highlighting the Governor's focus on water supply and infrastructure.

President Rector introduced Item VI. Information and Discussion – Response to Texas Legislative Council on Proposed Chapter for the Special District Local Laws Code to Codify UGRA. Ms. Bushnoe shared that staff and legal counsel have reviewed draft Chapter 8515 to the Special District Local Laws Code to codify laws pertaining to the

UGRA and UGRA does not have any concerns or feedback to provide on the draft chapter.
General Discussion followed.

President Rector introduced Item VII. General Manager Administrative Reminders. Ms. Bushnoe reminded the Board of the April 30th deadline for Personal Financial Statement filing with the Texas Ethics Commission and requested that the Board submit updates to their bio for the UGRA website if needed. Ms. Bushnoe also shared the dates of upcoming committee meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 pm.

No action was taken by UGRA Board of Directors as the workshop was for discussion only.

UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY ATTEST:

William R. Rector, President
Board of Directors

Austin Dickson, Secretary
Board of Directors