

## Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission

### September 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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The following members of the Board were in attendance:

Rich Paces, Kerr County Commissioner, Precinct 2,  
Jeff Holt, Kerr County Commissioner, Precinct 3, via TEAMS  
Jennifer McCall, Kendall County Commissioner, Precinct 1,  
Chad Carpenter, Kendall County Commissioner, Precinct 4,  
Linda Bullard, Landowner Representative.

Texas State Representative, Wes Virdell, was unable to attend.

A quorum being present, the Commission considered, discussed and took action as described below for each item on the posted meeting agenda.

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Commissioner Carpenter spoke about the need to direct our priorities to what needs to be fixed legislatively. Commissioner Paces invited the public to join in this effort for the 90<sup>th</sup> Legislature. A member of the public noted that while legislation is important, there are other tools, citing the example of Van Zandt County, which just got an extension on their Temporary Restraining Order, concluding that it's not as if the Counties are powerless. Commissioner Holt brought up the risks of different types of battery technology and also reported that a transformer had exploded and caught fire in the LCRA substation in Comfort, which is near the high school. He said that the more complex our electrical systems are, the riskier they become. A member of the public brought up the upcoming elections and the importance of asking candidates to position themselves on the BESS issue.

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#### 9. Set Next Meeting Date, Location and Agenda

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>,\* at the Kendall County Courthouse, at 1 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Linda Bullard, Secretary*

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**These minutes were approved on 10/21/25 by the HCESRPC Board.**

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#### 9. Set Next Meeting Date, Location and Agenda

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>,\* at the Kendall County Courthouse, at 1 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Linda Bullard, Secretary*

*\*The date actually selected in the meeting was subsequently changed to this.*

**These minutes were approved on 10/21/25 by the HCESRPC Board.**

## Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission

### September 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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Jeff Holt, Kerr County Commissioner, Precinct 3, via TEAMS  
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Linda Bullard, Landowner Representative.

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A quorum being present, the Commission considered, discussed and took action as described below for each item on the posted meeting agenda.

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Commissioners Carpenter and McCall reported on the East Point BESS project, a member of the public reported on activity at the Mountain Home BESS, and another member of the audience responded to Ms. Bullard's question about the status of the Harper BESS.

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Ms. Bullard brought up a Resolution which will be voted upon by the Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors at their annual state meeting at the end of January. The Resolution, introduced by Kendall County SWCD based on our own Position Statement, directs their leadership to inform the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House of their opposition to any further BESS installations without the involvement of local authorities. Ms. Bullard proposed that we, as a 391 Commission, write a letter to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, which is a State agency, expressing our concerns about BESS, supporting their Resolution, and urging them to allow Dr. Alexandria Rudd equal time to speak about BESS in their workshop on the Resolution. Commissioner Paces moved that Ms. Bullard write such a letter, and the Motion was adopted unanimously. She will get approval before sending it. She also invited members of the public to help contact the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in other Counties to urge them to vote in favor of the Resolution.

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## 8. Public Comment

Commissioner Paces called on those who had signed up to speak. One had already left, and one withdrew her request in view of the extensive public participation during the course of the meeting. Pat Long expressed her gratitude to the Commission for all its hard work and commitment. Thomas McComack lives about 4 miles from the Mountain Home BESS site and expressed his view that we must have massive public pressure to force elected representatives and appointed officials to listen to us. Another view was expressed that they don't care what we think, the only thing that matters is to make the companies' lives miserable by requiring them to provide documents and meet

requirements, etc., as they are doing in Van Zandt County. David Nash of Gillespie County stated that he wanted to have one of those strategic discussions and has some ideas about how to proceed.

Michael Stouts, a recent arrival in the area, said that he hasn't found anybody in his circles who knows anything about this and asked if there was any kind of point person or project manager people could contact if they have questions. A general discussion ensued. Audrey Boerner from Kerr and Kendall Counties pointed out that the 391 Commissions which have had success so far have been the ones who had a lawyer involved. We need to find a lawyer who's willing to do *pro bono* work and help us, because LCRA is going to continue blowing us off when all they have is a letter.

Commissioner Carpenter recalled that we are not allowed to use any County resources except the building, not even their sound equipment, which we have to bring in ourselves, and certainly not an attorney to represent us. But he pointed out that it is possible for General Counsel of our Counties to act on behalf of their Commissioners Courts, not the 391 Commission, to demand interconnectivity agreements from LCRA, etc.

Commissioner McCall asked members of the public who want to follow our activities to be sure to add their E-mail addresses on the Sign-in sheet so that we can send them E-mails about when our meetings are taking place and other information. She also asked about having a Workshop or adding an agenda item on Public Interaction or Public Discussion. Commissioner Paces noted that for those new to the issue, there is a presentation about BESS in our area which he gave to the Rotary Club and which has been posted to the Website on the Videos and Post of Interest page. Commissioner McCall added that all our correspondence is also posted on the Website. Ms. Bullard responded to Mike Stout's expression of need, recalling that there had been a strong citizens group before we got the 391 Commission, saying she is convinced such a group is now more important than ever, and should be reconstituted. Susan Bell stated that she herself would do that. Commissioner McCall stated that she will change the agenda item "Public Comment" to "Public Discussion."

#### 9. Set Next Meeting Date, Location and Agenda

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>,\* at the Kendall County Courthouse, at 1 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Linda Bullard, Secretary*

*\*The date actually selected in the meeting was subsequently changed to this.*

**These minutes were approved on 10/21/25 by the HCESRPC Board.**