

Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission

April 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission (HCESRPC) took place in the Kendall County Courthouse on April 9, 2026.

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
Pam Miller, Agricultural/Landowner Representative

The following members of the Board were absent:

Keith Kramer, Gillespie County Commissioner, Precinct 2
Wes Virdell, Texas State Representative, District 53

These Minutes are a full rendering of discussions and actions of the Annual Board Meeting as well as the Regular monthly meeting.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 1 pm, and Commissioner McCall offered a prayer, followed by the Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags. The Commission then considered, discussed and took action as described below for each item on the posted meeting agenda.

1. Approval of the Annual 2025-2026 Board Meeting Minutes:

*A motion was made by Commissioner Carpenter and seconded by Commissioner McCall to approve the Draft Minutes of the HCESRPC Annual Board Meeting that was held on March 5, 2026.
The motion was adopted unanimously, and the Minutes were approved without amendment.*

2. Approval of the March 5, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes:

*A motion was made by Commissioner Carpenter and seconded by Commissioner McCall to approve the Draft Minutes of the HCESRPC Regular Board Meeting held on March 5, 2026.
The motion was adopted unanimously, and the Minutes were approved without amendment.*

3. Formally Welcome Kendall County Landowner Representative Pam Miller.

Pam Miller was formally welcomed to the Board as our new Landowner Representative.

4. Outgoing Kerr County Landowner Linda Bullard.

Former Landowner Representative, Linda Bullard, addressed the Board and made various comments regarding the achievements of the HCESRPC as well as comments regarding future activities that the Board should undertake. *See the Video Recording on our website for details.*

5. Local BESS Facilities Status and Action:

Commissioner Carpenter reported that there was nothing new in Kendall County.
Commissioner McCall also reported nothing new.

David Nash reported that Gillespie County is involved in lawsuits with two BESS developers (*the Board is aware that the lawsuits are with Peregrine and its subsidiary, Rogers Draw Energy Storage, LLC over their proposed BESS facility in Harper and the second is with AMPYR and its subsidiaries, Marshall Springs Solar, LLC and Marshall Springs Storage, LLC over their solar and BESS facilities in Marshall Springs*).

Commissioner Paces reported that Kerr County will consider the final approval of a Fire Marshall permit and fee schedule and the contracting of a part time Fire Marshall in their commissioners' court meeting agenda next week. He informed that Dr. Robert Steele is already under contract as an expert to review any BESS documents submitted for approval.

Commissioner Holt stated that no construction has begun at the East-West BESS project proposed in Mt. Home.

6. Coordination with Relevant State Agencies and Other Government Officials:

Commissioner Paces and Holt discussed the Texas Cyber Command headquartered in San Antonio. Commissioner Holt spoke with TJ White, Admiral (ret.), who is heading the newly formed Texas Cyber Command. A meeting is set for April 24th in Kerr County with Commissioners Holt and Paces. Holt discussed possible questions to ask during the upcoming meeting. Commissioner McCall stated we have support from Senator Donna Campbell. Commissioner Holt commented that Wes Virdell is opposing the large 765 kV power transmission lines and will stand against it. Commissioner Paces stated that Kerr County court passed a resolution against the high voltage transmission lines with a vote of 4-0-1 with the Kerr County Judge abstaining, and approved submitting the resolution and a protest to PUCT against the 765 kV lines coming through Kerr County.

7. Protecting Critical Infrastructure/Cybersecurity:

Covered some of this topic with agenda item 6.

Commissioner McCall – Republican Party of Kendall County passed all three resolutions from Linda Bullard. Pam Miller reported that SW Airlines is limiting lithium batteries onboard their airlines. Luggage must be with traveler and no checked bags with lithium. Holt said federal law limits batteries to 100 milliamp hours.

8. Discussion and Appropriate Action on Other Administrative Matters:

Commissioner Paces stated that the Board needs to approve the amended Bylaws that were approved by Kerr, Kendall and Gillespie Counties in November 2025 adding Gillespie County to the HCESRPC.

Commissioner Paces made a motion that we formally approve the amended HCESRPC Bylaws that added Gillespie County. Seconded by Commissioner McCall. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Paces mentioned Gillespie will have to sign the amendment allowing a public landowner member in an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner McCall announced that on Tuesday the 14th, Commissioner Paces will provide the Kendall County Commissioners' Court an update on BESS activities and will present the 2025 HCESRPC annual report that was submitted to the Texas State Auditor's Office on March 6, 2026 as required under Chapter 391 of the Local Government Code.

9. David Nash - Presentation on 500-meter Fire Break Setback:

David Nash from Gillespie County led a discussion on a proposed 500-meter fire break for BESS facilities. *See Video Recording for details.*

Commissioner Paces recommended that a legislative subcommittee be formed to help write, edit and promote bills for the upcoming legislative session. Cheryl Grosso, David Nash and Commissioner McCall volunteered to work with Commissioner Paces on the subcommittee.

10. Public Comments and Discussion:

Cheryl Grosso - Commented that President Trump stated AI facilities need to provide their own electric needs at their expense.

11. Set Next Meeting Date, Location and Agenda:

May 19th, 2026 @ 3:00 pm. The location will either be the Gillespie County Courthouse or the Kerr County Courthouse. TBD.

Meeting was Adjourned at 2:40 pm.

These meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the HCESRPC Board during its regular Board Meeting on May 19th, 2026.