

Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission May 19, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission (HCESRPC) took place in the Kerr County Courthouse on May 19, 2026 at 3:05 PM

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

Joyce Yanuzzi from Dr. Donna Campbell's office was present online for today's meeting.

These Minutes are a rendering of key discussions and actions of the regular monthly meeting.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 3 pm, and Pam Miller 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 April 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner McCall and seconded by Pam Miller to approve the Draft Minutes of the HCESRPC Regular Board Meeting held on April 9, 2026.

The motion was adopted unanimously, and the Minutes were approved without amendment.

2. Local BESS Facilities Status and Action:

Commissioner Carpenter Nothing.

Commissioner McCall mentioned Key Capture is still listed on ERCOT's site.

Commissioner Paces mentioned East West energy is still moving forward.

Commissioner Holt mentioned more details regarding East West energy and his discussion with EsVolta from New Port Beach, CA, Pine Cove Strategies (PR Company) and one other company out of Dallas. EsVolta is planning a 120 MW BESS development in Mountain Home and has purchased 17 acres of land directly adjacent to the LCRA substation next to I-10 for their development. They are giving a timeline of 18 months to finish their project. Holt informed EsVolta about the requirement to meet with the Kerr County Fire Marshal and more.

Gillespie residents David Baker and Angela Enright: mentioned a planned 1100-acre property with Solar and Battery Storage development. They mentioned that Gillespie County filed a lawsuit against

Enpure on 4 counts. They have met with Judge Jones and other commissioners and are working with 20 residents to push back. The largest investor is the Teachers Investment Fund.

David Nash: mentioned the Harper BESS development is waiting on permits.

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

Commissioner Paces: Stated that detailed comments on behalf of HCESRPC were submitted to the PUCT on May 18th in regard to PUCT's proposed rules applicable to Electric Energy Storage Facilities (EESF) under 16 TAC § 25.58, and that the HCESRPC also formally requested a formal public hearing on PUCT's proposed rules. The Legislative Committee (LC) that worked on those comments is made up of Cheryl Grosso, David Nash, Rich Paces, and Jennifer McCall. The LC also submitted comments on Representative Wes Virdell's House Bill which would require a 500-meter setback for BESS facilities. Representative Troxclair as a co-sponsor for the bill. Commissioner Paces also mentioned that the recent ERCOT "State of the Grid" newsletter shows a substantial increase (greater dependence) in planned battery storage and solar capacity with a lesser increased plan to add more unreliable wind capacity. Minimal new reliable thermal dispatchable energy capacity is planned.

Commissioner McCall: mentioned her conversation with Robert Steele there are investigations happening where our State Fire Marshal is verifying compliance in Texas.

Commissioner Holt: mentioned his discussions with Wes Virdell and his continued support for HCESRPC.

4. Protecting Critical Infrastructure/Cybersecurity:

Commissioner Holt gave update on his meeting with Chief White on cybersecurity. Holt invited him to all of our HCESRPS meetings.

5. Legislative Committee:

Commissioner Holt mentioned HB1378 and the HCESRPCs Legislative Committee's work with edits to the bill and are ready to move it forward. Need a companion bill moving through the senate at the same time. Linda Bullard mentioned resolutions and the need to go to the State convention with our priorities. She would like to see the Chapter 391 code amended to enforcement practices when state agencies do not comply with meeting a 391 commission when requested. Chip Roy's office and his local representatives are very helpful.

6. Discussion and Appropriate Action on Other Administrative Matters:

No Discussion.

7. Presentation from Dr. Alex Rudd:

See the video posted on the HCESRPC.com website.

8. Public Comments and Discussion:

Susan Bell mentioned several EDCs have met with these BESS developers (possibly Kendall County and Kerr County EDCs).

Angela Enright mentioned Gillespie County EDC has come out in opposition to Battery Storage and Solar developments.

Dr. Alex Rudd asked the question about Pinegate in Bandera and what was going on with that.

9. Set Next Meeting Date, Location and Agenda:

July 7, 2026 @ 1:00 pm. The location will either be the Kendall County Historic Courthouse (204 E. San Antonio Ave.).

Meeting was Adjourned at 5:00 pm.