



Implementing Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Minutes of the September 19, 2013 Meeting

Located at the Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio, Texas

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present for all purposes. All members of the Implementing Committee were represented.

2. **Public Comment**  
None.

3. **Update on Implementing Committee membership and election of Secretary for the Implementing Committee.**

Todd Votteler made a motion to nominate Steve Ramsey for Secretary of the Implementing Committee. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. The Implementing Committee had no objections; thus, the motion passed.

4. **Approval of Minutes from August 15, 2013.**

Steven Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes from the Implementing Committee meeting on August 15, 2013. Chuck Ahrens seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

5. **Discuss and take possible action regarding operational procedures of the Implementing Committee:**

Roland Ruiz discussed that it may be beneficial to have a Parliamentarian present during Implementing Committee meetings and offered Darcy Frownfelter for that position. Tom Taggart made a motion to designate Darcy Frownfelter as the Parliamentarian. Andrew Sansom seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Roland Ruiz additionally expressed interest in recording meetings of the Implementing Committee to ease in the development of minutes by EAHCP staff. Recordings of the minutes would become public information. There were no objections from the Implementing Committee regarding recording meetings.

Roland Ruiz additionally reported that Nathan Pence would be offered the Program Manager position. The Implementing Committee discussed developing a resolution in support of this appointment to be approved at the next meeting.

- 6. Receive report from EAHCP Staff on general topics related to the implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan and operation of the Implementing Committee.**
  - a. Rick Illgner provided an update that the cut-off date for enrollment in 2014 will be on Oct 1, 2013. Currently, 13,566 acre-feet are enrolled.
  - b. Julia Velez with SARA reported that there were no changes to ASR enrollment since September, but that the EAA and SARA were discussing alternative lease terms and public outreach opportunities moving forward.
  - c. Flow triggered Biological Monitoring reports will continue to be posted on the EAHCP website.
  - d. Staff presented the Budget Report through August 2013; there were no questions.
  - e. The Funding Application deadline for the spring cities and the EAA is October 1, 2013.
  - f. Nathan Pence reported that several contracts for the Regional Water Conservation Program have gone to the EAA Board or will be going to the EAA board in the near future. These include a Contract with the City of Uvalde, a toilet distribution contract with SAWS, and a toilet purchasing contract with Moore. Additionally, Texas A&M contractors are communicating with Leon Valley, Maxwell Water Corporation (Hays), Live Oak and Converse to gauge interest and initiate the assessment process. Negotiations are also taking place with East Medina Water Utility and Hondo.
  - g. Nathan Pence additionally pointed out that the Stakeholder Committee Meeting for September was cancelled, but that an update on activities had been sent to the Committee, and the group will meet at the joint-Committee meeting on December 19, 2013.
- 7. Receive report on current aquifer conditions, spring flow levels and related activities.**

Geary Schindel from the EAA reported on current aquifer conditions. His presentation will be made available on the EAHCP website.
- 8. Receive report regarding drought contingencies meeting and related low-flow memorandums to-date.**

Nathan Pence reported that a meeting to discuss drought contingencies was held on September 03, 2013, per the request of the Implementing Committee. The representatives at that meeting felt that ongoing conservation measures were having a net positive impact to the Comal and San Marcos systems. The group additionally felt that real-time observations, water-quality data, and biological monitoring reports should be used to determine the impacts of conservation measures instead of exclusively utilizing flow-based triggers. The Implementing Committee agreed that another drought contingency meeting should be held in early 2014 prior to the implementation of any 2014 measures.
- 9. Presentation of Water Quality Monitoring Data to-date.**

Mark Hamilton from the EAA reported on water quality monitoring data to-date. His presentation will be made available on the EAHCP website.
- 10. Receive update on the status of the National Academy of Science Contract and take possible action on minor variations between the National Academy of Science Contract and the Funding and Management Agreement.**

Nathan Pence reported that negotiations are nearly complete with the National Academy of Science for the Science Review Panel. Darcy Frownfelter discussed with the Committee deviations from the FMA that are present in the Contract with the National Academy of Science. Chuck Ahrens made a motion to draft an informational memorandum to FWS outlining these deviations.

Tom Taggart seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

**11. Discuss and take possible action regarding the Science Committee's requests for improvements to the Science Committee meeting process to increase efficiency.**

Jenna Cantwell presented the requests submitted by the Science Committee in regards to Science Committee meeting process. There were no objections from the Implementing Committee to EAHCP Staff working to their fullest ability to meet the requested procedures of the Science Committee moving forward.

**12. Discuss and take possible action authorizing the Program Manager to submit an informational memorandum to FWS related to ongoing implementation activities.**

Roland Ruiz moved to submit the provided informational memorandum to FWS with a modification to include language requiring FWS to provide regufia above historically funded levels. Chuck Ahrens seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

**13. Presentation on the Annual Report draft timeline and draft outline.**

Nathan Pence reported that EAHCP Staff had developed a draft timeline and outline for completion of the Annual Report. The EAA will be retaining a consultant to develop the Annual Report; the Parties of the EAHCP will still need to submit their respective sections to the EAA for submission to the Consultant and inclusion in the draft and final reports.

**14. Public Comment.**

Todd Votteler reported that Jason Kevin Patteson had been appointed the new Executive Administrator of the Texas Water Development Board.

**15. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas.**

- The next Implementing committee is scheduled for October 17, 2013, at the New Braunfels Civic Center

Meeting Adjourned at 11:37 a.m.



Steven Ramsey

Secretary of the Implementing Committee