



**STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017**

1. **Call to order--Establish that all Committee members are present or represented- 9:06 a.m.**
Steve Raabe, Chairman of the Stakeholder Committee, called roll. There was a quorum of the committee present.
2. **Public Comment.**
No comment.
3. **Approval of minutes from the March 16th and June 15th Stakeholder Committee meetings.**
Dianne Wassenich made a motion to approve. Myron Hess seconded the motion. There were no objections.
4. **Receive report from the Program Manager on general updates about the Habitat Conservation Plan.**
 - Springflow and Index Well levels
Chad Furl, Chief Science Officer for the EAHCP, provided a summary of recent hydraulics for the springs and aquifer.
 - Collaboration in Grant Funded Projects
Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, EAHCP Director, provided a brief presentation on some of the collaborative efforts to access some grants for EAHCP projects.
 - Hydrologic Modeling Workshop
Nathan Pence, EAHCP Program Manager, mentioned that a Hydrologic Model Workshop for the Stakeholders and Science Committee members sometime in the fall of 2017.
 - Modeling and Phase II timeline
Mr. Pence provided a brief description about the timeline regarding the hydrologic model and use through Phase II and Strategic AMP.
 - *NAS Report 3*
Mr. Pence provided a brief description of the *NAS Report 3* SRP membership, timeline, and scope of the final NAS report. Additionally, Mr. Pence describes how *Report 3* will provide specific feedback on Biological Goals.
Dianne Wassenich thanked EAHCP staff for including the Stakeholder Committee members in all NAS workshops and meetings.
 - 2018 Stakeholder and Implementing Committee meeting dates
Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez presented the proposed dates for the Stakeholder Committee meetings for 2018.
 - Zebra Mussel Monitoring
Mr. Pence discussed bringing together a group of Stakeholders that have jurisdiction in and around areas that are or could be affected by the presence of zebra mussels in the Guadalupe basin. Monitoring will be committed to but possibly proactive research could be a part of next

steps to protect the springs systems from future infection. There was a discussion regarding zebra mussel propagation and who are the agencies that currently monitor and research the zebra mussel. Todd Votteler, GBRA, mentioned the possible propagation issues through those who train for the Texas Water Safari. Additionally, Mr. Votteler mentioned a comprehensive look at this issues, including the quagga mussel.

Mr. Raabe mentioned that San Antonio River Authority will work with TPWD to start monitoring the San Antonio River.

- REI/LOOP Tour
Shaun Payne, EAHCP staff, presented some photos from a recent tour of the San Marcos system.

5. Discussion and possible recommendation on the Sediment Removal and Impervious Cover/Water Quality Protection Nonroutine Adaptive Management (AMP) Proposal.

Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez presented the details pertaining to the Sediment Removal and Impervious Cover/Water Quality Protection Nonroutine Adaptive Management Proposal. This proposal has been presented and approved by the Science Committee (resulting in the Scientific Evaluation Report). The full presentation can be found on eahcp.org.

Mr. Pence described that this AMP proposal includes limitation of sediment removal for “emergency” needs as well as expand sediment removal methods to include mechanical means not just suction dredge (as is currently stated in the EAHCP).

Carol Patterson asked about whether this cost, which is less annually than sediment removal, is also a shared cost between the City of San Marcos as well as utilization of other grant funds. Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez concurred. Mr. Pence clarified that this AMP proposal is not specifically about Sessom Creek or Landa Lake BMPs but rather a broader amendment that would affect LID work in San Marcos and New Braunfels. The specific details regarding these efforts will go through the proper annual Work Plan and Funding Application process.

One correction to the language in Nonroutine AMP Proposal to change “respected” to “respective.”

Dianne Wassenich made a motion to approve the AMP proposal. Carol Patterson seconded the motion. There were no objections.

6. Discussion and decision regarding expedited process to develop and approve submission of the Nonroutine AMP Stakeholder Report to the Implementing Committee.

Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez requested an action regarding the method of approval of the Stakeholder Report required to present to the Implementing Committee for final AMP approval.

Roger Biggers made a motion to approve the expedited process; Cindy Loeffler seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Mr. Pence provided a summary of the details associated with Sessom Creek restoration work intended to reduce sediment loading into the upper portion of the San Marcos River. Mr. Raabe

mentioned that the San Antonio River Authority has developed some regional material to restore watersheds much like Sessom Creek. Mr. Pence mentioned that Aarin Teague has volunteered to help develop some of the efforts in San Marcos.

Mr. Pence continued by explaining some of the WQPP efforts in New Braunfels that implement stormwater BMPs around Landa Lake. It was communicated that all efforts in both San Marcos and New Braunfels are above and beyond their MS4 requirements.

7. Presentation and discussion regarding the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Nonroutine Adaptive Management Process (AMP) and timeline.

Mr. Pence began the presentation by communicating that Myron Hess, Vice Chair, communicated that it will be important to keep the Stakeholders involved as the changes to ASR are developed so that everyone is informed and confident in the changes before it is presented. The full presentation can be found at eahcp.org.

Tom Taggart asked how forbearance agreements, as expected to be implemented for future ASR water, can be regulated/enforced as well as the current lease structure is regulated. Mr. Pence communicated that permit forbearance agreements are enforced through typical well-logging and permitting regulation.

Buck Benson mentioned those he represents often put aside 44% of their permitted water every year in order to prepare for the worst-case scenario. Mr. Benson wanted to encourage EAA to find out how to utilize the water set aside for Critical Period Management (CPM). Bruce Alexander described the situation a small municipality is in when attempting to plan for possible drought or CPM reduction as well as maintaining leases in ASR all while needing to provide water for their customers.

Mr. Pence continued by presenting a tentative timeline to the ASR Adaptive Management Process. If all modeling checks-out, advertising of new product is planned to begin in 2018 and implementation in 2019.

Mr. Taggart asked how the Hydrologic Modeling timeline fits into the ASR AMP timeline. Mr. Pence mentioned the Hydrologic Model Workshop is the starting point for the ASR AMP. Mr. Taggart asked if there is enough time to adequately communicate and develop the new ASR product and move it through the amendment process. Mr. Pence answered by communicating the aggressive timeline is simply a starting point.

The committee had a 15-minute break.

8. Presentation of the Ecological Model workshop and EAHCP Strategic Adaptive Management considerations.

Mr. Pence described the Ecological Model workshop and what the Ecological Model showed. Dr. Furl presented the information regarding the Ecological Model and what the uses and end results are. The full presentation can be found at eahcp.org.

Mr. Pence communicated that the Ecological Model was developed for one reason, which was to test the numbers of fountain darters that survive through the drought of record due to our mitigation and minimization measures in the EAHCP. The model has shown exactly what the EAHCP hoped it would. Specifically, that our measures have provided the adequate protections to reach the goals established in the HCP.

Carol Patterson asked questions regarding the variations in the systems do not only include droughts, but also floods and periods of constant flow. Mrs. Patterson asked if this model can show effects of other extreme, or constant, springflow in regards to fountain darter numbers.

9. Presentation regarding the NAS Report 2 Implementation Plan.

Cindy Loeffler, TPWD and Chair of the NAS *Report 2* Work Group, presented the details found in the NAS *Report 2* Implementation Plan. Full presentation is available at eahcp.org.

Dianne Wassenich spoke about the NAS recommendation on ASR and why those recommendations are not the EAHCP's responsibility. Mr. Pence reiterated that the specific recommendation was regarding ASR operations and not leasing. Patrick Shriver, SAWS, communicated that many of the concerns have been addressed and are being watched by SAWS staff.

Mr. Pence provided a summary of the next couple items. Lunch was provided and the committee took a break for 45 minutes.

10. Presentation and discussion of the National Academy of Sciences Report 2 Recommendations Issues List.

Mr. Pence presented a series of issues that were brought up in NAS *Report 2*. Full presentation can be found at eahcp.org.

Jim Bower asked how far along are the CSRFB efforts in comparison to where we would like to be. Mr. Pence communicated that we are about half-way to where we should be to maintain a functioning population of CSRFB in captivity.

There was a discussion regarding what a third-party audit would look like and what exactly would be audited. Mr. Pence communicated that much of what the EAHCP does on an annual basis through a multitude of mechanisms.

There was a discussion regarding how climate change, and what information we may need to inform the committee, to adequately prepare for addressing it at the ITP renewal. Myron Hess stated that we should be cognizant not to wait too long to get adequate time to plan for the ITP renewal. Cindy Loeffler reminded the committee of the August Implementing Committee discussion regarding bringing in experts to present information regarding the Edwards Aquifer region and what climate change can affect the roll-over of the ITP. Mr. Pence suggested we wait until Strategic Adaptive Management changes has been made then take time to focus on this next issue.

Con Mims asked what the specific reason we would invest time and money into an uncertainty analysis. Mr. Pence communicated it would help inform the Aquifer Science team to know more about the system and improve the Hydrologic model. Mr. Mims commented that the HCP seems to be spending a lot of money and this could be a place to save funds. Roland Ruiz, EAA, communicated that he does not disagree with Mr. Mims but emphasized that recharge, for example, is a place where the EAA can improve their understanding. Myron Hess communicated that when moving into a new permit having increased confidence in the protection of springflow required in the HCP would make the planning effort much more acceptable to USFWS. This could eventually save money in the long-term by not doing more than necessary by being more precise in protection measures to meet specific springflow goals.

11. Presentation of the 2017 Budget Work Group Report.

Mr. Pence presented the information regarding the 2017 Budget Work Group Report. Full presentation can be found at eahcp.org. Mr. Hess communicated about the importance of keeping an eye on VISPO/ASR triggers and the impacts to the budget.

12. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas.

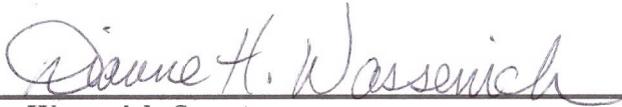
- Next meeting will be held on December 14th at the Edwards Aquifer Authority.
 - ASR AMP
 - NAS Report 3 update
 - Hydrologic Modeling workshop update
 - Refugia update
 - Officer elections

13. Questions from the public.

No Comment from the public.

Steve Raabe communicated that the San Antonio River (Authority) received an international award due to cultural, natural and historical conservation that has been devoted to the San Antonio River and a formal announcement will be made on September 25, 2017.

14. Adjourn – 2:07 pm



Dianne Wassenich, Secretary