



**Stakeholder Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2018**

1. **Call to order -- 9:00 a.m.**  
Myron Hess called order; a quorum was present.
2. **Public Comment.**  
No comments.
3. **Approval of minutes from the September 21<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder Committee meeting and December 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee meeting.**

Con Mims made a motion to approve meeting minutes; the motion was seconded. There were no objections.

4. **Report from the Program Manager on general updates about the Habitat Conservation Plan.**

- **Springflow and Index Well levels**

Dr. Chad Furl provided a brief hydrologic update on the springflows and index well levels. Diane Wassenich asked when the data for the historical averages began. Dr. Furl answered that the historical averages contains data prior to the 1950's.

- **The National Academy of Sciences EAHCP Science Review Panel's *Report 3*, meeting 2 overview.**

Dr. Chad Furl updated the committee on the third and final National Academy of Sciences (NAS) EAHCP report. *Report 3* will be a holistic review of the HCP as well as an analysis on the relationships between the conservation measures, biological objectives and biological goals. During the January visit, the NAS committee had the opportunity to tour the Comal System restoration sites and SMARC refugia complex. *Report 3* is expected to be completed by Fall 2018.

Glenn Lord asked if it was the same NAS committee that has reviewed the HCP over the course of the program. Nathan Pence answered that it has been the same NAS committee, apart from a few committee member changes, over the past 5 years to review the HCP.

- **EAHCP 2017 Annual Report Update**  
Shaun Payne provided the committee a timeline of the 2017 EAHCP Annual Report. A second opportunity to review and provide comments on the draft Annual Report will begin February 9<sup>th</sup>. The final Annual Report will be submitted March 26<sup>th</sup> and a hard copy will be made available at the next Implementing Committee meeting. Nathan Pence mentioned plans to produce a high level executive summary of the Annual Report that would be appropriate for stakeholder groups, city council members and interested individuals.
- **Contractor Selection for the Sessom Creek 2018 Applied Research Project**  
Dr. Chad Furl provided updates on the Sessom Creek Project. Texas State University and Texas A&M University AgriLife have been selected as the contractors for this project. The Scope of Work will include data collection on sediment loading, calculating sediment/constituent loading curves and data analysis on contributing factors to sediment exports.
- **Comal Springs Riffle Beetle (CSRB) Work Group update**  
Dr. Chad Furl presented recent updates to the CSRB 2018 Work Group initiative. Suggestions made by the Science Committee and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department include additional monitoring through the Biomonitoring program, a CSRB distribution and abundance study and additional sampling locations. However, many overarching questions concerning riffle beetle sampling remain. Proposed next steps of the CSRB Work Group intend to address many of those concerns and discuss development of the data driven Work Group.

Carol Patterson asked if there were any plans to sample for the CSRB in the center of Landa Lake. Dr. Furl answered that sampling in the center of the lake was not considered a priority because riffle beetles are not typically found more 50 meters away from a spring orifice. Nathan Pence noted the heavy amount of sampling that already occurs in the spring system by various groups aside from the HCP. The CSRB work group intends to provide recommendations on monitoring and sampling frequency.

**5. Presentation of the 2017 Net Disturbance and Incidental Take Assessment.**

Nathan Pence presented the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) 2017 Report, the significance of the ITP and its relation to the HCP. The 2017 Report concluded that EAHCP activities did not exceed the 10% habitat disturbance rule, the fountain darter experienced less take in 2017 than in 2016 and that the EAHCP is in good standing relative to the ITP.

Jim Bower asked about the relationship between the take of a covered species and the take of habitat. Mr. Pence answered that the ratio and formula for take of the species and habitat is different for each covered species. Kimberly Meitzen added that attachment 3 of the stakeholder committee packet illustrates the total habitat relative to take. Tom Taggart recommended using a chart to clarify the descriptions of take and habitat. Con Mims asked how many years were left on the ITP and if drought was taken into consideration when

determining the take of species. Mr. Pence answered that the permit expires in 2027 and that the USFWS accommodated estimates of take based on historical drought data.

**6. Discussion and possible recommendation on the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Nonroutine Adaptive Management (AMP) Proposal.**

Myron Hess introduced the ASR AMP proposal to the committee.

Marc Friberg provided a presentation on the current ASR program requirements, past ASR leasing options, analysis on ASR lease trigger scenarios, proposed program amendments from a three-tiered approach to a two tiered system and a budget analysis. The proposed amendment intends to facilitate long term commitment and spring flow protection during drought while maintaining a budget within Table 7.1 estimates.

Con Mims asked about the percentage of the total amount of agricultural water that will be targeted for the ASR program. Mr. Friberg communicated the amount of available agricultural water, but that municipal and industrial water would also be targeted. Myron Hess asked to clarify the locational aspect of the ASR. Mr. Friberg provided an example that permit holders that pump near springs, such as the New Braunfels Utilities (NBU), have a significant impact on ASR during forbearance.

Darren Thompson asked if price points were determined on the type of water usage. Mr. Friberg answered that the EAA is open to these conversations but at this moment one-price point has been discussed.

Adam Yablonski asked about the process moving forward to adjust to the market. Mr. Friberg answered that public outreach, communication with the EAA Board of Directors and market analysis will be deliberated moving forward with the ASR. Price points will be considered as part of the discussion to pursue long term lease commitments and maintaining the EAA's obligations. Nathan Pence clarified that the goal is to fulfill the program's responsibilities and develop a model that can be applied to future use. Myron Hess asked to clarify the estimated budget. Mr. Friberg answered that ASR budget will not exceed the 2018 estimates determined in Table 7.1.

Roland Ruiz noted that meeting with individuals, committee members and small groups has been very helpful and thanked the committee on their continued efforts to improve the program.

Javier Hernandez made a motion to approve the ASR AMP as amended. Carol Patterson seconded the motion. There were no objections.

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

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez presented the purpose of the expedited process to develop and approve submission of the Nonroutine AMP Stakeholder Report to the Implementing Committee

Patrick Shriver made a motion to approve the expedited process. Cindy Loeffler seconded the motion. There were no objections.

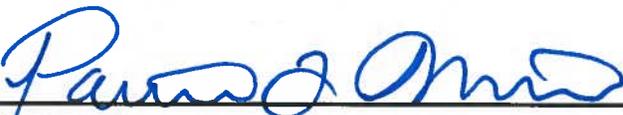
**8. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas.**

The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2018 at the City of New Braunfels City Hall. Nathan Pence noted that the next meeting will provide committee members a presentation on the bottom up package of all HCP programs. Additionally, members of all HCP committees are invited to attend a tour of the Comal Springs during the next Science Committee meeting. Carol Patterson asked when the next Science Committee meeting will be held. Dr. Chad Furl answered the next meeting will be on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Questions from the public.**

Roland Ruiz informed the committee on a lawsuit that has recently been filed by the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District against the EAA over recent changes to the Base Irrigation Rules. Mr. Ruiz assured the committee that the lawsuit will not affect the activities and operations of the HCP.

**10. Adjourn: 10:40am**

  
Patrick Shriver, Secretary 6-4-2018