



March 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes

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1. Call to order.

Members present included: Floyd Weckerly, Chad Norris, Tom Arsuffi, Glenn Longley, Jackie Poole, Doyle Mosier, and Conrad Lamon. Robert Mace, Janis Bush, Jacquelyn Duke, and Charles Kreidler were unable to attend.

2. Public comment.

No comments from the public.

3. Approval of the Science Committee meeting minutes (Attachment 1).

Dr. Mosier motioned to approve the March minutes; Dr. Longley seconded. There were no objections.

4. Receive report from the Program Manager.

▪ Spring systems and index well update

Dr. Lamon suggested looking at the 10 year rolling recharge average since it is used as a trigger value for VISPO. Dr. Furl replied that the number will be available in April 2017 and will be included at the next meeting on May 9th.

▪ Water Quality and Biological Monitoring procurement status

▪ Sessom Creek project update

Dr. Furl gave a brief overview of the Sessom Creek monitoring program. The contractors will present a more detailed summary of the formal scope of work (SOW) at the next meeting on May 9th.

▪ 2017 EAHCP Annual Report status

May 9th Science Committee Tour will cover the Old Channel of the Comal Spring system, lunch will be provided

5. Presentation of the 2017 Applied Research results: *Distributional Patterns of Aquatic Macrophytes in the San Marcos and Comal Rivers from 2000 to 2015.* (Attachment 2)

Dr. Jeff Hutchinson presented a summary of his 2017 Applied Research results on the distributional characteristics of aquatic macrophytes in the San Marcos and Comal River.

Dr. Lamon emphasized the significance of accounting for the time between a flood event and the mapping of vegetation.

Dr. Arsuffi noted that the fall coverage should be higher due to the higher availability of sunlight and good growing conditions during the summer months, however, you have recreation also influencing the coverage values.

Dr. Arsuffi inquired as to how the high discharge events were classified. Ed Oborny stated that there are flow conditions listed within the Biomonitoring scope of work that categorize conditions as low, average, and high.

Dr. Arsuffi noted that while there may be limited aquatic macrophyte distribution studies on the Comal and San Marcos system, the NSF has funded many such studies and would be a valuable source of information.

6. Presentation of the 2017 Applied Research results: Analysis of Comal Springs and San Marcos Springs Long-Term Monitoring Dataset. (Attachment 3)

Dr. Perkins presented an overview of his team's 2017 Applied Research results.

In discussing the vegetation coverage increase in IH-35 long-term biological goal reach, Mr. Ed Oborny noted that the IH-35 LTBG reach was expanded in 2014, from the Ramon Lucio bridge to the IH-35 bridge, therefore, the increase in vegetation coverage is not due to restoration or growth, it is due to an expansion of the reaches extent.

7. Presentation and discussion on the possible creation of a Science Committee Work Group ("Comal Spring riffle beetle Work Group") to review Comal Springs riffle beetle monitoring activities.

Dr. Furl, P.E. facilitated a discussion on current CSRIB monitoring activities and the potential creation of a CSRIB Work Group.

Mr. Mosier emphasized that we do not know the exact extent of the CSRIB habitat, therefore, we do not know if we are sampling 90% or 10% of its habitat.

Dr. Lamon inquired if anyone has analyzed the CSRIB abundance data to determine the probability of detection (or conversely, absence).

Membership and charge will be presented and discussed at the next Science Committee meeting.

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

- Science Committee Meeting, Wednesday May 9th at 9 a.m. at the Landa Haus in New Braunfels.

9. Questions and comments from the public.

10. Adjourn.