

EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN PROGRAM**SCIENCE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT WORK GROUP REPORT**Discussion:

At its February 21, 2013 meeting, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) Implementing Committee reinstated the Science Committee Appointment Work Group previously formed by the Adaptive Management Stakeholder Committee (Stakeholder Committee) to consider the most appropriate strategy for filling the final vacancy on the EAHCP Science Committee. Members of this Work Group are Colette Barron Bradsby, Jim Bower, Myron Hess, Steve Raabe, Patrick Shriver, and Todd Votteler.

The charge of this Work Group was to identify a specific list of qualifications for a potential candidate and a strategy to fill the Science Committee vacancy described in the Work Group's previous recommendation from November 9, 2012. That recommendation was that the Implementing Committee should "continue to support holding one Science Committee member slot open for the appointment of an individual with expertise in ecological modeling and that such appointment should occur before the end of the second quarter of the year 2013."

A meeting of this Work Group was held on March 11, 2013 at the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Attendees included Colette Barron Bradsby, Jim Bower, Myron Hess, Patrick Shriver, Todd Votteler, Robert Gulley, and Jenna Cantwell. Steve Raabe was unable to attend. A quorum was present for all purposes.

The Group initially discussed how they were originally appointed as a Work Group of the Stakeholder Committee and that there are no formal Implementing Committee rules or procedures that govern Work Groups. They believe it is important that the Implementing Committee is aware of the membership of the Work Group and has an opportunity to make any adjustments to the Work Group it deems appropriate. After some discussion, the group concluded that they could not recommend any specific individuals to fill the vacancy since no formal nominations had been received. They stressed the importance of having a variety of qualified candidates to select from and discussed the required and preferred qualifications for this Science Committee member.

Recommendations:

The Work Group by consensus approved the following recommendations:

1. The Implementing Committee should review the membership of the Work Group and determine if it would like to maintain the existing Work Group or modify its membership and whether they should provide additional guidance to such Work Group;
2. The Implementing Committee should adopt minimum and preferred qualifications for candidates to fill the ecological modeling vacancy on the Science Committee. At a minimum, the

candidate must have applied experience in the development or application of an ecological model related to aquatic systems, with preference given to modeling experience at a scale comparable to the EAHCP. Additional preferred qualifications are that the candidate has equal experience in biology and modeling, or primary knowledge in modeling with some biological application experience. Candidates are not required to have a Ph.D or Master's degree specifically in modeling or biology if they have sufficient relevant ecological modeling experience;

3. The Implementing Committee should solicit nominations for candidates meeting the aforementioned qualifications from the Implementing Committee, Stakeholder Committee, Science Committee, Anthony Starfield, and university Biology Departments across the state and should not limit the source of nominations. To be considered, a nomination must provide the candidate's name, resume, and a statement confirming that the candidate is willing to serve on the Science Committee;

4. To assist in indentifying appropriate candidates, the EAHCP staff should prepare a one-page summary that includes background information on the EAHCP, the role and expectations of the Science Committee, information on the time commitment, and a discussion on the reimbursement and compensation procedures for Science Committee members to be distributed to all parties to assist them in seeking qualified candidates;

5. In order to facilitate sufficient time for review of qualified candidates, all nominations should be submitted to EAHCP Coordinator, Jenna Cantwell at jcantwell@edwardsaquifer.org by April 22, 2013; and

6. A meeting of the Vacancy Work Group, or other Work Group as determined by the Implementing Committee per recommendation #1, should convene on May 3, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in San Marcos to review the nominations and generate an evaluation of candidates based upon the qualifications outlined in recommendation #2. This Work Group will make this evaluation available to the Implementing Committee no later than May 9 to allow adequate time for review by the Implementing Committee in advance of consideration for action to fill the vacancy at its May 16 meeting.