



MEMORANDUM

To: EAHCP Adaptive Management Science Committee

From: Doyle Mosier, Chair
Tom Arsuffi, Vice-chair

Date: November 3, 2016

Subject: **Operation of the EAHCP Adaptive Management Science Committee**

Dear Science Committee Members:

As Chair and Vice-chair of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) Adaptive Management Science Committee (Science Committee), we met with EAHCP staff in October 2016 to discuss the role and responsibilities of the Science Committee, examine its overall effectiveness, and suggest improvements for both staff and the committee.

At this meeting, we arrived at three recommended changes to committee operation intended to improve the effectiveness of the Science Committee, make the best use of members' time, and increase member engagement. These changes, which we propose for endorsement by the Science Committee, are summarized below:

1. *Quarterly meetings*

We propose to reduce the number of full Science Committee meetings to four times a year. This proposed number of meetings allows the Science Committee to meet annually recurring obligations set forth in the FMA. A schedule is posted as an attachment to the November 10, 2016 meeting of the Science Committee.

2. *Subcommittees*

We propose to form subcommittees as necessary to address specific scientific needs of the EAHCP outside of the quarterly meetings. It is anticipated that subcommittees would be formed around topics narrow enough in scope to not require the full Science Committee. Subcommittee members would be selected by the Science Committee chairs and the Program Manager based on expertise, and members will be reimbursed as a regular meeting. An attempt would be made to identify future subcommittee meetings and membership at the full Science Committee meetings.

3. *Chair succession*

We propose to have "chair-elects" come on board each year. This would entail a two-year commitment serving as chair-elect or vice-chair in year one and chair of the Science Committee in year 2. New chair-elects would be selected at the last full Science Committee meeting of each year.

An item has been included on the agenda for the November 10, 2016 Science Committee meeting to continue discussion on the operation of the Science Committee. This item includes the possible committee action of endorsing the above key points of operation.

The sections of the Funding & Management Agreement (FMA) that identify the Science Committee's role and responsibilities are summarized below for your reference.

Role and Responsibilities of the Adaptive Management Science Committee

- ❖ *Provide advice on Adaptive Management Process (AMP) decisions (FMA 7.9)*
 - Consult with, advise and make recommendations to the Program Manager, the Implementing Committee, and the Stakeholder Committee on any AMP Decision upon request
 - Provide independent and unbiased advice based on their best scientific judgment so that all AMP Decisions will be made consistent with the best scientific and commercial data available
- ❖ *Provide advice on Monitoring Programs (FMA 7.5)*
 - Provide input to the Implementing Committee on the development and implementation of the Monitoring Programs, as well as evaluate the data developed through the monitoring programs
 - Review and comment on the draft annual monitoring report for inclusion in the HCP annual report (60 days prior to submittal of Annual Report)
- ❖ *Provide advice on Applied Research Program (FMA 7.9 and 7.13)*
 - Provide input to the EAA on the design of the applied research facility and other applied research studies described in Section 6.3.4 of the HCP, including specifically providing comment and recommendations on plans related to the applied research activities described in the HCP, including, but not limited to, Subsections 6.3.4 (Applied Research Facility), 6.3.5 (Texas Wild-rice Enhancement) and 6.3.6 (Monitoring and Reduction of Gill Parasites)
 - Review and comment on the results of the research and modeling and other studies required to develop the scientific record.
- ❖ *Participate in the meetings of the Science Review Panel, and provide to the Panel such information as requested by that Panel, or the Implementing Committee (FMA 7.9)*
- ❖ *Provide input to the Edwards Aquifer Authority on the design and use of the ecological model described in Section 6.3.3 of the HCP (FMA 7.13).*
- ❖ *Provide advice on scientific components of San Marcos/TX State, New Braunfels, and Edwards Aquifer Authority Work Plans (FMA 7.13)*
 - Provide comments and recommendations on plans related to the applied research activities described in the HCP, including, *but not limited to*, Subsections 6.3.4 (Applied Research Facility), 6.3.5 (Texas Wild-rice Enhancement) and 6.3.6 (Monitoring and Reduction of Gill Parasites)