



**IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 17, 2017**

**1. Call to order-- 9:00 am.**

Members of this committee present included: Melani Howard on behalf of Tom Taggart (San Marcos), Roland Ruiz (EAA), Mark Enders on behalf of Greg Malatek (New Braunfels), Darren Thompson (SAWS), Andrew Sansom (Texas State University), and Todd Votteler (GBRA).

**2. Public Comment.**

No comments.

**3. Approval of minutes from the June 15<sup>th</sup> Implementing Committee meeting.**

Roland Ruiz motioned to approve the minutes from the June Implementing Committee meeting. Darren Thompson seconded. There were no objections.

**4. Receive report from the Program Manager on general topics related to the Habitat Conservation Plan.**

- Springflow and Index Well level update  
Shaun Payne, EAHCP staff, provided a brief springflow and index level update.
- J-17 Forecast  
Nathan Pence, Program Manager, provided J-17 forecast from the EAA and Darren Thompson, SAWS, provided a J-17 forecast produced by SAWS.
- Budget Report – Mr. Pence presented the budget reports for June and July. There were no comments.
- ASR Operations by SAWS & Injection Rate Change  
Mr. Thompson provided a brief update on their ASR operations. To date SAWS has stored 68,000 acre-feet for their own leases and 69,000 acre-feet stored on behalf of the EAHCP with a total of 137,000 acre-feet stored in ASR. For 2017 SAWS has stored approximately 14,500 acre-feet at about 40 million gallons per day. It is expected that SAWS will be able to store all water the EAA will make available for storage.  
Mr. Thompson mentioned that the EAA and SAWS are currently entering into the 4<sup>th</sup> year of their operations agreement. This agreement provided details associated with cost of Operation and Maintenance to inject EAHCP water into the ASR. This fee is increasing from \$37 to \$41 per acre-foot of water provided for storage.
- Adaptive Management update  
Mr. Pence provided an update of the current Adaptive Management Processes underway for the EAHCP.
- Hydrologic Model Update  
Mr. Pence updated the Committee on a plan to present the Hydrologic Model in a special meeting that will be organized much like the Ecological Modeling workshop held this summer.
- Collaboration in Grant Funded Projects

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, EAHCP Director, provided details regarding some of the collaborative efforts to obtain additional funds from various grants available for work to be done in the Comal and San Marcos ecosystems.

- EAHCP City of San Marcos Proclamation  
Mr. Pence presented the details regarding a proclamation presented to the City of San Marcos City Council in August. Ms. Howard read the proclamation for the audience.

**5. Presentation and possible action to approve the adoption of the 2017 Budget Work Group Report.**

Steve Raabe, Stakeholder Committee Chairman and member of the 2017 Budget Work Group, provided a brief summary of the conclusions from the Budget Work Group. Their report concluded that the EAHCP's budget is operating within its means and is in positive standing.

Mr. Pence provided a detailed summary of the process involved in producing the Budget Work Group Report as well as the content in the Report. Full presentation can be found at eahcp.org.

There was a brief discussion between the Implementing Committee members that communicated the overall positive conclusions the Work Group made.

Roland Ruiz, Edwards Aquifer Authority, made the comment that while he has no objection to the continuation of the Work Group, his suggestion would be to not necessarily reconvene the Work Group on an annual basis, but rather offer a detailed presentation to a joint Implementing and Stakeholder Committee meeting and to send any issues to the Work Group if more discussion is needed.

Andy Sansom, Texas State University and Chairman to the Implementing Committee, asked the Committee if there was a motion to accept the Work Group Report.

Darren Thompson motioned to approve the Work Group Report. Roland Ruiz seconded. There were no objections.

Myron Hess, Stakeholder Committee member and Budget Work Group member, communicated the need to maintain the Work Groups function year to year in order to analyze the annual budget in a detailed way.

**6. Presentation and possible action to amend the 2017 City of San Marcos (COSM) and Texas State University (TXSTATE) Work Plan.**

Mr. Pence opened the discussion regarding the amendment to the 2017 Work Plan. The amendment was made because of an annual goal required through the SAV Report previously approved yet the annual goal was accidentally omitted from the 2017 Work Plan.

Chairman Sansom, communicated that a certain level of flexibility should be afforded to the Program Manager to work with the partners and make determinations regarding the annual Work Plans without official Implementing Committee approval in order to achieve the goals in the EAHCP.

Mark Enders motioned to approve the proposed amendment. Darren Thompson seconded. There were no objections.

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

Mr. Pence provided a presentation regarding the EAHCP Ecological Model as well as the workshop held in July.

Patrick Shriver, SAWS, asked if the report developed by the Ecological Modeling Team has been made available. Mr. Pence confirmed that that report is currently available at eahcp.org.

Chairman Sansom called a 15 minute break.

**8. Presentation of the Regional Water Conservation Program (RWCP) and SAWS Leak Repair Update.**

Mr. Payne presented a brief background of the RWCP. Patrick Shriver, SAWS, presented the details associated with the SAWS Leak Repair program as well as an update on the status of leak repair and estimated water saved to date. Mr. Payne also presented a summary of the last meeting of the Regional Water Conservation Monitoring Committee. Full presentation can be found at eahcp.org

Chairman Sansom asked if the EAHCP still planned to go back to the small communities. Mr. Pence said that yes, the EAHCP has set aside a small amount of money for the small communities if a community expressed an interest in the program. Mr. Ruiz added that EAA funds a conservation grant program, where this year the focus will be working, in partnership with the TWDB, with irrigators to implement high efficiency irrigation practices. Mr. Sansom asked staff to include this information in the summary of the EAHCP collaborative grant programs.

**9. Presentation and possible action to approve the adoption of the NAS Report 2 Implementation Plan.**

Cindy Loeffler, TPWD, presented the details found in the NAS *Report 2* Implementation Plan. Full presentation can be found at eahcp.org.

Mr. Pence mentioned that it was communicated to the NAS *Report 2* Work Group and was included into the Implementation Plan that the EAHCP is required to use the "Puente method" in estimating recharge, but that was an inaccurate statement. Staff is currently using the Puente method yet it is not necessarily required by the EAHCP.

Roland Ruiz motioned to approve the NAS *Report 2* with the change regarding the Puente method. Melani Howard seconded. There were no objections.

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

Mr. Pence presented a series of issues that *Report 2*, and the development of the Implementation Plan, brought up in the EAHCP programs. The full presentation can be found at eahcp.org.

Mr. Pence provided an in-depth description of both a possible future EAHCP audit as well as analyzing the EAHCPs climate change "resiliency" and uncertainty analysis.

Mr. Sansom asked Mrs. Loeffler if she is in agreement with the issues presented. She agrees yet mentioned a concern with putting off an analysis of climate change and its effect on the Edwards. She communicated it would be prudent to keep an eye on how future projections could affect our region. Ms. Howard communicated it would be a good idea to allocate a specialist at EAA to keep up with the literature on climate change.

**11. Future agenda items and topics of discussion.**

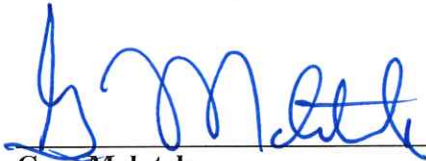
- Next meeting will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the City of San Marcos Activity Center (Room 1).

- Mr. Sansom asked an open question to the Committee and staff whether or not the presence of zebra mussels would affect our work. Mr. Pence communicated that the USFWS would need to provide evidence that there is an additional threat not contemplated in the current HCP.

**12. Questions from the public.**

- Todd Votteler mentioned that Monica McGarrity from TPWD will be presenting the zebra mussels issues at the next GBC meeting.

**13. Adjourn—12:20 pm**



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Greg Malatek  
Secretary