EAHCP Staff May 30, 2013



Implementing Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Minutes of the May 30, 2013 Meeting

Located at the Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio, Texas

 Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present for all purposes. All members of the Implementing Committee were represented (Melani Howard represented TX State University).

2. Public Comment

Todd Votteler suggested the committee consider preparing a resolution thanking Senator Hegar for his support and involvement with the EARIP.

- 3. Approval of Minutes from the Implementing Committee meeting of April 18, 2013. Chuck Ahrens made a motion to approve the Implementing Committee Minutes of May 16, 2013. Melanie Howard seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.
- 4. Receive report from the Program Manager on topics related to the implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan and operation of the Implementing Committee, including the following:
 - a. Robert Gulley reported that negotiations continue regarding the ASR Contract and it should be ready to go to the respective Boards in August.
 - b. Gulley reported that to-date 3,310 acre-feet has been leased for the ASR program;
 1,400 acre-feet are pending. Gulley reported that we have obtained an additional 87 acre-feet bringing the total to 10,087 acre-feet of water for the VISPO program.
 - c. Gulley reported he attended a meeting at the Ecological Field office in Austin on May 16, 2013 with Dan Ashe, USFWS Director and Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, USFWS Regional Director regarding the EAHCP; FWS recognized the achievements and hard work of the EARIP.
- 5. Receive report with respect to the Freeman Aquatic Building and EAA Procurement Procedures and Policies.

Roland Ruiz reported that the EAA can contract without going through the public bid process if the EAA uses an Inter-local Cooperation Agreement (ILA). He said that the normal procedures that EAA uses in deciding whether to use an ILA is to determine whether there is a mutual benefit to both parties. Here, the EAA believes that is the case.

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6. Receive report and presentation on Stage V triggers in the Uvalde Pool.

Robert Gulley reported that he reviewed HDR's modeling from November 2010 regarding the difference in springflow 1.) using J-17 as the trigger for Stage V and 2.) using J-17 as the trigger for the San Antonio pool and J-27 as the trigger for the Uvalde pool. HDR found that using J-17 alone resulted in 2 cfs less springflow in the drought-of-record (DOR) than using both J-17 and J-27. Accordingly, Gulley believes that to change the trigger to use just J-17 would be a substantive change requiring triggering the Adaptive Management Process and a full amendment to the EAHCP. He suggested that both consequences could be problematic. At the meeting Roland Ruiz said that the EAA has its Strategic Plan to re-evaluate the Uvalde triggers when the new Mod Flow model is developed. Gulley suggested that the IC wait until that new information is available before making any decisions regarding how we should proceed. There were no objections.

7. Receive report from USFWS explaining the cost estimate in the Edwards Aquifer Refugia Work Plan in light of existing refugia activities.

Ken Ostrand presented an overview of the Refugia Work Plan for 2013-2017. Hand-out was provided (attached to minutes).

8. Receive report on the City of New Braunfels Work Plans.

Zac Martin presented an overview of the City of New Braunfels 2014 Work Plans. The Implementing Committee agreed that no additional discussion of the substance of the City of New Braunfels was needed but that the IC members could submit written comments regarding Work Plan substance until June 10, 2013. The budget and final Work Plans will be discussed at the June 18, 2013 Implementing Committee meeting.

- 9. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas
 - Next scheduled Implementing Committee meeting is June 13, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the Edwards Aguifer Authority in San Antonio, TX. Agenda will include:
 - 1. Presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Jacobs, Program Director of the National Research Council Division on Earth & Life Studies Water Science Technology Board.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Tom Taggart

Chair of Implementing Committee