

Science Committee Meeting Minutes**July 15, 2013 9:00 a.m.****San Marcos Recreation Hall, San Marcos, Texas****1. Call to Order--establish that all Science Committee members are present or represented**

A quorum was not present.

Members of the Committee present: T. Arsuffi, D. Mosier, J. Duke, F. Weckerly, C. Norris, G. Longley, M. Acevedo, and R. Mace. Charlie Kreidler, Jackie Poole, and Janis Bush were unable to attend. Nathan Pence facilitated the discussion for the Committee.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from the Science Committee meeting of November 29, 2012

Floyd Weckerly moved to approve the minutes of May 09, 2013. Glenn Longley seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus the motion passed.

4. Receive Report from the Program Manager

Nathan Pence pointed out that there was not a quorum present for the meeting and therefore no formal recommendations could be made. For clarification, there was a majority of the Committee present, but not the quorum required by the Funding and Management Agreement for action.

Nathan Pence reported that RFPs will be available in the near future for HCP activities scheduled in 2014. He provided an update on the status of the development of the Science Review Panel including an overview of ongoing discussions with the National Academy of Science. It is expected that the Implementing Committee will take action on this issue at their July 18, 2013 meeting.

5. Receive Report on current HCP Implementation Activities

- Marcus Gary from the Edwards Aquifer Authority presented the 2013 Water Quality Program results to-date. He called attention to e-coli results in New Braunfels which exceeded TCEQ Surface Water Quality standards for recreation. Nathan Pence explained that in this case and in any future cases, EAHCP staff would inform the respective city of any exceedances identified in sampling. The EAHCP staff will additionally coordinate with the spring cities to resolve these issues. Steve Ramsey (City of New Braunfels) reported that the City is taking action to resolve the issue. Marcus Gary reported that no storm-water sampling has taken place yet, but the EAA staff is prepared to act when conditions support a sampling effort. Another round of surface water sampling is scheduled for September. Sediment samples are currently being

reviewed. The Science Committee encouraged the EAA to develop an effective data management plan to ensure that data is readily available and adaptable for the ecological model and other purposes.

- Ed Oborny (BIO-WEST) presented on the Biological Monitoring results from 2012 and the efforts to-date in 2013.
- Ed Oborny (BIO-WEST) reported on the progress of the Applied Research projects currently being conducted. Oborny will be presenting final methodologies for the Low-Flow Threshold Evaluation of Native Aquatic Vegetation - Pond Experiment and the Low-Flow Food Source Study to the Science Committee at their August meeting. Once final results of the studies are available, they will be distributed/presented to the Science Committee.
- Zac Martin (City of New Braunfels) presented on the status of restoration activities in the City of New Braunfels. Tim Osting from RPS Espey presented on the progress of the Riffle Beetle restoration efforts in Spring Run 3. Ed Oborny (BIO-WEST) presented on in-stream aquatic vegetation restoration efforts ongoing in the City.

6. Receive report and take possible action on a recommendation to the Implementing Committee regarding bank stabilization design plans for the City of New Braunfels

Representatives from Freese & Nichols presented three reports (Geomorphic Study, Riparian Study, and Bank Stabilization Plan) outlining their findings regarding the most appropriate bank stabilization design concept for the Old Channel of the Comal River in New Braunfels. Members of the Science Committee indicated that supporting literature should be identified to support the method recommended in the reports. There was some hesitation from the Committee regarding the necessity of stabilizing the bank at all given its natural state, but these concerns were addressed through discussion of sedimentation and run-off and hopes to limit that in the future. Additionally, the Science Committee expressed concern that the stabilization of the bank may alter the stream morphology. This concern was addressed in the Hydrological Report provided by Freese and Nichols.

7. Presentation of the Gill Parasite Study for the City of New Braunfels

Ed Oborny (BIO-WEST) presented the Gill Parasite Study for the City of New Braunfels to the Science Committee for informational purposes.

8. Presentation on Incidental Take Compliance and other relevant terms and conditions in the Incidental Take Permit

Robert Gulley discussed permissible take as outlined in the Incidental Take Permit including an overview of the use of habitat and flow surrogates in identifying take. Robert Gulley discussed two conditions that are outlined in the Incidental Take Permit:

- That a maximum of 10% of the habitat for each species be affected in any year; and,

- That restoration activities should be halted when flow rates reach certain levels (120 cfs for the San Marcos system and 130 cfs for the Comal System).

He encouraged Science Committee members to review the memo included in the minutes and contact him with any questions.

9. Discuss and take possible action regarding the possible inclusion of caffeine in the Water Quality sampling program

The Science Committee did not object to sampling for caffeine to show the presence or absence of human influence on the San Marcos and Comal systems.

10. Discuss the Science Committee process:

Robert Gulley discussed an interest in EAHCP staff receiving feedback from the Science Committee regarding their thoughts and recommendations related to the processes for disseminating information to the Science Committee and any other procedural concerns the Committee may have. The Committee concluded that it would be beneficial if they had more time to review program documents before meetings. Robert Gulley discussed the limitations that exist as a result of the Funding and Management Agreement. The Science Committee decided that there should be an item on the August agenda to discuss potential procedural recommendations.

11. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Agendas:

The next meeting of the Science Committee will be held August 14, 2013 in at the Dunbar Center in San Marcos, Texas. Agenda items will include but are not limited to: process discussion, review of New Braunfels Integrated Golf Course Management Plan, and an update on City of San Marcos activities related to the implementation of the HCP.