

MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2015

1. Call to order-- 9:06 am.

Members of this committee present included: Jan Klein for Tom Taggart (City of San Marcos), Roland Ruiz (Edwards Aquifer Authority), Steve Ramsey (City of New Braunfels), Chuck Ahrens (San Antonio Water System), Juan Guerra for Andrew Sansom (Texas State University), and Todd Votteler (Guadalupe Blanco River Authority).

2. Public Comment.

No comment.

3. Approval of minutes from the March 19, 2015 Implementing Committee meeting.

Roland Ruiz requested Page 2 be edited to state that the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) is unable to “regulate withdrawals”, instead of “inhibit withdrawals” of the Trinity Aquifer. Additionally, for Item 5 on Page 2, Mr. Ruiz requested the text be changed to state that “this item was not intended to be an action item.”

Chuck Ahrens moved to approve the March 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes with the edits noted. Juan Guerra seconded. There were no objections.

4. Receive report from the Program Manager on general topics related to the implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan and operation of the Implementing Committee.

- **Springflows and Index Well Levels**
Shaun Payne, EAHCP Coordinator, presented the current springflow and index well levels. Presentation is available on eahcp.org.
- **March 2015 Budget Update.** There were no questions.
- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Operations by San Antonio Water System (SAWS)**
Chuck Ahrens gave a brief update on SAWS’ ASR operations. He indicated there was 68,893 acre-feet total storage, SAWS was still recovering 20 million gallons a day and had 3,103.7 acre-feet of EAHCP groundwater storage available.

Nathan Pence, Program Manager, updated the committee on recent ASR program changes, including the increase in ASR leasing rates. Mr. Pence stated that as a result, there has been an increase in interest in the ASR program.

ASR/VISPO Modeling

Mr. Pence mentioned that May 15th is the deadline for the modeling deliverable from HDR. He said they are on track and plan to have results available to the Implementing Committee in May.

- **Refugia Update – Salvage Stock Request for Proposals (RFP), Technical Assistance Contract, and 2015 Research activities**

Mr. Pence informed the committee the EAA was not going to be able to contact with the Texas State University's for a Salvage Stock operation. As a result, a Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently open for submittals and will close on April 22. Mr. Pence stated he expects to have an executed contract for Salvage Stock refugia by early June.

Additionally, Mr. Pence stated that Dr. Weston Nowlin, Texas State University, has started the Refugia Research effort.

For the long-term Refugia operations, Mr. Pence stated EAA expects to have a RFP posted in June or July. EAA expects to execute a contract by 2016.

- **Region L Policy Work Group**
Mr. Ruiz summarized the EAHCP discussion at a recent Region L meeting regarding the Region L Policy Work Group's recognition of the goals in the EAHCP relating to the spring flow necessary for the protection of the endangered species. Discussion followed.
- **Biological Monitoring – Spring schedule**
Mr. Pence mentioned that BIO-WEST is in San Marcos Springs system now and will be in the Comal Springs system later in April in order to collect Annual Biological Monitoring data.
- **Submittal of 2016 Work Plans – Mr. Pence stated that all work plans have been submitted.**
- **NAS Report 2**
Mr. Pence reminded the Committee that the process for the second National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report has begun and the first meeting will be held in June or July. Todd Votteler asked about the NAS committee and if all members involved with the first report will remain. Mr. Pence mentioned he anticipated they will be losing one member who will be replaced with another modeling expert. He stated to his knowledge most members will remain on the panel.

5. Presentation of the Rainfall Deficits Across the Edwards Aquifer Region and discussion of the 2014 USGS Recharge Estimate.

Mark Hamilton, EAA, presented information regarding regional rainfall deficits. Presentation is available on eahcp.org. Mr. Pence concluded the presentation with a summary of what the information means in terms of the EAHCP effort, specifically Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR).

Some Committee members asked questions pertaining to the ASR triggers. Discussion followed.

6. Presentation and possible action to approve the charge of the NAS Review Recommendation Work Group: Report 1.

Mr. Pence presented the draft charge for the NAS Review Recommendation Work Group to the committee for official approval. Mr. Ruiz discussed the funding mechanisms and the official approval process will remain the same as other programs.

Juan Guerra moved to approve the Work Group charge. Chuck Ahrens seconded. There were no objections.

7. Presentation and discussion of the Staff Analysis of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Recommendations from Report #1.

Mr. Pence presented the current steps taken to review the recommendations in the NAS report. Presentation is available on eahcp.org.

Some discussion about various ways of organizing the Implementation Matrix complied by EAHCP Staff. Discussion followed.

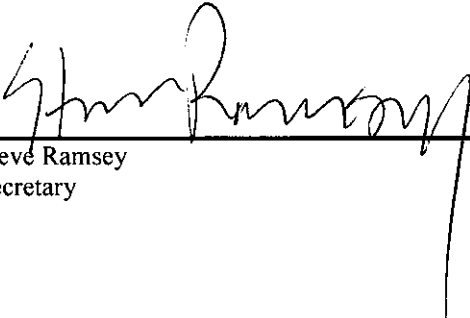
8. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas. – May 21, 2015, New Braunfels Civic Center

- Summary of Stakeholder/Science Committees NAS Workshop
- Draft NAS Implementation Plan
- Presentation on EAA, City of San Marcos/Texas State and City of New Braunfels Work Plans
- Presentation on the Refugia Technical Assistance Report

9. Questions from the public.

Dianne Wassenich commented about the NAS Workshop. Additionally, she commented on Electro-Purification wells and EAA's studies of the Trinity-Edwards interconnectivity in conjunction with the localized groundwater draw-down.

10. Adjourn. 11:27 am



Steve Ramsey
Secretary