

## Science Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 9:00 AM

San Marcos Recreation Hall, 170 Charles Austin Dr.

**1. Call to Order- Members present included:**

Doyle Mosier, Glenn Longley, Charles Kritler, Floyd “Butch” Weckerly, Jackie Poole, Chad Norris, Robert Mace, and Tom Arsuffi.

Jacquelyn Duke, Janis Bush, and Miguel Acevedo were unable to make the meeting. Nathan Pence facilitated the discussion for the Committee. A quorum was not observed.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes from the August 14, 2013 Science Committee meeting.**

Tabled till quorum is met or a decision is made to continue.

**4. Receive report from the EAHCP Program Manager-Nathan Pence.**

Nathan Pence informed the committee that EAA has begun to record other meetings and asked if there was any objections to begin recording the Science Committee Meetings. No objection were expressed and from now on all meetings will be recorded.

Nathan Pence introduced the new HCP Director, Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, and new HCP Coordinator, Shaun Payne.

Nathan Pence updated on improved agenda format to include specified Purpose and Action to be taken by committee. Acknowledgment that the HCP team will try to get Agenda Attachments out earlier if possible. Mr. Pence said the 2015 listings of activities will be coming soon.

Nathan Pence updated the Science Committee about the NAS on February 13 and 14 meetings at the EAA office. He stated the meetings will consist of open and closed sessions. The tour of the Comal and San Marcos springs systems will be on Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup>. Committee members were instructed to see Shaun Payne to get onto NAS listserv.

Mr. Pence stated the specific role of the Science Committee will be with the NAS meetings is to update NAS members on modeling program and that Science Committee members should anticipate a one-on-one session with various members of the Science Committee. The Science Committee members can provide comment during the public input during the meetings.

Mr. Pence summarized the scope of the NRC/NAS. The NAS will be looking at; various programs to see if we are doing the appropriate projects; whether we are analyzing everything appropriately, and whether the objectives are meeting overall goals. The Committee was instructed to see NAS Agenda for a schedule for the meetings.

Nathan Pence updated the committee on the EAHCP being presented with the Partners in Conservation Award from the Department of the Interior

Dr. George Ward gave a quick two-minute update on the Ecological Model. George Ward is from the Center for Research and Water Resources. He and Dr. Robert Doyle have worked extensively on the Eco-Model. Dr. Ward stated that they are in month 7 on two-years of work on modelling the Fountain Darter and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation.

Mr. Pence then opened the floor for any other requests for updates and stated an update on the HCP Hydrologic Model will be included on the next Science Committee meeting.

**5. Agenda Item 6 to be moved up in order—Presentation of the 2013 Applied Research results for 2013- 9:40 AM. Presentations are posted as items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on February 5, 2014 Science Committee website.**

Robert Doyle presented various results with assistance from Ed Oborny from BIO-WEST on: Lab vs Field Study, pH Study- Bicarbonate Utilization Potential, and Low-Flow Threshold Study (with assistance from Jacob Jackson from BIO-WEST). Jacob Jackson from BIO-WEST presented the Fountain Darter food source study. Ed Oborny presented 2013 Applied Research Recommended further studies.

There was discussion about appropriateness of some Applied Research projects. It was stated that some studies are for secondary information but all of the Applied Research projects have been geared toward the unanswered questions in the HCP.

**6. Report from the EAHCP Program Manager (continued)-Nathan Pence.**

Nathan Pence proposed a discussion on the issue of their lack of quorum before further consideration of remainder presentations. Mr Pence stated the Science Committee has not developed and approved any official by-laws but has followed what the other committees have required - a  $\frac{3}{4}$  super majority = 9 out of the 11 members need to be present for a quorum. He proposed that to make it clear in any decisions made on February 5, 2014 were made with 8 out of the 11 present. The February 5, 2014 meeting, consisted of a majority decision but not official “super majority”. Robert Mace made a motion to continue with 8 members on the condition that it is made clear to the Implementing Committee that the February 5, 2014 meeting had only 8 of 11 members and that EAA staff will draft by-laws to be accepted at a later meeting of the Science Committee. Glen Longley seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**10 Minute Break-11:00 AM**

**7. Presentation of and possible action related to the evaluation and proposed removal approach for the San Marcos Sessom Creek Sand Bar Removal- Presentation is posted as item 6 on the February 5, 2014 Science Committee website..**

Dr. Hardy from the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment gave the presentation of modeled results of potential sand bar removal.

Committee members expressed concern on the lack of recorded impact of downstream effects of Sessom Creek Sedimentation diversion and the continuation of sediment deposition until proper control of Sessom Creek occurs and that bank erosion is not an HCP concern. The Committee requested more information for other options as well as downstream effects of island removal.

Nathan Pence asked for clarification for the Science Committee as to what benefit this project has on the endangered species of the San Marcos River. It was stated that the protection of the adjacent bank will in effect protect existing wild rice stands by limiting sedimentation.

Robert Mace made a motion to have Thom bring back an expanded view of the proposal which will include pros and cons of proposal on Texas Wild Rice and his review of appropriate engineering studies. Doyle Mosier seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The stated action for this item was tabled.

**Lunch- 12:30 PM**

- 8. Presentation and prioritization of potential 2015 Applied Research projects.** The Committee discussed postponing the prioritization of 2015 projects at this time for the reason that they had an incomplete lists of Applied Research projects. Committee members discussed ideas for other studies including studies on the spring's system's impact on Zebra Mussels and hydrology. Since the work Plan is not due until mid- April, Robert Pace made a motion to table the action on the 2015 Applied Research projects until a complete list of projects is developed. Doyle Mosier seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Further recommendations for various research projects will be compiled and presented at the next meeting.

- 9. Presentation and possible action related to the proposed design plans for the New Braunfels Bank Stabilization Project. Presentation is posted as item 7 on the February 5, 2014 Science Committee website.**

A representative from Freese and Nichols presented a summary of the New Braunfels Bank Stabilization Project. After the presentation, a Committee member asked about the requested Literature Review and the consultant's report on the proposed design. Committee member also asked about other Science Committee previous comments including did the consultant use Rosgen's method in the design.

Robert Mace motioned that the Science Committee recommends to the Implementing Committee that they agree that this project will help protect the endangered species.

Doyle Mosier seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**10. Presentation of the 2013 water quality results and data. Presentation is posted as item 6 on the February 5, 2014 Science Committee website.**

Mark Hamilton from the EAA presented the water quality data collected in 2013. He stated that for 2014, EAA is contracting with SWCA to continue the water quality sampling program.

**11. Consideration of future meetings, dates, locations and agendas.**

Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> will be the next Science Committee Meeting. Announcement and Agenda will be available soon.

Committee requested a hydrology presentation and how the model will be used and also include a discussion on the Sessom Creek hydrology. Also requested was a presentation by Marcus Gary on the interaction between the Trinity and Edwards Aquifer.