



IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE MEETING

Of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Minutes of the March 20, 2014 Meeting

Located at the New Braunfels Civic Center

1. **Call to order**- Established that all Committee members were present or represented- 9:12am

2. **Public comment-No public comment**

Committee member Andy Sansom thanked Nathan for keeping members updated and asked for continual participation on implementing various program items, specifically having to do with finances.

3. **Approval of minutes**

Chuck Ahrens suggested a correction to the minutes by striking "was updated" in item #4. Chuck Ahrens then motioned for approval as corrected, motion passed.

4. **Receive Program Manager's on general topics.**

Nathan Pence presented the following program updates:

- Regional Water Conservation Program's (RWCP) Monitoring Committee will hold an open public meeting on Monday March 24th. Also, through the RWCP, the City of Uvalde's toilet distribution program will commence and a contract with Universal City will be executed soon. The contract involves a commitment of 160 Acre-Feet (AF) into the water trust with the savings realized through a leak detection program.
- The National Academy of Sciences meeting will be held at the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) offices on Monday and Tuesday May 12-13. There will be interaction on second day between the Science Committee and the National Research Council (NRC) Committee - NAS.
- VISPO and ASR update. There were no new enrollees into VISPO program in the past month and the San Antonio Water System will need to use all of their water instead of putting it into ASR. Chuck Ahrens commented that the San Antonio Water System used about 40 million gallons per day of ASR water. Julia Valdez from San Antonio River Authority presented an initiative about a VISPO newsletter and the new website launch.
- HCP Amendments – Updates will be coming to the Committee in the next few months.
- Springflow update: Comal= 154 cfs; San Marcos= 139 cfs. Justification memo to be distributed to Implementing and Science Committees.

- Springflow update: Comal= 154 cfs; San Marcos= 139 cfs. If work in the system, specifically Habitat Restoration, would need to continue despite low-flows, a justification memo would be distributed for approval by both the Implementing and Science Committee then submitted to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- A brief summary was provided on the Science Committee's February 26 meeting and an overview was also provided on the agenda for the upcoming April 8 meeting.
- The schedule for the 2015 Work Plan submittal and approval process was presented as follows:
 - April 15th-to Program Manager
 - May 8th- to Science Committee
 - May 15th- to Implementing Committee
 - May 29th- City of San Marcos, City of New Braunfels, Texas State University presentations to Implementing Committee
 - June 19th- approval of all Work Plans
- An update on the HCP expense report was provided followed by discussion.

5. Consider possible creation of a 2014 Drought Contingency Workgroup and possible adoption of a draft Workgroup Charge.

Andy Sansom suggested a title change for the workgroup. Roland Ruiz agreed with Dr. Sansom's suggestion. Discussion followed. The workgroup's name was changed to the *2014 Drought Outreach Workgroup*.

Regarding the ongoing drought, Steve Ramsey brought up VISPO and there was discussion on a possible separate VISPO workgroup. The Program Manager will make a VISPO presentation at the April Implementing Committee meeting. Roland Ruiz expressed the concern that any discussion on VISPO should be done in context of Adaptive Management.

Andy Sansom motioned for approval of the creation of a 2014 Drought Outreach Workgroup seconded by Steve Ramsey. There were no objections.

6. Staff report: Compliance Presentation

Nathan Pence presented a summary of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) presentation on compliance given to the EAA Board. Mr. Pence stated the Annual Report was the place to present information on program compliance. There was some discussion on the role of USFWS as a regulator and as a contractor. Roland Ruiz explained about the division of responsibilities within USFWS as contractor and regulator. More discussion followed.

7. Consider approval of Incidental Take Estimate and Habitat Disturbance draft reports presented last month by BIO-WEST.

Steve Ramsey began the discussion regarding including a summary of benefits to the species and habitat resulting from completed HCP projects, as well as possibly including a benefits summary and discussion in the Annual Report. Discussion followed. Motion for approval to include a benefits summary and discussion in the Annual Report was made by Roland Ruiz, second by Tom Taggart: No objections.

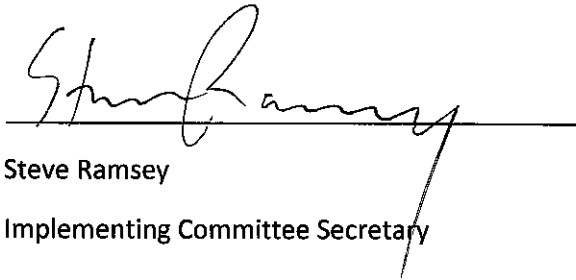
8. Final approval of the 2013 EAHCP Annual Report

Motion for approval of the 2013 Annual Report by Roland Ruiz, second by Chuck Ahrens: No objections.

9. Future meeting

The next meeting of the Implementing Committee will be held on Thursday, April 17th at the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

10. Adjourn: 10:25 am



Steve Ramsey
Implementing Committee Secretary