



IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2014

1. **Call to order--Establish that all Committee members are present or represented-** 9:10 a.m.
In attendance were: Tom Taggart (Chair), City of San Marcos; Chuck Ahrens, San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Juan Guerra represented Texas State University for Andy Samson; Steve Ramsey, City of New Braunfels; Roland Ruiz, Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA); and Todd Votteler, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.
2. **Public Comment.**
No comment.
3. **Approval of minutes from the May 29, 2014 Implementing Committee meeting.**
Chuck Ahrens requested removing the word "that" from item 8 on page 3. With that change, Chuck Ahrens motioned for approval of the May 29, 2014 minutes. 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.**
 - **River and Index Well Levels.**
Nathan Pence provided the Implementing Committee with current aquifer levels and springflows. The committee discussed the differences in current agricultural activities and also discussed the good condition of the habitat as reported in Bio-West's biological monitoring reports.
 - **May Expense Report.**
No questions on the May budget.
 - **Update on City of New Braunfels Flow-Split Infrastructure Installation.**
Nathan Pence gave a presentation to the committee about progress in New Braunfels' Flow-Split Management Project.
 - **Applied Research RFP Process.**
EAA General Manager Roland Ruiz provided a presentation to the committee about the process for the 2015 Applied Research request for proposals (RFPs). Specifically, he stated that EAA decided not allow Science Committee members to propose in future research projects. Discussion followed.
 - **Stakeholder ASR/VISPO Work Group.**
The first meeting of this Work Group was on June 17, 2014 where the Work Group approved their charge and schedule for future meetings.
 - **ASR update.**
Julia Velez gave a presentation about current enrollment. The acquisition for 2014 leases has stopped.
5. **Staff Presentation: VISPO update.**
Nathan Pence provided information about VISPO numbers and an update on how these numbers are represented in the monthly agenda update. Discussion followed.

6. Consider approval of the 2014 Drought Outreach Press Packet.

John Boggess with Boggess Communications presented the committee with an overview of the Drought Outreach Work Group's Press Packet. The Committee members commented on the clarity and utility of this press packet. Chuck Ahrens recommended removing the language regarding Provision M's waiver/variance. Roland Ruiz moved to approve with the changes recommended. Steve Ramsey seconded. There were no objections.

7. Staff Presentation: ITP Provision M

Nathan Pence presented a detailed explanation of the origins of Provision M from the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and the issues and potential changes the Implementing Committee could propose.

A discussion followed on the rationale for last year's precedent of approving a waiver/variance request in 2013. There was a decision to request further documentation about the rationale for Provision M as well as request for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to attend the next Implementing Committee meeting. Discussion followed. The Committee asked for a clear record of current and future conditions of the restoration projects and requested future communication with the USFWS include documentation of the communication.

Roland Ruiz proposed an option to simply add language to the current Provision to include a waiver/variance process. The Committee requested the Science Committee provide an opinion, supported by literature on the systems, on a rationale for a more realistic trigger. Nathan Pence listed the detailed steps for staff regarding Provision M clarification. Additionally, any endorsement or recommendation from the Science Committee on July 9th will be placed on the agenda to help define the steps for moving forward. Nathan Pence stated he will draft an email for Committee review requesting information needed from USFWS.

8. Consider approval of the New Braunfels Low Impact Development Program.

Zac Martin with the City of New Braunfels provided the Committee with some additional edits to the 2015 City of New Braunfels Work Plan concerning the New Braunfels Low Impact Development (LID) program. He stated discussions with SAWS provided more clarity about the details of the separation of the City's Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4) and LID programs. Chuck Ahrens moved for approval for the New Braunfels LID program. Roland Ruiz seconded. There were no objections.

9. Consider approval of all 2015 EAHCP Work Plans.

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez presented the process and timeline for approval of the 2015 Work Plans. The packet provided to the committee included the changes to the work plans previously presented. Nathan Pence provided additional detail on the specific comments received. Discussion followed.

Chuck Ahrens commented on the addition of quantifiable acre-foot goals to the Regional Water Conservation Program (RWCP) Work Plan. He added the focus of the RWCP should not include finding other sources of water but rather on using current sources more efficiently. Discussion followed.

Juan Guerra motioned for the approval of all EAHCP Work Plans with the condition the RWCP Work Plan be edited per recommendations from a subcommittee comprised of EAA and SAWS. Chuck Ahrens seconded. There were no objections.

Break

After the break Roland Ruiz and Chuck Ahrens asked the committee to reconsider the former motion and move to approve all Work Plans, including the RWCP with the following edits: strike

performance measure #7 and keep performance measure #8. Juan Guerra made a motion for final approval; Chuck Ahrens seconded the motion. There were no objections.

10. Consider and take possible action on the creation of and charge for a Science Committee Member Nomination Work Group.

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez provided information about the former Science Committee Appointment Work Group. She asked the Committee to consider adopting the former Work Group's charge and revise its membership in order to solicit recommendations and provide nominations for this year's Science Committee appointment. The Committee recommended replacing Patrick Shriver (SAWS) with John Waugh (SAWS) and replacing Myron Hess (National Wildlife Federation) with Tyson Broad (Sierra Club).

Tom Taggart motioned for approval of new membership and proposed charge. Steve Ramsey seconded the motion. There were no objections.

11. SWIFT Money- Region L.

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez presented information on the TWDB's State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) compiled for the Committee's review. Program manager, Nathan Pence explained since this program is a loan program, it is not specifically applicable for the EAHCP but may be useful for communities participating in the Regional Water Conservation Program.

12. Probability analysis of future recharge.

EAA staff Jim Winterle presented his probability analysis for future Edwards Aquifer recharge as requested by the Implementing Committee. Tom Taggart mentioned that USFWS could use this information to give them an idea of the probability of triggering Provision M.

13. Presentation of legal implications of 7.1 and budget forecast

Darcy Frownfelter gave a legal background on the EAHCP budget table "Table 7.1" and Nathan Pence presented the modified version of table 7.1, titled "7.2."

14. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas.

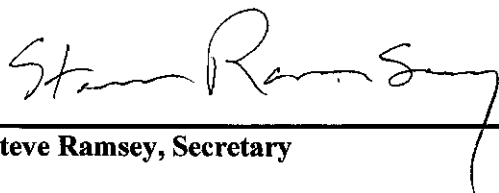
- The next Implementing Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 17th at the Edwards Aquifer Authority.
 - Information distribution process to Implementing Committee and Stakeholder Committee.
 - USFWS to provide additional information about Provision M
 - Implementing Committee's approval of a Texas State University application for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding to study crops in the Uvalde area.

15. Questions from the public.

No comment.

16. Adjourn.

12:38 p.m.



Steve Ramsey, Secretary