



IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE MINUTES May 29, 2014

1. **Call to order--Establish that all Committee members are present or represented-** 9:02 a.m.
In attendance were: Tom Taggart (Chair), City of San Marcos; Juan Guerra represented Texas State University for Andy Samson; Steve Ramsey, City of New Braunfels; Roland Ruiz, Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA); Darren Thompson represented San Antonio Water System (SAWS) for Chuck Ahrens and Todd Votteler, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.
2. **Public Comment.**
No comment.
3. **Approval of minutes from the May 15, 2014 Implementing Committee meeting.**
Roland Ruiz motioned for approval, 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.**
 - **General information:**
Nathan Pence mentioned that for its third meeting this year, the National Academies of Sciences will meet in closed session in Washington D.C. in August. Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) staff will not be participating.
 - **Stakeholder Committee meeting update:**
Mr. Pence discussed that the first Stakeholder Committee meeting of 2014 was held on Wednesday, May 28, where a new slate of officers were elected - Steve Raabe as Chairman, Dianne Wassenich as Secretary, and Myron Hess as Vice-Chairman. As an action item, the Committee agreed to form a workgroup to contemplate various strategies that could bring additional water into the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (VISPO) programs.
 - **River and Index Well levels:**
Mr. Pence discussed that the level in the J-17 index well has fluctuated due to the recent rains.
 - **Science Committee membership appointment:**
Alicia Reimund-Martinez presented information on the process the Implementing Committee used in 2013 to appoint a member, Miguel Acevedo, to the Science Committee. After serving one year, Mr. Acevedo turned in his resignation to HCP staff. Nathan Pence mentioned the options for the Implementing Committee in electing members of this work group. The Committee agreed to reinstate the original workgroup members, but with Steve Bereyso as the SAWS representative. At the June meeting, the Implementing Committee will approve the workgroup charge and membership.

- **Incidental Take Permit- Provision M update:**

Mr. Pence updated the Committee on the HCP activities that were on hold due to Provision M of the Incidental Take Permit. He also informed the Committee that HCP staff and Permittees were scheduled to meet with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding restoration activities and current conditions in each spring system. In the future, Roland Ruiz recommended that implementing the conditions of Provision M should be given strictly to the Program Manager. Tom Taggart discussed the impact of the provision on HCP work being done. Discussion followed.

- **Update on statistical analysis of biological data:**

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, gave an update on the project. The statistical analysis has been delayed till further information is available.

- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Options (VISPO) update.**

Nathan Pence gave a quick update on the latest ASR and VISPO numbers. Adjustments in the way the VISPO numbers are presented in the Attachment will be explained by Rick Illgner with EAA at the June meeting.

- **Sessoms Creek Sand Bar Removal by Texas State University.**

Mr. Pence provided an overview of the Science Committee's review and approval of the Sessom Creek Sand Bar Removal project's methodology. He stated this project will be underway very soon now that flows have increased.

5. **Staff Report: 2015 Work Plan approval process.**

Mrs. Martinez presented an updated timeline and budget of all the 2015 Work Plans. A final approval of all Work Plans will be done at the June 19th meeting. A matrix will be used to monitor comments and responses to those comments. Discussion followed.

Additionally, Nathan Pence presented the budget with a more clear and detailed layout of information. Tom Taggart asked specifically about the Refugia project. Roland Ruiz, General Manager of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, described the issues with the contract being worked out between staff and USFWS. Discussion followed.

6. **Presentation of the Texas State University and City of San Marcos' 2015 Work Plans.**

Melani Howard, of Texas State University and the City of San Marcos, gave a presentation of their 2015 Work Plan, which included the following projects: Texas Wild-Rice Enhancement and Restoration, Sediment Removal, Control of Non-Native Plant Species, Native Riparian Habitat Restoration, Management of Floating Vegetation Mats and Litter, Non-Native Species Control, Management of Recreation in Key Areas, Impervious Cover/Water Quality Protection, Management of Household Hazardous Waste, and Sessom Creek Sand Bar Removal.

Ms. Howard noted that additional funding, from what is shown in HCP Table 7.1, is needed for the Non-Native Plant Species project. Discussion followed about potential funding increases.

Roland Ruiz discussed EAA's use of Table 7.1 for HCP budgeting. The Committee recommended that staff keep track of overall budget by task, such as for the Sessom Creek project which is starting in 2014, but will likely continue into 2015. The Committee also asked staff to prepare a process to do financial forecasting by task.

7. **Presentation of the City of New Braunfels' 2015 Work Plans.**

Zachary Martin, of the City of New Braunfels, gave a presentation of their 2015 Work Plan which included the following projects: Flow Split Management, Old Channel Restoration, Comal River

Aquatic Vegetation Restoration and Maintenance, Management of Public Restoration, Decaying Vegetation Removal and Dissolved Oxygen, Non-Native Animal Species Control, Monitoring and Reduction of Gill Parasites, Prohibition of Hazardous Materials Routes, Riparian Improvements-Riffle Beetle Habitat, Litter Control and Floating Vegetation Management, Golf Course Management Plan, Riparian Restoration, Household Hazardous Waste Program, and Low Impact Development Plan.

As a result of new data on Gill Parasites, the City of New Braunfels is requesting funding previously allotted for this project be re-allocated towards habitat restoration and maintenance. Discussion followed.

8. **Consider approval of the New Braunfels' Low Impact Development (LID) program.**
Darren Thompson stated SAWS supported the LID program but requested that additional time to review the information. The City of New Braunfels and SAWS will continue to meet to discuss the program. It was agreed that a motion for approval will be revisited at the June 19th Implementing Committee meeting.
9. **Approval of 2014 Drought Outreach Workgroup recommended press releases.**
Due to increased flows, Nathan Pence recommended that the Provision M press release not be released. The Implementing Committee did approve the distribution of the Edwards Aquifer HCP General Positive Messaging press release. There were no objections.
10. **Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas.**
The next Implementing Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 19th at the New Braunfels Civics Center.**
 - Probabilistic analysis of annual Edwards Aquifer recharge.
 - Habitat Conservation Plan benefits presentation.
 - State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) money for potential Habitat Conservation Plan programs.
 - Consider approval of the New Braunfels LID program
11. **Questions from the public.**
No comment.
12. **Adjourn.** 11:15 a.m.



Steve Ramsey, Secretary