



**MEETING MINUTES**  
Available at [eahcp.org](http://eahcp.org)

1. **Call to order—Establish that all Committee members are present or represented- 9:05 am.**  
Members present were Tom Taggart (San Marcos), Roland Ruiz (Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)), Steve Ramsey (New Braunfels), Chuck Ahrens (San Antonio Water System (SAWS)), Andrew Sansom (Texas State University), and Todd Votteler, (Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA)).
2. **Public Comment.**  
Jenna Cantwell with SWCA Environmental Consultants mentioned that the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) had recently marked its 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.
3. **Approval of minutes from the February 19th Implementing Committee meeting.**  
Chuck Ahrens recommended striking the language “ultimately no decision was made” to Item #5 in the minutes. With that change Mr. Ahrens moved to approve. Roland Ruiz seconded. There was no objection.
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**  
Nathan Pence, EAHCP Program Manager, provided the committee an update on the J-17 index well levels and springflows. The Committee provided some comments and had questions about the effects on the aquifer from the recent rains, Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program (VISPO), and the changes in irrigation practices.
  - **Rainfall Deficit**  
Mr. Pence presented the rainfall deficit model developed by the EAA. The image can be seen at [eahcp.org](http://eahcp.org).
  - **February 2015 Budget Report –** The Committee had no comments.
  - **Attorney General Opinion - Refugia Contracting**  
Roland Ruiz presented the opinion received by the Attorney General of Texas which stated the EAA is able to contract with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to implement a refugia program. Mr. Ruiz also stated the EAA is pursuing a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process rather than a sole source contracting process for the refugia program.  
  
Chuck Ahrens asked about the timeline expected for the refugia program. Mr. Pence stated he hopes to have an RFP for the long-term refugia program out by July and contract executed in January 2016. Adam Zerener, USFWS, asked about the “stop-gap” refugia timeline. Mr. Pence stated the EAHCP will have a salvage refugia program in place this summer if necessary.
  - **Electro Purification Wells Briefing**  
Mr. Ruiz briefly summarized the issues with the Electro Purification well fields proposed in Hays County and the existing Groundwater Conservation Districts in the area. He stated the

Hamilton, EAA Executive Director of Aquifer Management Services, expanded on the purpose and goals of assisting in data collection in this area of the Edwards Aquifer to better understand the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers interconnectivity.

- 2016 Work Plans  
Mr. Pence stated draft Work Plans are due to EAHCP on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Implementing Committee will review all Work Plans at the May meeting and consider approval at the June meeting.
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Operations by SAWS  
Chuck Ahrens, SAWS, presented an update on SAWS' ASR operations. Current storage is approximately 36,000 acre-feet, with SAWS currently using about 20 million gallons per day from the ASR. In 2015, the EAA provided 3,103.7 acre-feet to SAWS for ASR storage on behalf of the EAHCP. Mr. Ahrens mentioned current municipal demand could be the lowest average monthly consumption recorded.
- ASR Pricing Update  
Mr. Pence presented background information on the increase in rates for ASR. Mr. Ruiz expanded on the details and changes starting this year. Rates are available on eahcp.org.
- Spring Lake Dam Update  
Mr. Pence provided a brief update on the work to be done on Texas State University's Spring Lake Dam. Updates will be presented as necessary.
- Applied Research  
All committee members are being asked to provide ideas for future projects.
- Open staff position- Mr. Pence announced the current opening of a Coordinator on the EAHCP team.

5. **Consider authorizing the Program Manager to expend Program Administration funds for the publication by Texas A&M Press of the book authored by Robert Gulley entitled, “*Heads Above Water: The Inside Story of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program*”.**

After Mr. Pence stated that this item was not an action item, Andrew Sansom, Texas State University, gave a brief informational update on the book authored by Dr. Robert Gully.

6. **Staff Report: Presentation of the 2014 EAHCP Budget and Reserves Projection.**

Shelly Hendrix, EAA staff, provided the committee an update on the EAHCP Reserves and 2014 overall budget. Specific numbers can be found on eahcp.org.

7. **Presentation and possible action to approve the 2015/2016 Ecological Model Scope of Work as recommended by the Science Committee and presentation on capabilities of the Ecological Model.**

Ed Oborny, BIO-WEST Inc., presented a summary on the Ecological Modeling Scope of Work. His presentation was focused on the features of the Ecological Model. The presentation can be found on eahcp.org. The Committee had questions pertaining to the training required to use the model and the verification of the accuracy of results. Discussion followed. Mr. Oborny briefly described the timeline through 2015 and 2016 for the Ecological Model.

Andrew Sansom moved to approve. Steve Ramsey seconded. There was no objection.

8. **Presentation and possible action to approve the 2014 Annual Report for submittal to USFWS.**

Velma Danielson, Blanton and Associates, and Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, EAHCP, presented the final version of the 2014 Annual Report to be considered for approval.

Tom Taggart motioned to approve EAHCP staff submittal of the 2014 Annual Report to USFWS. Chuck Ahrens seconded. There was no objection.

**9. Discussion and possible action for creation of a Report 1 Recommendations Review Work Group.**

The National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Committee has reviewed the EAHCP, and completed their first report – *“Review of the EAHCP: Report 1”*. The Implementing Committee needs to review the report and Mr. Pence explained the timeline and process previously approved for review. A work group was proposed to accomplish initial review and their formal charge will be brought back to the Implementing Committee as soon as possible.

Andrew Sansom motioned to begin planning and setting up a Work Group. Tom Taggart seconded. There was no objection.

Proposed Work Group members include:

Cindy Loeffler, TPWD

Melani Howard, City of San Marcos, and Texas State University

Rodger Biggers, NBU

Darren Thompson, SAWS

Mark Hamilton, EAA

Chuck Ahrens moved to approve the proposed Work Group members. Tom Taggart seconded. There was no objection.

**10. Presentation of the “Review of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan: Report 1” by Chairman Danny Reible.**

Dr. Danny Reible, Chair of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Committee to review the EAHCP, presented the overview of the Committee’s first report – *“Review of the EAHCP: Report 1”*. Presentation can be found on the eahcp.org.

The Committee and the audience asked specific questions pertaining to budget impacts of implementation and details about various aspects of the report. Discussion followed.


**11. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas.**

- Rainfall Deficit Presentation
- Permitting Oversight Update
- 2016 EAA Work Plans

**12. Questions from the public.**

No comment.

**13. Adjourn.- 12:05 pm**



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Steve Ramsey  
Secretary