



**Stakeholder Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2018**

1. **Call to order--Establish that all Committee members are present or represented- 9:07 a.m.**  
Myron Hess called roll, a quorum was present.
2. **Public Comment.**  
No Comments.
3. **Approval of minutes from the February 8<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Committee meeting (Attachment 1).**  
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Cindy Loeffler seconded the motion. There were no objections.
4. **Receive report from the Program Manager on general updates about the Habitat Conservation Plan.**
  - **Springflow and Index Level Update**  
Dr. Chad Furl presented the springflow data on the Comal and San Marcos spring systems, an update on the Index Well levels and precipitation estimates for the region in the coming months.  
  
Nathan Pence added that EAHCP staff are monitoring springflow conditions as drought conditions approach and anticipated low-flow triggers become present.
  - **ASR Storage by SAWS**  
Darren Thompson provided updated information on Edwards Aquifer critical period projections. It is likely that Stage III conditions will be present around July 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, however it is unlikely that Stage IV conditions will occur. Mr. Thompson presented historical groundwater storage data for the ASR program and the EAHCP. In total, about 95,000 acre-feet of groundwater has been stored on behalf of the EAHCP.
  - **Dryopid Beetle Research**  
Dr. Furl presented the Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle research. This research began in 2017 and is conducted as part of the EAA Refugia program. Dr. Furl reported that researchers have successfully determined how to identify the sex of the beetle with non-lethal methods.

- **Zebra Mussel Monitoring Stations**  
Dr. Furl informed the Committee of the EAHCP's involvement in the statewide Zebra Mussel monitoring network. With help from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, monitoring stations have been installed in the Comal and San Marcos Spring systems. The data collected will be included in the network of information used throughout the state. It is not likely that Zebra Mussels will be found in either of the spring systems.
- **2017 Recharge Estimate**  
Dr. Furl presented an update on the ASR AMP triggers for springflow protection and the historical data from the USGS recharge estimates. In 2017, the recharge estimate attained 486,637 acre-feet. Mr. Pence added that the EAA is currently working to improve recharge estimate models.
- **Budget Report (Attachment 2)**  
Mr. Pence presented the May EAHCP budget report.
- **VISPO Clarification Update (Attachment 3)**  
Mr. Pence announced that the clarification memo submitted to the USFWS regarding the VISPO price point structure has been approved. EAHCP Staff are moving forward with VISPO reenrollments.
- **NAS Update**  
Mr. Pence reminded the committee that the EAHCP contract with the National Academy of Sciences ends December 31, 2018. *Report 3* is expected at the end of September.
- **EAHCP Administrative Documentation Update**  
Mr. Pence informed the committee of an internal administrative project to document and compile the numerous memorandums and clarifications that have been added to the HCP since implementation. This document will be included as an addendum to the HCP.

5. **Presentation of the USFWS 5-Year status review of listed species and the status San Marcos Gambusia.**

Tanya Sommers from the USFWS informed the committee of the upcoming 5-year status review of species listed as endangered or threatened. The San Marcos Gambusia is one of the species included in that assessment. As part of the 5-year review, the USFWS will assess the classification and any information that could possibly affect the classification of that species. A recommendation will be made to either remove the species from the list, change the status from endangered to threatened or threatened to endangered, or to keep the current classification. The deadline to provide any information on the San Marcos Gambusia is July 2, 2018.

**6. Presentation of the Edwards Aquifer Authority 2017 Withdrawal Summary.**

Chuck Arhens from the Edwards Aquifer Authority provided an overview of the withdrawal of groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer that occurred throughout 2017.

In 2017, 1,278 permit holders were authorized to withdrawal a total of 571,599 acre-feet. Of those permits, 67% were issued for municipal use, 26% for irrigation and 7% for industrial purposes. Of the groundwater authorized for withdrawal, 211,670 acre-feet was left unpumped and remained in the aquifer.

**7. Discussion on Science Committee member resignation and consideration of membership appointment.**

Mr. Pence reminded the Committee of the resignation of Robert Mace from the Science Committee and his transition to the Implementing Committee to represent Texas State University. The deadline to send nominations for the vacancy is August 1, 2018. The Stakeholder and Implementing committees will review the nominations and provide a recommendation. A consensus of both committees is required to make a committee member appointment.

Robert Mace nominated Shirley Wade from the Texas Water Development Board and Jack Sharp for the Science Committee vacancy.

Mr. Pence advised the group to submit recommendations to EAHCP Staff. Recommendations should include the name of the nominee along with any professional background information.

There were no objections to fill the Science Committee vacancy.

**8. Presentation of the timeline and process to facilitate Strategic Adaptive Management (Attachment 4).**

Mr. Pence provided a presentation on the facilitation of the Strategic Adaptive Management Process Planning (SAMP) and the transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the HCP. Mr. Pence clarified the major differences between the two phases and addressed questions that will arise throughout the transition. The presentation concluded with a timeline to illustrate the major tasks to be accomplished throughout the transition to Phase 2 and a brief introduction to the SAMP whitepaper.

**9. Presentation on model inputs and assumptions for SAMP hydromodeling (Attachments 5, 6, and 7).**

Dr. Furl presented the EAHCP Strategic Adaptive Management MODFLOW modeling assumptions and underlying simulations. Three types of model runs were used to discern the differences between the EARIP model and SAMP model. Dr. Furl provided detail on the assumptions used to conduct the model runs.

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

The next Stakeholder committee meeting will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the San Marcos Activity Center.

**11. Questions from the public.**

No Comments

**12. Adjourn: 11:30am**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Shriver", is written over a solid black horizontal line.

**Patrick Shriver, Secretary**