



MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

1. **Call to order**--Establish that all Committee members are present or represented- 9:03 am.
Members present included: Tom Taggart (San Marcos), Roland Ruiz (Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)), Steve Ramsey (New Braunfels), Chuck Ahrens (San Antonio Water System, (SAWS)), Juan Guerra representing Andrew Sansom (Texas State University), and Charlie Hickman representing Todd Votteler (Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority).
2. **Public Comment.**
No comment.
3. **Approval of minutes from the October 16, 2014 Implementing Committee meetings.**
Chuck Ahrens moved for approval. 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.**
 - **Budget Update**
Nathan Pence, EAHCP Program Manager, explained the details of the October 2014 budget.
 - **Springflows and Index Well Levels.**
Mr. Pence presented to the Implementing Committee current springflow and index well levels. The Committee discussed anticipated 2015 conditions in comparison to the January 1, 2014 levels.
 - **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Enrollment Update and SAWS ASR Operations Update.**
Chuck Ahrens told the Implementing Committee that SAWS recently began storage into the ASR facility at about 30 million gallons a day. This facility has eased the overall pumping of the Edwards Aquifer. Currently, there are 68,761 AF stored in the ASR. Mr. Ahrens stated SAWS expects to have a heavy "Recovery" year in 2015.
 - **ASR Work Group Recommendation implementation update.**
Mr. Pence discussed current discussions about the "Pooling" recommendation which was a recommendation developed by the ASR Work Group. This recommendation proposes to utilize year-end excess permitted water for the ASR leasing program.
 - **Annual Report Update.**
Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, EAHCP Director, explained the timeline of the Annual Report deliverables.
 - **USFWS response to the informational memo related to methodologies for removal of sediment from the San Marcos River.** Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez discussed the

USFWS response indicating no concern with the methodology change because it did not result in additional Take of the Covered Species.

- Additional items:
 - National Academy of Sciences - Mr. Pence updated the Implementing Committee on the status of the report due at the beginning of 2015. EAHCP staff expects the report in February and will present the information to the Implementing Committee soon after it is received.
 - Schlitterbahn HCP- Mr. Pence indicated a HCP process for Schlitterbahn has begun and is in its infancy. A public meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2014.
 - Edwards Aquifer Historical Conflicts- Texas State University Geography program will be hosting a conference on this topic on January 20, 2015.

5. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Program Manager to execute a contract with HDR, Inc. for hydrological modeling associated with the ASR and VISPO springflow protection measures.

Mr. Pence presented to the Implementing Committee the details of an HDR proposal to explore the comparative benefits in increasing Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (VISPO) water and decreasing ASR water to ensure the program maintains compliance with the Incidental Take Permit. Mr. Pence's presentation is available online at eahcp.org.

There was discussion about budget implications with changes to either the VISPO or ASR programs. Mr. Pence indicated a "worst-case-scenario" analysis is being done on the budget to determine the effects if various springflow protection measures are triggered. Discussion followed.

Mr. Ahrens communicated he will support the primary modeling proposal but would not support the optional or second part of modeling proposal at this time. He expressed concern on using a trigger analysis based on J-17 well levels rather than the rolling average recharge amounts. Discussion followed.

There was a discussion pertaining to the development of the modeling proposals. The committee wanted to identify various options for a refined proposal.

The Implementing Committee finally decided they would like staff to refine the proposal before considering going forward.

6. Presentation of and possible action to authorize the Program Manager to execute a contract with Boggess Communications for a quarterly EAHCP Newsletter.

Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez presented the proposal provided by Boggess Communication to begin an outreach effort through a quarterly electronic Newsletter. The intended audience and goals of this Newsletter was discussed. Also, Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez stated this is an additional effort to inform the public about HCP activities and not for compliance to the ITP.

Chuck Ahrens moved for approval. Roland Ruiz seconded. There was no objection.

7. Presentation and possible action to approve the amended methodology in calculating the annual Take Estimate.

Mr. Pence presented the potential affect of the proposed amended methodology used in calculating the annual Take estimate. Mr. Ed Oborny with BioWest Inc. provided additional technical information. Presentation is available online at eahcp.org.

Steve Ramsey moved to approve the methodology change as presented. Tom Taggart seconded. There was no objection.

8. Presentation and possible action approving the amended City of San Marcos/Texas State University 2015 Work Plan to include the Sessom Creek Sand Bar Removal project.

Melani Howard, City of San Marcos/Texas State University, presented the amendment, which includes adding the remaining work for the Sand Bar Removal project to their 2015 Work Plan. She indicated the amendment will not change the overall budget. Additionally, Ms. Howard presented the modified methodology to remove the Sessom Creek Sand Bar. She stated this modification was approved by the Science Committee at its November 5 meeting.

Tom Taggart moved for approval of the amended 2015 Work Plan. Juan Guerra seconded. There was no objection.

9. Presentation and possible action to approve the EAA 2015 Refugia Work Plan.

Mr. Pence presented the details of the 2015 EAA Refugia Work Plan which was developed to reflect recent conversations between USFWS and EAHCP staff. Presentation is available online at eahcp.org.

Chuck Ahrens moved to approve the Work Plan. Roland Ruiz seconded. There was no objection.

10. Presentation of and possible action to authorize the Program Manager to submit a minor amendment to the EACHP and the ITP pertaining to Refugia.

Mr. Pence presented the draft-Minor Amendment letter pertaining to Refugia services. There was discussion of how EAA's procurement process for Refugia services would be affected if the Texas Attorney General's opinion concluded the EAA could contract with the USFWS. Discussion followed.

Roland Ruiz moved for approval of the amendment letter to be sent to USFWS. Tom Taggart seconded. There was no objection.

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

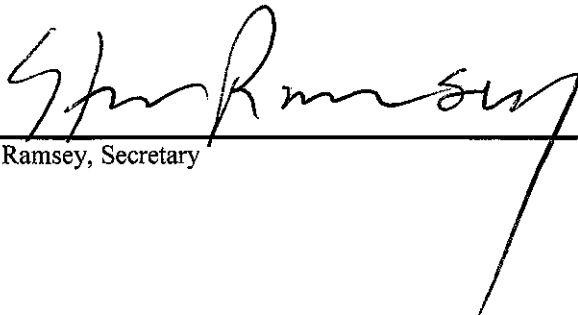
- December 18 will be the annual joint meeting of the Stakeholder Committee, Science Committee, and Implementing Committee. The annual joint meeting will summarize 2014 activities and the 2015 work plans.

- Benefits of Edwards Programs and the EAHCP.
- J-17 forecast and an update on drought conditions.

12. **Questions from the public.**

Lynn Fahlquest, USGS, asked if the modeling proposed by HDR will have any sort of sensitivity analysis. Larry Land, HDR, said there was no plan to do so due to the amount of work required.

13. **Adjourn.** 11:10 am



Steve Ramsey, Secretary