

August 21, 2014

EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

SCIENCE COMMITTEE VACANCY WORK GROUP REPORT

On June 19, 2014, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) Implementing Committee (Implementing Committee) established the Science Committee Vacancy Work Group (Work Group) and charged the Work Group to: adopt minimum and preferred qualifications for candidates with ecological modeling expertise to fill a vacancy on the EAHCP Science Committee; establish from whom nominations should be sought; and recommend a candidate to the Implementing Committee. Persons appointed the Work Group are Colette Barron Bradsby, Jim Bower, Steve Raabe, John Waugh, Tyson Broad, and Todd Votteler. The Implementing Committee directed EAHCP staff to assist the group.

The Work Group held meetings on July 2, 2014 and August 5, 2014 at the New Braunfels City Hall, with each meeting attended by five members, and with all decisions made by consensus. Colette Barron Bradsby was elected as Chair at the first meeting.

I. July 2, 2014 Meeting Discussion

With support from EAHCP staff Shaun Payne and Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, the Work Group:

- A. Adopted minimum and preferred qualifications for candidates to fill the ecological modeling vacancy on the Science Committee. At a minimum, the candidate must have applied experience in the development or application of an ecological model related to aquatic systems, with preference given to modeling experience at a scale comparable to the EAHCP ecological model. Additional preferred qualifications are that the candidate has equal experience in biology and modeling, or primary knowledge in modeling with some biological application experience. Candidates are not required to have a Ph.D or Master's degree specifically in modeling or biology if they have sufficient relevant ecological modeling experience;
- B. Developed a list of individuals and entities to whom a request for nomination information sheet would be distributed and set a deadline for nominations of July 25, 2014; and
- C. Determined that, to avoid conflicts of interest, it was necessary to request that candidates disclose any affiliation with persons currently performing ecological modeling under EAHCP contracts.

The EAHCP staff, with input from Work Group members, prepared and distributed a Request For Nominations For Ecological Modeling Expert information sheet. The

document contains information on the EAHCP and its ecological model, the role of the Science Committee, the expected time commitment of Science Committee members and allowable compensation, the minimum and preferred qualifications for candidates, and a request to disclose certain affiliations with persons performing under EAHCP contracts related to ecological modeling. The document also provides directions regarding the nomination submission process.

II. August 5, 2014 Meeting Discussion

The EAHCP staff received four nominations to fill the vacancy on the EAHCP Science Committee. The Request For Nominations For Ecological Modeling Expert information sheet and the four candidate submissions were posted on the EAHCP website at: http://www.eahcp.org/index.php/administration/2014_workgroups/science_committee_nomination_work_group.

At its second meeting, the Work Group reviewed the nominations of:

1. Dr. Douglas Klein
2. Dr. Conrad Lamon
3. Dr. Thomas Linton
4. Dr. Kimberly Meitzen

After evaluating and discussing the background and experience of each candidate, the Work Group unanimously ranked Conrad Lamon as the top candidate. The group was impressed with Dr. Lamon's extensive ecological modeling experience, his diverse education and training in biology, statistics, and environmental science, and his participation in collaborative decision making settings. It was the consensus of the group that Dr. Lamon should be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Science Committee.

III. Consensus Recommendation

The Work Group recommends that the Implementing Committee appoint Dr. Conrad Lamon to the EAHCP Science Committee.

Submitted by:

Colette Barron Bradsby
Chair, Science Committee Vacancy Work Group