

Drought Contingency Meeting
Meeting Summary 1/31/2013

Attendees: Todd Votteler, Doris Cooksey, Louisa Eclarinal, Patrick Shriver, Ken Diehl, Steve Ramsey, Mike Abbott, Thom Hardy, Melani Howard, Colette Barron, Ed Oborny, Bob Hall, Nathan Pence, Robert Gulley.

- Refugia was identified as extremely important should drought occur
- In some cases, drought can make implementation of mitigation easier and could be used as an opportunity to learn/observe and conduct research.
- All activities may need to consider drought mitigation.
- During drought, you should not remove non-native vegetation that is established and represents fountain darter habitat: Hygrophila. The areas selected for aquatic vegetation restoration in the San Marcos River should be okay due to their small size. Specific attention should be given to the Old Channel of the Comal River and decisions based on conditions at time of restoration.
- Removal of non-native species may be easier at low flows but should utilize methods that do not adversely affect habitat

Comal

Low Flow Condition Triggers – There was general agreement that decisions during severe drought should be made primarily based on real time data, water quality data and habitat conditions, rather than just flow. There was also general agreement that when Comal springflows decline to 100cfs there is reason to be aware of conditions occurring and if flows decline to the 60cfs range adjustments for low flow should be seriously considered.

- Installation of aerators and the DO monitoring station in Landa Lake should be a priority
- Gill Parasite activities should include more than just research, but also management
- Implementation of Old Channel mitigation (sediment removal and aquatic vegetation restoration) should be based on current conditions: water quality and habitat condition
- Flow Split Mgmt at the Old Channel culverts is a priority. The City of New Braunfels will make efforts to restore functionality of those culverts, even if it is only partial and may be outside of the existing contract that is approved.
- Activity in Spring Run 3 should be avoided but western shoreline work would be okay

San Marcos

Low Flow Condition Triggers – There was general agreement that decisions during severe drought should be made primarily based on real time data, water quality data and habitat conditions, rather than just flow. There was also general agreement that when San Marcos springflows decline to 80cfs there is reason to be aware of conditions occurring and if flows decline to the 70-60cfs range adjustments for low flow should be seriously considered.

- State Scientific Areas are important; booms, signage, and education are essential
- It is okay to proceed with sediment removal so long as it is designed and implemented properly
- It is okay to proceed with Bank Stabilization so long as it is designed and implemented properly