



**MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2016**

1. Call to order— 9:05 am

All Committee members were present: Tom Taggart (San Marcos), Roland Ruiz (EAA), Steve Ramsey (New Braunfels), Darren Thompson (SAWS), Andrew Sansom (Texas State University), and Todd Votteler (GBRA).

Tom Taggart left the meeting at 11:00 am and Melani Howard (City of San Marcos alternate) sat in for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Public Comment.

No comment

3. Approval of minutes from the May 19th Implementing Committee meeting.

Andy Sansom moved to approve the minutes. Steve Ramsey seconded. There were no objections.

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
Tom Taggart, City of San Marcos, asked when the last time there was no Critical Period Management reductions. Javier Hernandez, EAA, responded that it was 2010.
- Budget Report – There were no comments.
- ASR Operations by SAWS
Darren Thompson reported that SAWS was currently storing at 40 million gallons a day (MGD). 38,000 acre-feet have been stored for the EAHCP, with a current total ASR storage of 109,000 acre-feet.
- Update on the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Report
An adaptive management process will begin as soon as EAHCP staff has an opportunity to review the recommendations from the report.
- USFWS Response – USFWS approved the request to amend Section 5.5.1 of the EAHCP specifically that the meetings of ASR Regional Advisory Group will be held as needed but no less than annually.
- Ecological Modeling Memo from the NAS
The National Academy of Sciences will be providing information regarding their recommendations for the EAHCP Ecological Modeling development. When staff receives this memo, the Implementing Committee will receive a copy at the same time as the Ecological Modeling team.

5. Presentation of the Refugia contract summary.

Roland Ruiz, EAA, suggested tabling this agenda item. Mr. Ruiz provided an update consisting of stating that EAA has chosen USFWS as the contractor. There was no objection to this suggestion.

6. Presentation and discussion on an EAA summary of well permitting and pumping history from 2008 to 2014.

Javier Hernandez, EAA staff, presented the summary of the Critical Period Reduction and the pumping summary that includes comparison to historical information. Presentation can be found online at eahcp.org.

7. Presentation of an overview of the EAHCP Budget.

Nathan Pence, EAHCP Program Manager, introduced the purpose for this item and provided a detailed presentation on the EAHCP Budget. Presentation can be found online at eahcp.org.

The Committee discussed the long-term plan for the reserve balance and what will occur once the \$46 million cap is reached. Mr. Ruiz mentioned how the Bragg case payout will affect the overall distribution of Aquifer Management Fees. Tom Taggart, City of San Marcos, discussed the impact of delayed cost of Conservation Measures (such as Refugia).

There was an additional conversation of some of the budget variables that could impact Table 7.1. The Committee discussed the Regional Water Conservation Program and how the EAHCP will be continuing conservation in the region even after the goal has been reached through the SAWS contract. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that the Edwards Aquifer Authority has programs outside of the EAHCP that incentivize conservation.

Mr. Pence continued discussing the potential cost of Phase II and possible occurrence of a drought of record that was not contemplated in the development of the original Table 7.1. Additionally, the budget could be affected by Refugia activities and a possible rise in the Program Administration budget.

8. Presentation and possible adoption of the Report of the 2016 Expanded Water Quality Monitoring and Biological Monitoring Work Groups.

Mr. Pence introduced Steve Raabe, SARA and Chairman of both Work Groups. Mr. Raabe introduced the Work Groups charge and stated that the report was a product of a well-informed group of professionals. He continued to thank both the Implementing Committee and EAHCP staff for initiating and supporting the process.

Mr. Pence followed by presenting a summary of the report to the Committee. The presentation can be found online at eahcp.org.

Steve Ramsey asked if the 2017 Work Plans for EAA represent the budget presented. Mr. Pence responded that the EAA Work Plans were edited to reflect the Work Group's report and if the committee has any changes to the report then the Work Plan will need to reflect that.

Mr. Pence concluded the presentation by mentioning a few comments from the Science Committee. This included adding Asian clams to the fish tissue analysis, modifying the rapid bio-assessment to the program to fit the specific ecosystem, and increasing the scope of Comal Springs riffle beetle sampling.

Melani Howard replaced Tom Taggart after he left during this agenda item.

Steve Ramsey moved to adopt the report as presented. Andy Sansom seconded. There were no objections.

9. Possible approval of the 2017 EAA Work Plans.

Mr. Pence presented the overall process to approve all three permittee's Work Plans and budget.

Andy Sansom moved to approve the 2017 EAA Work Plans with the understanding that an amendment will follow. Motion was seconded by Steve Ramsey. There were no objections.

10. Possible approval of the 2017 City of New Braunfels Work Plans.

Darren Thompson moved to approve the 2017 City of New Braunfels Work Plans. Motion was seconded by Melani Howard. There were no objections.

11. Possible approval of the 2017 City of San Marcos/Texas State University Work Plans.

Steve Ramsey moved to approve the 2017 City of San Marcos/Texas State University Work Plans. Motion was seconded by Andy Sansom. There were no objections.

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

- Next Implementing Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21st at the Edwards Aquifer Authority. July and August Implementing Committee meetings were postponed due to a lack of time-sensitive agenda items.

13. Questions from the public.

14. Adjourn.

Darren Thompson
Secretary