



NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

Available at eahcp.org

Science Committee Meeting Minutes May 8, 2014

A meeting of the Science Committee (SC) for the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Program took place on Thursday, May 8, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the San Marcos Rec Hall located at 170 Charles Austin Dr., San Marcos, TX

1. Call to Order

Chairman Doyle Mosier called the meeting to order at 9:04 am

2. Roll Call

Committee members present were: Chairman Doyle Mosier, Dr. Tom Arsuffi, Dr. Charles Kreidler, Dr. Jacquelyn Duke, Ms. Jackie Poole, Dr. Floyd Weckerly, Mr. Chad Norris, Dr. Glenn Longley, Dr. Janis Bush, and Dr. Robert Mace.

A quorum was present.

3. Public Comment.

None received

4. Approval of minutes from the April 8, 2014 Science Committee meeting.

Floyd Weckerly moved to approve the minutes, Janis Bush seconded the motion. There were no objections, motion passed.

5. Receive Report from the EAHCP Program Manager.

HCP Program Manager, Nathan Pence informed the committee that committee member, Miguel Acevedo has resigned from the committee. Mr. Pence stated that staff will begin the process of searching for a replacement for Dr. Acevedo as soon as possible.

Mr. Pence updated the committee that the National Academy of Science (NAS) meetings will be held on May 12-13 at the EAA building. The NAS will hold meetings on the 12th and 13th followed by a tour of the spring systems on the 14th.

Mr. Pence informed the committee that there will be opportunities for SC members to discuss the 2015 applied research projects with the NAS members. Mr. Pence also asked SC members if there

were additional topics that they would like to discuss during the upcoming meetings. Discussion followed. SC members agreed to meet at 11:00 am at the EAA buildings to discuss topics to bring to the NAS members.

HCP Director, Ms. Alicia Reinmund-Martinez provided a brief summary of the 2014 Applied Research projects and of the elements received from SC members. Ms. Martinez also discussed the timeline associated with the 2015 projects. Dr. Arsuffi, asked how much time was available to discuss the applied research projects with the NAS. Discussion followed.

Ms. Martinez updated the committee regarding the proposed Statistical Analysis project. Ms. Martinez said that based on discussions with the current Ecomodel contractor, much of the proposed analysis will be done under that scope of work. Ms. Martinez requested that the Statistical Analysis project be postponed until after the Ecomodel projects is completed. Dr. Arsuffi stated that the work done by the Ecomodel contractor did not meet the original intent of the project. Ms. Martinez asked Mr. Ed Oborny with BIO-WEST Inc., the Ecomodel contractor, to briefly describe to the committee the statistical work being done under the Ecomodel contract.

6. Presentation on status of the Groundwater Model development.

Mr. Pence gave a brief update on the status of the current Groundwater Model development currently underway by both EAA staff and Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) personnel currently under contract. Discussion followed.

Mr. Jim Winterle, EAA Modeling Supervisor, presented the status on the MODFLOW model which looks at precipitation and correlates it to indicator wells. Discussion followed.

Dr. Ron Green, SWRI, presented the SWRI Finite Element Model update and discussed the groundwater hydrology found in the Edwards Aquifer. Discussion followed.

7. Comal Springs Riffle Beetle (CSRB) Plastron Study

Dr. Weston Nowlin presented an update on the methodology of the Riffle Beetle Plastron study and requested input from the SC. Discussion followed.

Two significant suggestions were raised: 1) use of nitrogen for reducing dissolved oxygen levels and the length of time that Riffle Beetles would be tested and the impact it might have on metabolism.

8. Presentation of and possible action related to the evaluation and proposed removal approach for the San Marcos River Sessom Creek Sand Bar Removal by Texas State University

Dr. Thom Hardy presented an overview of the hydraulic analysis in Sessom Creek related to the removal of the sediment island. In summary, Dr. Hardy recommended removing the sediment in layers and continuing to contour the island in phases. This method would allow for continual study of the flows in the Creek. Dr. Hardy also discussed some of the causes of the sediment from

upstream locations and that a watershed plan was outside of the scope of this project. Discussion followed.

Action: Dr. Kreitler made the motion to recommend the proposed removal approach be submitted to the Implementing Committee, Ms. Poole seconded the motion, there were no objections, motion passed.

9. Staff Report: 2015 Work Plan approval process

Ms. Martinez presented an update of the current status of the HCP work plans for 2015. Mr. Pence also provided some history related to the work plans and the process for their development to date. Discussion followed.

10. Presentation of the City of San Marcos-Texas State University 2015 Work Plans and take possible action on a recommendation to the Implementing Committee

Ms. Melani Howard, Watershed Manager for City of San Marcos, presented each of the individual proposed work plans to the SC. Discussion followed.

Action: Dr. Longley made the motion to recommend the San Marcos and Texas State work plans be submitted to the Implementing Committee, Chairman Mosier seconded the motion, there were no objections, motion passed.

11. Presentation of the EAA 2015 Work Plans and take possible action on a recommendation to the Implementing Committee

Mr. Bob Hall, EAA Senior Coordinator, presented each of the individual proposed work plans to the SC.

Dr. Bush made the recommendation that it would be to the advantage of the SC to have an opportunity to see presentations on each of the work plans and the success of each before making a decision as to their effectiveness. Discussion followed.

Action: Dr. Arsuffi made the motion to recommend the work plans be submitted to the Implementing Committee, Dr. Weckerly seconded the motion, there were no objections, motion passed.

12. Consider future meeting dates and locations

EAA staff reminded the SC that the meeting is scheduled for July 9th at the San Marcos Rec Hall. Staff recapped the itinerary for the NAS meeting on Monday, Mary 12th.

13. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm