

2014 Implementing Committee
Regional Water Conservation Program Work Group

Charge:

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) calls for the Regional Water Conservation Program to conserve 20,000 acre-feet of permitted or exempt Edwards Aquifer withdrawals. In exchange for technical assistance and incentives for implementing the various measures, one-half of the conserved water (10,000 acre-feet) will be committed to remain in the Aquifer un-pumped, but still owned by participating permit-holders, for 15 years to benefit springflow levels and to contribute to species protection. The other one-half of the conserved water will remain available to the participating entity for use.

To ensure that the benefit from this program was reasonably certain to be realized, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS), City of San Marcos, and Texas State University provided a loan of 8,400 acre-feet through the use of initial commitment contracts.

The purpose of the 2014 Implementing Committee Regional Water Conservation Program (RWCP) Work Group is to make recommendations to the Implementing Committee for ultimate consideration by the Edwards Aquifer Authority on additional ideas and methods to secure the 10,000 acre-feet of permitted or exempt Edwards Aquifer water to the groundwater trust in order to meet the requirement of the Incidental Take Permit.

Organization:

Members include the following: an EAA representative (*Rick Illgner/ Javier Hernandez*), a Large Municipality representative (*Karen Guz, SAWS*), Small Municipality representatives (*Randy Luensmann, Universal City*), an Environmental Group representative (*Dianne Wassenich*), an Industrial representative (*Dr. Richard Szecsy, Texas Aggregate and Concrete Association*), a representative from another non-profit organization (*Tyson Broad – Sierra Club*), and at-large representatives, (*Colette Barron Bradsby – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department* and *Charlie Hickman, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority*).

Chair and Vice-chair will be selected by Work Group members.

First Meeting and Meeting Frequency:

The Work Group shall hold its first meeting during the week of October 13, 2014 and, to the extent necessary and reasonably feasible, will meet every other week through the week of December 15, 2014. The Work Group will hold five meetings. Presentations of recommendations to the Implementing Committee will occur on January 15, 2015.