

Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Science Committee
Meeting Process

Per the request of Dr. Tom Arsuffi, on July 15, 2013, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) Science Committee discussed strengths and weakness of the process for Science Committee decision-making to-date. Below is a listing of suggested recommendations identified at that meeting for possible recommendation to the Implementing Committee. This document serves as a discussion document for the Science Committee meeting on August 14, 2013, to more fully develop this listing of recommendations.

On August 14, 2013, the Science Committee requested that the Implementing Committee consider the following recommendations for improving the process of the Science Committee. These recommendations recognize the inherent limitations created by the Funding and Management Agreement and the complexity of the EAHCP.

1. The Science Committee should be provided detailed schedules for spring flow protection measures and conservation measures over the 15-year term of the permit to better understand the broad context of items presented for discussion.
2. If appropriate, documents presented to the Science Committee for review (Work Plans, Requests for Recommendations, etc.) should include supporting historical documentation and peer-reviewed research relevant to the program being discussed.
3. Meeting packets should identify supporting documentation by order of importance to addressing the agenda item (high, medium, and low priority).
4. Agendas should include brief objectives for each agenda item.
5. Where possible, the Science Committee should be included in all stages of program implementation to ensure the Committee has a holistic understanding of EAHCP activities.
6. Supporting documentation should be given to the Science Committee with as much advance notice as possible prior to a meeting.
7. The Science Committee may request any presenter or outside expertise that may be beneficial to understanding a certain issue presented to the Committee.
8. Science Committee members may request additional agenda items as needed to provide additional information helpful to the decision making process.