



MEETING MINUTES
February 19th, 2015
Available at eahcp.org

1. **Call to order- 9:05 am.**
Members present were Tom Taggart (San Marcos), Roland Ruiz (Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)), Steve Ramsey (New Braunfels), Chuck Ahrens (San Antonio Water System (SAWS)), and Andrew Sansom (Texas State University). Todd Votteler, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA), was not present; GBRA was not represented.
2. **Public Comment.**
No comment.
3. **Approval of minutes from the January 15th Implementing Committee meeting.**
Chuck Ahrens made specific edits to the section "ASR Operations by SAWS." There were no objections to approving the minutes as amended by Mr. Ahrens.

Revised minutes can be found at eahcp.org.

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.**
Nathan Pence, Program Manager, provided the committee with various updates on the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) program. Mr. Pence indicated the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (VISPO) checks were mailed out last week.
 - **Budget Update**
Mr. Pence mentioned EAA Staff, Shelly Hendrix, will be presenting information regarding 2014 overall budget and EAHCP reserves at the March 19th Implementing Committee meeting.
 - **Springflows and Index Well Levels**
As a standing item for the Committee, Mr. Pence presented information on springflow.
 - **Refugia Amendment Response from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**
Mr. Pence provided an update on the positive response letter from USFWS regarding the minor amendment request relating to the Refugia. Darcy Frownfelter, General Counsel, mentioned he expects the response from the Texas Attorney General Office, related to Refugia contracting by EAA with USFWS, in early March.
 - **Final NAS Process**
Mr. Pence mentioned EAHCP staff is expecting to receive the first National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report in the next couple of weeks. A presentation by the Chairman of the NAS National Research Council, Danny Reible, will be given at the March 19th Implementing Committee meeting.
 - **Modeling Update**
A letter agreement has been executed with HDR, Inc. and modeling has begun to examine options pertaining to VISPO and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) springflow benefits.

A letter agreement has been executed with HDR, Inc. and modeling has begun to examine options pertaining to VISPO and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) springflow benefits. This agreement will address how every acre-foot not leased through the ASR program translates into additional acre-feet needed to be enrolled in VISPO.

- SWCA has successfully obtained the first stormwater sampling event for 2015.
- ASR Operations by SAWS.
Chuck Ahrens, SAWS, provided an update to the committee on SAWS' ASR operations. SAWS' daily capacity is 20 million-gallons a day (10 acre-feet stored Edwards, and 10 acre-feet local Carrizo). There is 3,031 acre-feet of HCP water planned for storage in 2015.
- EAA ASR leasing update.
Roland Ruiz, EAA, presented an update on EAA's ASR leasing. Mr. Ruiz explained how various changes have been made and/or developed over the past few months. This includes the 'pooling' recommendation from the EAHCP ASR Work Group, the discontinuation of the rebate program, and the termination of the leasing contract with the San Antonio River Authority.

5. Discussion and presentation of the budget analysis of ASR Work Group recommendation to increase prices for ASR leases.

Mr. Pence presented an analysis of the potential increase of ASR leasing prices. Presentation can be found on eahcp.org.

The committee discussed the possibility of a price escalator option rather than increasing prices across the board. The committee communicated that they are interested in pursuing increased prices for ASR leases that stay within the budget in Table 7.1 of the EAHCP. Discussion followed.

Both Tom Taggart and Steve Ramsey support a conservative approach, potentially scenario 3, and explained that pursuing a retroactive payment structure for those currently enrolled seemed reasonable. Chuck Ahrens mentioned that changes do not indicate a failed effort and that some options may continue to be discussed.

6. Presentation and possible action to approve the Net Disturbance and Take Estimate Report for official adoption as recommended by the Science Committee.

Mr. Pence presented the Net Disturbance and Take Assessment numbers identified in the 2014 Report from BIO-WEST Inc. and recommended for adoption by the Science Committee.

Andy Sansom moved to adopt the Net Disturbance and Take Assessment Report for official adoption. Steve Ramsey seconded. There was no objection.

7. Presentation and possible action to approve the amended 2015 City of New Braunfels Old Channel Restoration Work Plan.

Chuck Ahrens moved to approve the amended 2015 Work Plan. Andy Sansom seconded. There was no objection.

Chuck Ahrens had to leave the meeting after the motion was made. A quorum of the committee was not present for the rest of the meeting.

Mr. Pence briefly presented the rationale to the amended City of New Braunfels Work Plan. The Work Plan can be found on eahcp.org.

8. Permittee Briefing: Spring Lake Dam.

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Mr. Pence introduced Juan Guerra of Texas State University to present information about the Spring Lake Dam. Presentation can be found on eahcp.org.

There was discussion pertaining to the future planning process in dealing with the issues with Spring Lake Dam. Various points were brought-up by the committee and the public about importance of this dam being repaired responsibly and quickly.

9. Discussion and presentation of the second draft of the 2014 Annual Report and first round of comments.

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, EAHCP Director, introduced Cliff Ladd of Blanton and Associates to present the progress report of the 2014 Annual Report drafting. Presentation can be found on eahcp.org.

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

- 2014 Final Budget
- Ecological Modeling Scope of Work

Additional items include:

- Danny Reible for NAS Report summary
- Attorney General Opinion
- Technical and procedural information regarding the Potential effects of Electro Purification drilling wells in the region.

11. Questions from the public.

Dianne Wassenich mentioned a public meeting about the Electro Purification (EP) well field and its effects of the Trinity Aquifer.

Ron Walton, District 9 representative of Comal County on the EAA Board, mentioned the issues of EP and Trinity Aquifer.

Carol Patterson, EAA Board Member, asked specific questions about the ASR financial estimates given earlier in the meeting and analyzing pumping in specific areas and its effects on springflows.

Dianne Wassenich reminded the committee about Regional Water Conservation Program Work Group meetings.

Mr. Pence introduced Debbie McPheeters with the City of New Braunfels and presented her with an official recognition for helping with the meeting arrangements throughout 2014.

Chairman Taggart took the opportunity to thank USFWS for the timely response to the minor amendment relating to the Refugia.

12. Adjourn. 11:50 am

Steve Ramsey

Steve Ramsey, Secretary