

**Implementing Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan
Minutes of the February 23, 2012 Meeting at the McKenna Events Center in New Braunfels, Texas**

1. Call to order – establish that all Implementing Committee members are present or represented.

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 am. All members of the Implementing Committee (Committee) were present; therefore a quorum was present for all purposes. Attached to these minutes is an attendance list that was created at the meeting.

2. Public comment.

None.

3. Approval of January 30, 2012 minutes.

Calvin Finch made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2012 meeting. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

4. Receive status report and schedule from the Program Manager related to the implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Robert Gulley reported that draft EIS is almost complete, but it still requires some revision. It was agreed that Robert Gulley should contact the Department of Defense representative that has been working with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on the biological opinion for the Joint Command at Fort Sam Houston to set up a meeting to discuss the facilities participation in the cost of implementing the HCP. The Committee plans to make a trip to D.C. trip after the NEPA document is noticed in the Federal Register. This should occur at the end of March or early April. The Implementing Committee asked Robert to prepare a briefing paper in support of a request for funding for the National Fish Hatchery & Training Center refugia and bio-monitoring.

5. Report from EARIP sales tax meeting.

The funding workgroup was reconvened to discuss the sales tax issue. It was decided that it needed to start establishing legislative contacts for the 2013 session immediately. Initial contacts will seek input and advice as to the best approach for putting together a bill for the upcoming session. The initial contacts will include Senators Hegar and Wentworth, and Representatives Larson, and Hunter. Robert said that he would circulate a brief overview of the sales tax bill and Committee Substitute introduced for the 2011 session.

6. Discuss Comprehensive Phase I Work Plan to be adopted by March 1, 2012.

Robert Gulley presented the Committee a draft of the Comprehensive Phase I Work Plan. Because approval of the work plan had not been noticed and the Committee did not have adequate time to review the document, it was agreed that a decision to adopt the work plan would be made by a conference call on February 29, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

7. Discuss the annual work plans and cost estimates for 2013 to be submitted by April 15, 2012, for the following Habitat Conservation Plan elements:

Karl Dreher discussed the status of Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (VISPO). He said that EAA had established a VISPO group that has been created to work on the details of the implementing the program including the preparation of a draft contract. He said that the draft contract would be submitted to

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the Committee for review and comment when it is complete. Karl also discussed the status of Regional Municipal Conservation program. He said that EAA has begun exploring the best way to implement the Program. EAA will convene the Regional Conservation Monitoring Committee soon to get its input on the program. Finally, Karl gave a brief report on the status of SAWS Aquifer Storage & Recovery Interlocal contract.

8. Consideration and Adoption of Operational Procedures and Parliamentary Rules of Conduct

After extensive discussion of the draft procedures and rules prepared by Darcy Frownfelter, it was agreed that more time was needed for review and discussion before a decision could be made as to whether or not to adopt them. The resolution of this issue was postponed until the March 15, 2012 meeting.

9. Phase I Annual Work Plans for 2013

Melanie Howard and Thom Hardy gave a brief presentation on the status of the work plans for New Braunfels and San Marcos.

The next meeting of the Implementing Committee will be held on March 15, 2012 in San Marcos. The location is yet to be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.