

Implementing Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Minutes of the April 19, 2012 Meeting at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Seguin, Texas

1. Call to Order –establish that all implementing committee members are present or represented.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. All members of the Implementing Committee were represented. Nathan Pence attended as the alternate for Mike Morrison representing the City of New Braunfels. Chuck Ahrens attended as the alternative for Calvin Finch representing SAWS. A quorum was present for all purposes. Attached to these minutes is an attendance list for the meeting.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of minutes from the Implementing Committee of March 15, 2012

Chuck Ahrens made a motion to approve the minutes from the Implementing Committee meeting on March 15, 2012. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

4. Election of Committee Chair and other officers pursuant to Section 7.7.2 of the FMA

Chuck Ahrens made a motion to appoint Karl Dreher to serve as Chair. Bill Nance seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Karl Dreher made a motion to appoint Tom Taggart to serve as as Vice-Chair. Chuck Ahrens seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Tom Taggart made a motion to appoint Calvin Finch to serve as the Secretary. Chuck Ahrens seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

5. Receive the Report of the Program Manager related to the Implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Robert Gulley reported that the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been sent to Albuquerque. USFWS should have completed its review of the DEIS and selected the preferred alternative within 30-45 days. There will be six to seven NEPA public comment meetings following posting in the Federal Register.

The contract with RECON has been terminated and signed by all necessary parties. Work is underway to close out the EARIP work and any remaining available funds will be returned to the Implementing Committee for disbursement.

. The first step to creating the Science Committee is to assemble the Stakeholder Committee and that process will begin as soon as possible.

Robert Gulley and Jenna Cantwell have begun the process of acquiring the necessary information for all the required permits to start work in January of 2013. It is likely that all work requiring USACE permits will fit under Nation Wide Permit 27. There will be a meeting with TPWD and other agencies that require permits on April 24, 2012. Kevin Connally is helping bring all these groups together.

6. Report on Alternative Funding Discussions.

Jerry James reported that he, Calvin Finch, Weir Labatt, and Tom Taggart met with Senator Armbrister from the Governor's office to discuss allowing the region to vote on a sales tax as a method of funding the HCP. It appears that Governor Perry is unlikely to support any effort that could be construed as raising taxes in the 2013 session; thus, it may be better to aim for the 2015 session.

7. Consider and Possibly Approve Funding 2012 (Zero Year) Activities for the Habitat Conservation Plan

Bill Nance made a motion that the advanced money for Year Zero activities will be paid back to the EAA from 2013 funds. Tom Taggart seconded this motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

The group decided to eliminate Year Zero projects 1 and 4. The Committee was not prepared to vote on the Year Zero Work Plan until the 2013 work plans are amended to reduce the amount of money requested in 2013 by the amount advanced in 2012.

8. Discussion and Possible Action to Consider San Antonio River Authority as the Leasing Agent for the ASR water.

Steve Raabe with the San Antonio River Authority indicated that SARA is willing to be the leasing agent for the ASR, discussed SARA's experience and answered questions.. The Committee requested that SARA generate an Acquisition Work Plan for them to review. Raabe emphasized the importance of maintaining water market stability in this process.

9. Consider and Possibly Approve 2013 Annual Work Plans and associated cost estimates for Habitat Conservation Plan elements to be submitted by April 15, 2012

Geary Schindel from the EAA discussed EAA's Water Quality Work Plan. There were no objections; therefore the work plan doesn't have to be re-visited.. Robert Gulley discussed EAA's Project Management Work Plan.

10. Consider future meeting dates, locations and agendas.

The next meeting will be on May 1, 2012 in New Braunfels to vote on Year Zero Work Plans and the Project Management Work Plan.

The regular monthly meeting will be held May 17, 2012.