

Implementing Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Minutes of the August 16, 2012 Meeting at the Civic 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 9:03 am. A quorum was present for all purposes; Rick Illgner was represented the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Attached to these minutes is an attendance list that was created at the meeting.

2. Public Comment.

Jose Hidalgo said he had attended two NEPA meetings and complimented the sponsors.

3. Approval of minutes from the Implementing Committee meetings of July 19 and July 25, 2012.
Chuck Ahrens moved and Mike Morrison seconded to approve the July 19 and July 25, 2012, Implementing Committee minutes as presented. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

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

Robert Gulley reported on the following items:

- The last of the seven NEPA meetings concluded on August 15 in Victoria. However, the public comment period is open until October 18. Implementing Committee members were encouraged to submit supporting comments.
- Robert Gulley reported on a meeting that he, Luana Buckner (EAA Chair), Roland Ruiz, and Todd Votteler had with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) regional office on July 27 to discuss the importance staying on schedule for HCP approval and the importance of getting participation in the HCP by the Department of Defense. Work is on-going to hire program management staff. Chris Abernathy will start as Contract Manager on August 27. A conditional offer has been extended to Jenna Cantwell for the HCP Coordinator position and she will begin on September 1. The final interview for the Sr. HCP Officer will occur on August 17.
- Jenna Cantwell gave a brief update on the status of year zero *contracts*. *The only un-executed contract is wild rice propagation.*
- The following meetings have been scheduled:
 - The eco-modeling workshop will be held on August 28 & 29 at the EAA Euclid building;
 - An Applied Research meeting will be held on August 31 at the San Marcos Activity center, beginning at 10:30;
 - Following that meeting, there will be an engineer's meeting for Applied Research on September 19 at the National Fish Hatchery & Training Center, beginning at 10:30; and
 - There will be a Stakeholders meeting on September 20 to find a replacement for Sam Vaughn on the Science Committee.

5. Discussion and take possible action on Implementing Agreement.

Robert Gulley discussed the revised Implementing Agreement sent out with the Agenda material. A motion was made by Mike Morrison to approve the amended Implementing Agreement. William Nance seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

A motion was made by William Nance to approve the Resolution sent out with the Agenda material regarding Certificate of Inclusion. Mike Morrison seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

6. Consider and take possible action on recommendations for the riparian biologist member of the Science Committee.

Robert Gulley discussed the list of nominees for riparian biologist. Motion was made by William Nance to select Jacquelyn Duke of Baylor University as the riparian biologist for the Science Committee. Chuck Ahrens seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

7. Discussion of Regional Water Conservation Program Work Plan.

Robert Gulley stated that the Regional Conservation Program is the responsibility of the EAA and the 2013 work plan approved by the Implementing Committee calls for the EAA to hire a person to manage the program and to use consultants to implement the program. Robert reported that a proposal to implement the program from Calvin Finch, Director of the Water Conservation and Technology Center at Texas A&M and was included in the meeting material. Calvin handed out a revised proposal and summarized the proposal. Robert said the proposal would be discussed at the September Implementing Committee meeting.

8. Report on the Public Outreach Work Group.

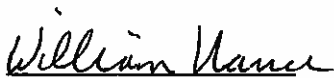
Elizabeth Smith reported on recent outreach activities. A press release was distributed on August 14 announcing the EAHCP website. One of the features of the new website is links to websites of other Implementing Committee members. An activity that the public outreach group hopes to promote is art in public places; this can be an opportunity to promote EAHCP awareness. One of the resources that will be shared with Implementing Committee partners is images. The EAA produces a calendar with a different theme each year. A decision had already been made to make the 2013 theme the EAHCP. Photos have been taken and now the public outreach group is developing cooperative printing plans with members.

9. Discussion of the Funding Applications.

Robert Gulley reviewed the application protocol for work plan funding eligibility.

10. Consider Future meeting dates, locations and agendas.

The next meeting will be on September 20 at the EAA, immediately following the Stakeholder meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.



William Nance,

Secretary to the Implementing Committee

SIGN-IN SHEET
EAHCP Implementing Committee
August 16, 2012

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