

Stakeholder Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan  
Minutes of the September 20, 2012 Meeting at the EAA Conference Center in San Antonio, Texas

**1. Call to Order –establish that all Stakeholder Committee members are present or represented.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Con Mims, the Stakeholder’s Committee Chair was not present. Myron Hess, the Vice Chair, served as Chairman for the meeting. A quorum was present for all purposes. *Attached to these minutes is an attendance list that was created at the meeting.* Robert Gulley suggested that items 7 and 8 on the Agenda be taken up in reverse order. There were no objections to this suggestion.

**2. Public Comment.**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes from the Stakeholder Committee meeting of June 21, 2012.**

Suggestions were made to amend Item 6 to strike the words “stated they wanted to keep after the word “Committee” in the first sentence and replace them with the phrase “appointed, without objection.” It was further noted that Item 6 was out of order. It was suggested that Item 8 needed to be amended to insert the word “no” between the words “were” and objections in the last sentence. There were no objections to the proposed amendments; thus, the minutes were approved as amended.

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

Robert Gulley briefed the group on the following items related to implementation of the HCP:

- Three of the four staff persons have been hired - Nathan Pence will assume the Assistant Program Manager position on October 1; Chris Abernathy has been hired as the Sr. Project Coordinator; Jenna Cantwell has been hired as the HCP Coordinator, and the Administrative Assistant should be selected within 30 days.
- The NEPA process is underway. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) posted notice of the Draft EIS and conducted seven public hearings. Comment period closes October 18; the comments received to date are overwhelmingly favorable. A decision on the HCP before January 1, 2013 is likely.
- Although the Service has made no decision, if there is a favorable decision on the HCP, FWS may be interested in having a formal signing perhaps including an official from the Department of Interior. Robert Gulley suggested that a group consisting of one member from each of the Implementing Committee be appointed to work with remaining members of the EARIP Public Outreach Work Group to plan such an event. There were no objections.
- A copy of the Implementing Agreement with signatures is available for Stakeholder Committee members. All signatures have been received, except from TCEQ and TDA.

- Jenna Cantwell has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain authorization for the restoration work under Nationwide General Permit 27. She believes such an authorization will be in place by January 1, 2013.

**5. Discussion and possible decision on filling the last slot on the Science Committee.**

Sam Vaughn declined a position on the Science Committee. The Stakeholder Committee is responsible for filling that slot. Todd Votteler made a motion to appoint Brian Smith, a hydrologist with the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, to the Science Committee. Gary Spence seconded the motion. There was no consensus on the motion.

Patrick Shriver made a motion to appoint John Vaughn, with SAWS, to the Science Committee. Carol Patterson seconded the motion. There was no consensus.

Myron Hess, the Acting Chair and Robert Gulley recommended an Issues Team for the Science Committee consisting of: Todd Votteler, Steve Raabe, Colette Barron, Jim Bower, Patrick Shriver, and Myron Hess. There were no objections to the recommendation.

Resumes of Messrs Smith and Vaughn will be sent to the Issues Team prior to its meeting.

**6. Report of the Program Operational Rules Work Group.**

Myron Hess reported that Program Operational Rules Work Group met on September 6, to discuss the Program Operational Rules for the Stakeholder Committee. This group will provide a revised copy of the Program Operational Rules with a recommendation for adoption at the next meeting.

Colette Barron made a motion to express the sense of the Stakeholder Committee to the Work Group that the Stakeholder and Implementing Committees follow similar notice procedures (7 days advance notice, where possible, but in any event no less than seventy-two hours). Carol Patterson seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed as an expression of interest.

**8. Receive report and possible decision on the status of funds remaining at TAMU**

The Stakeholder Committee agreed without objection to ask Texas A&M University to distribute the remaining funds at Texas A&M to the Edwards Aquifer Authority for use in managing the Stakeholder Committee and other purposes deemed necessary by the Program Manager in consultation with the Stakeholder Committee where appropriate.

**7. Receive report of the Public Outreach Work Group.**

The public outreach work group chair, Elizabeth Smith, reported on the work being done in regards to the website, the calendars, sign design, and possibly the signing ceremony. Dianne Wassenich described various activities that require funding in 2012. Carol Patterson made a motion to approve the use of up to \$16,000 of the funds received from A&M for Public Outreach activities in 2012. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

**9. Consider Future meeting dates, locations and agendas.**

The next meeting will be held October 18, 2012 at the New Braunfels Civic Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Raabe", is written over a horizontal line.

Steve Raabe,  
Secretary to the Stakeholder Committee