

Stakeholder Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Minutes of the October 18, 2012 Meeting at the New Braunfels Civic Center in New Braunfels Texas

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. 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 Minutes from the Stakeholder Committee meeting of September 20, 2012.

Mike Abbott moved to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2012 meeting, Chuck Ahrens seconded. There were no objections; the motion passed.

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

Robert Gulley announced that the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement and HCP ends today (October 18, 2012). The Biological Opinion is expected in November and there will be a 30 day period after which the Incidental Take Permit is self-executing. Gulley additionally reported on the status of the funding applications from the spring cities, the possibility of another Science Committee meeting to discuss applied research, and the status of other HCP programs including VIPSO and the SAWS ASR.

5. Receive the report on the EAA proposed budget for the HCP

Roland Ruiz reported that in 2013, the EAA will assess 75% of the Program Aquifer Management Fee for the HCP which may require tapping into the reserve in 2013. The EAA will raise sufficient funds to meet the funding requirements of 2013. In 2014, the rebate program with the EAA will be discontinued and money currently designated for the rebate will be removed from the Aquifer Management Fee. The amount of the Program Aquifer Management fee will be the total amount required to fund the implementation activities in 2014. This will keep a flat rate for the total fee in 2013 and 2014.

6. Receive report and possible decision on the recommendation of the Issues Team regarding filling the last slot on the Science Committee

Colette Barron-Bradsby, the Issues Team Chair, discussed the Issues Team's recommendation contained in the meeting packet). Carl Atkins made a motion to approve the recommendation. Dianne Wassenich seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus the motion passed.

8. Receive report and consider possible decision action regarding the ecological modeling scope of work and zero year funding

Robert Guiley discussed the meetings held in August with expert Ecological Modeling Advisory Group and its recommendation that preliminary work be completed before a decision regarding the need for a single model was made. Robert Guiley suggested that Thom Hardy and Ed Oborny work together to develop the missing information. Roland Ruiz made a motion to use the remaining year zero funds for ecological modeling to hire Hardy and Oborny to complete preliminary work in 2012. Mike Abbott seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus the motion passed.

7. Receive report and possible decision on the recommendation of the Program Operational Rules Work Group

Myron Hess made a motion to accept the draft Operation Rules in the meeting packet with the following changes:

1. Revise the definition of "EAHCP" or "HCP" by replacing "December 11, 2011" with "January 5, 2012."
2. Revise last sentence of Subsection 7.2 to read as follows: "Notices of any closed meetings will be posted in accordance with the requirements of this Subsection."
3. Revise the first sentence of Subsection 9.3 to read as follows: "To the extent that funds for Stakeholder Committee activities are available from previous funding for the EARIP Steering Committee or become available from another funding source not specifically provided for in the FMA, the Program Manager shall oversee those funds in cooperation with the Stakeholder Committee, pursuant to a budget adopted as a Tier 1 Decision."

Dianne Wassenich seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus the motion passed.

8. Consider future meeting dates, locations, and agendas

The next meeting of the Stakeholder Committee will be held November 15, 2012, in San Marcos. The exact location will need to be determined. The Committee will need to discuss the final appointment to the Science Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.



Steve Raabe,

Secretary to the Stakeholder Committee

SIGN-IN SHEET
EAHCP Stakeholder Committee
October 18, 2012

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