



NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

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NOVEMBER 10 2015 MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to order.**

9:02 a.m.

2. **Public comment.**

Herman Harris addressed the Committee. Mr. Harris stated he is seeking assistance with removing a diesel storage tank from the Guadalupe River which runs through his property. Alicia Reinmund-Martinez offered to send him the contact information for TCEQ Austin and/or San Antonio offices who may be able to assist him with the matter. No other public comments.

3. **Approval of September 9, 2015 Science Committee meeting minutes.**

Tom Arsuffi requested that the phrase, "Dr. Arsuffi asks about volume of water relative to aerator production and efficacy" be reworded to state "water volume efficiency" instead of "efficacy." No other comments. Jacquelyn Duke motioned to approve the minutes with Arsuffi's requested edit, Arsuffi seconded, no opposition.

4. Receive report from the Program Manager.

- **Springflow and index well update**

- *Daniel Large provided the update.*

- **Update on 2016 CSRB Applied Research projects**

- *Reinmund-Martinez presented on the 2016 Comal Springs Riffle Beetle (CSRB) Applied Research projects, announcing the contractors whom were selected to conduct each of the three projects, and provided an overview of the recommendations of the Science Committee concerning their scientific review of the proposals received. The Science Committee was thanked for their contribution to the selection process.*

- **National Academy of Sciences October 2015 meeting summary**

- *Nathan Pence provided a summary of National Academy of Sciences October 2015 meetings, along with the current status of the National Academy of Sciences Report 2 review process.*

5. **Presentation and possible recommendation on delaying implementation of the flow manipulation in the Old Channel of the Comal River per EAHCP Table 5-3.**

Mark Enders and Edmund Oborny gave a presentation titled, "Flow Split Management Comal River" presenting background information on the need to delay implementation of

Table 5-3 flow prescriptions to avoid scouring vegetation in the Old Channel. The adaptive function of pulse events in stream systems as well as the lack of data on which to base this decision were raised as concerns by Science Committee members. Reinmund-Martinez clarifies that the request before the Committee asks for their recommendation to delay the implementation of this table until such an evaluation, which would take the role of pulses and be based on data, can be conducted. Arsuffi motioned that the Committee recommend delaying the implementation of Table 5-3 until the analysis could be conducted; Glenn Longley seconded the motion, no opposition.

6. Presentation and discussion on the concept for a proposed SOW to evaluate methodologies and timelines for native vegetation restoration in the San Marcos and Comal ecosystems.

Pence gave a presentation titled, “Adaptive Management – Veg Restoration Information Gathering/Analysis” providing information concerning the proposed evaluation of EAHCP native vegetation restoration efforts. Committee input included the following points:

- Arsuffi recommended the literature on community assembly rules for aquatic vegetation to possibly inform this effort.*
- Janis Bush suggested that including a literature review as a contract task could help direct the evaluation; the literature on disturbance ecology in particular could be informative.*
- Arsuffi suggested that it might be worthwhile as part of this exercise to list possible interacting or compounding factors to take under consideration (e.g. removing trees may hurt riffle beetles).*
- Conrad Lamon suggested that trend analysis would be important to take under consideration to provide a basis for management recommendations.*
- Arsuffi recommended taking ecosystem succession into account. It is not productive to get hung up on specific states when realistically, the system is in flux; suggested it may be helpful to incorporate ranges (+/-) to manage for, to better accommodate this reality.*

7. Presentation and possible endorsement of the 2015 Applied Research Work Group Report.

Arsuffi provided a presentation on the 2015 Applied Research Work Group Report. Chad Norris suggests combining the CSRБ, Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle, and Peck’s Cave Amphipod projects, listed separately on the schedule, into one project. Doyle Mosier motioned that the Committee endorse the report as presented; Duke seconded the motion, no opposition.

8. Presentation on a proposed Scope of Work (SOW) for a 2016 Applied Research project on the CSRБ quantitative sampling methods.

Reinmund-Martinez gave a presentation on the proposed SOW for a 2016 Applied Research project on the CSRБ quantitative sampling methods. Ultimately, it was decided that Arsuffi will work with Bob Hall to identify three methodologies to be included as part of the SOW for this project. Committee input included the following points:

- *Arsuffi recommends that the term “standardizing” should be reflected in the title, since establishing standardized methods is necessary to enable the evaluation of trends over time, and ultimately, for sampling to be biologically meaningful.*
- *Lamon makes the point that quantifying uncertainty inherent in the sampling method is an important component of this monitoring activity; Mosier states that this can help inform selecting a method that is actually meaningful—i.e. which method emerges as best relative to variability and or uncertainty*
- *Lamon recommends that a count model be used, and that existing CSRB data should be analyzed.*
- *Norris suggests sampling should be system-based, not just in representative reaches, to evaluate tool in multiple environments.*
- *Arsuffi recommends for the contractor to justify proposed procedures based on the literature.*

9. Presentation and discussion on the concept for a proposed SOW for the creation of an integrated database for the EAHCP.

Reinmund-Martinez gave a presentation on the proposed SOW for the creation of an integrated database for the EAHCP. Lamon emphasizes the importance of including metadata as part of the database to provide necessary context to data users. Robert Mace suggests final reports be included as a metadata component.

10. Presentation on the Research Plan for the Salvage Refugia Program.

Chris Collins provided a presentation on the Research Plan for the Salvage Refugia Program on behalf of the project team, discussing collection methods study for the CSDB, including cloth lures, Hester-Dendy, and novel air bubble trap methods. Arsuffi asked how reintroduction (as part of the refugia program) can be accomplished for the primary aquifer species.

11. Presentation on an update of the Ecological Model.

Oborny provided a presentation updating the Committee on the latest progress in the development of the Ecological Model.

12. Presentation and approval of the proposed 2016 Science Committee meeting schedule.

Duke stated certain dates may pose a schedule conflict for her; it was decided to send a revised schedule to the Committee.

13. Meetings:

- Joint Meeting, December 17, 2015 at the Edwards Aquifer Authority.
- Science Committee Meeting, January 13, 2016, location to be determined.

14. Questions and comments from the public.

None.

15. Adjourn.

12:25 p.m.