



JUNE 22, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order – 9:06 a.m.

Members present included: Janis Bush, Jacquelyn Duke, Conrad Lamon, Glenn Longley, Robert Mace, Doyle Mosier, Chad Norris, Jackie Poole, and Floyd Weckerly.

2. Public comment.

No comment.

3. Approval of May 13, 2016 Science Committee meeting minutes.

Floyd Weckerly motioned to approve the May minutes. Chad Norris seconded. There were no objections.

4. Receive report from the Program Manager.

- **Springflow and Index Well Update**

Shaun Payne presented the update on springflow rates and index well levels.

- **Update on the 2015 Applied Research Study: Dr Hardy's study – Suspended Sediment Impacts on Texas Wild-rice & Other Aquatic Plant Growth Characteristics & Aquatic Macroinvertebrates**

Will be presented at a future meeting.

- **Update on the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Analysis & Recommendations Report**

Will be presented at a future meeting.

- **Update on Long-term Refugia Program details.**

In contract negotiations with USFWS.

5. Presentation, receive input and possible endorsement of the 2016 Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program and Biological Monitoring Program Work Groups Report.

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, EAHCP Director, introduced the presentation of the Work Groups' report. Nathan Pence, EAHCP Program Manager, provided background information and a detailed presentation of the specific recommendations of the Water Quality Monitoring Work Group. The presentation can be found online at eahcp.org, under the Administration tab, Science Committee documents.

There was a discussion about removing the ambient surface water quality monitoring from the EAHCP Water Quality Monitoring program due to the duplication of efforts with the Texas Clean Rivers Program.

Dr. Longley made the point that it is important to make daily sampling taken at the same time of day to avoid differences of pH, DO, temperature, etc. and how these parameters change throughout the course of a day. Mr. Pence responded with the importance of collecting metadata that will accompany all data in the database.

For the stormwater monitoring program, Jackie Poole commented that IPMP chemicals should be evaluated year to year, season to season.

Mr. Pence continued and discussed the Biological Monitoring Program and the Work Group recommendations found in the report. Chad Norris made the point that the current methodology for sampling in the systems does not provide adequate data to understand abundance but rather current methodologies provide a simple presence/absence dataset. Conrad Lamon agreed with Mr. Norris' comment stating that it is important to have randomized collection sites so that data can be more useful.

Mr. Pence thanked all the members of both Work Groups and commended their hard work to develop a very useful product.

Jacquelyn Duke moved to approve the 2016 Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program and Biological Monitoring Program Work Groups Report. Floyd Weckerly seconded. There were no objections.

6. Presentation and possible recommendation of the revised 2017 EAA Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program and Biological Monitoring Program Work Plans.

Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez introduced the Monitoring Work Plans for the Science Committee to recommend for Implementing Committee consideration.

Dr. Longley moved to approve both the 2017 EAA Water Quality and Biological Monitoring Work Plans. Doyle Mosier seconded. There were no objections.

7. Presentation of the proposed 2017 Applied Research Program Scope of Works (SOWs).

Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez introduced the Applied Research process. Dr. Chad Furl, EAHCP Chief Technical Officer, presented the purpose and the draft SOWs.

- a. Statistical analysis of the San Marcos and Comal Springs aquatic ecosystems biomonitoring dataset.*
 - i. Jackie Poole mentioned that it is important to identify data on species that precede 2000. Jacquelyn Duke agreed. It was determined that simply adding a note identifying past data that is available, even if the analysis is only done with EAHCP data starting in 2000. Chad Norris suggested providing species listing information for the historical context of the analyzed data.*
 - ii. Janis Bush mentioned that the current SOW is not specific enough to produce a quality proposal. Dr. Lamon described the analysis needs to be focused on relationships that are observable in the data and trends over space and time. This will help determine the effectiveness of the EAHCP conservation measures. Dr. Lamon also mentioned that providing the possible proposer the*

overall Biological Goals information (based on habitat not population) is important.

- iii. Dr. Bush commented on Task 4 to include not only recommendations to future studies but also future sampling needs.*
- b. Statistical analysis of system disturbance and recovery for the San Marcos and Comal Springs aquatic ecosystems.*
 - i. Provide additional information to provide the proposer an idea of what the system being analyzed.*
- c. Evaluation of the effects of sedimentation on the Comal Springs Riffle Beetle*
 - i. Further define what we are looking for in terms of "literature."*
- d. Evaluation of competition by Heteranthera dubia with more prevalent native submerged aquatic vegetation in the upper San Marcos River.*
 - i. Ensure the information will have the requirement to be formatted and submitted to be added to the EAHCP database and a proper data analysis.*
 - ii. Put the study on Heteranthera on hold until it is determined if Heteranthera is an appropriate species upstream of IH35 in San Marcos.*

8. Presentation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Sampling the Comal Springs Riffle Beetle (CSR).

Because the meeting was already extending past the noon hour, Dr. Longley moved to postpone the SOP discussion till the August Science Committee Meeting. Dr. Duke seconded. There were no objections.

9. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas. – August 12, 2016 at the San Marcos Activity Center (Multipurpose Room).

Note: The August 12, 2016 meeting was cancelled.

10. Questions and comments from the public.

No comment.

11. Adjourn. – 12:35 p.m.