

PROPOSED CHARGE AND OPERATING RULES FOR THE FINANCE WORK GROUP

As requested at the November Meeting of the EARIP, the Finance Work Group submits the following proposed charge and operating rules for the Finance Work Group for adoption by the Steering Committee at the February Meeting of the EARIP. To make the name of the Work Group more accurately reflect the nature of its work, and to distinguish it from an earlier larger work group called the Finance Work Group, we recommend that its name be changed to the Funding Work Group.

Charge To The Funding Work Group

The membership of the FWG consists of Jerry James, Con Mims, Weir Labatt, and Robert Gulley. The FWG is to represent the EARIP in seeking to obtain funding from federal and State sources to complete the work required by Senate Bill 3. Specifically, the FWG shall seek to obtain, through grants or appropriations, funds to support the development of the program document, including the facilitated process to develop the proposed actions for the program document. The required funding is expected to cost up to approximately \$1.6 million. In addition as part of its discussions with the Texas Legislature, it may, where appropriate, seek \$25,000 for each of the next two years for each of three agencies, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Texas Department of Agriculture to fund their contributions to the EARIP's project management costs. As part of its charge, the FWG may work to acquaint key Federal and State legislators and staff, and funding agencies on the progress the EARIP has made to date and its plans for meeting the goals and deadlines set by Senate Bill 3, the objectives of a recovery implementation program as set forth in S.B. 3 and the Memorandum of Agreement for the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program.

Operating Rules

In recognition of the nature of its duties, the FWG, in fulfilling those specific duties, is not required to post a notice of its meetings, although it should attempt to do so when feasible. Further, the quorum requirements do not apply to meetings of the FWG, nor is the FWG required to elect officers. The members of the FWG shall apprise the Steering Committee and Stakeholders of its meetings, contacts, and activities within five (5) business days after such meetings, contacts and activities occur and at the monthly meetings of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders. Neither the members of the FWG nor the Program Manager shall take any position on any other issue or matter on behalf of the EARIP in its contacts with a legislator or his or her staff or a funding agency without first obtaining an express authorization from the Steering Committee at a meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders. Such an authorization shall be a Tier I issue. Nothing herein shall limit or prevent a member of the FWG from taking a position on the member's own behalf or on behalf of the entity the member represents so long as it is clear that the person is not speaking on behalf of the EARIP.

This charge will expire on September 1, 2009 at which time the FWG shall cease to exist unless it is reauthorized by an action of the Steering Committee.