

MINUTES
For the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Regarding
the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
San Antonio Water System, San Antonio, Texas
February 28, 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1. Administrative Matters (Mims)

The Chair, Con Mims, called the meeting to order. Secretary Steve Raabe called roll of the Steering Committee. A quorum was present for all purposes.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Dianne Wassenich made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2011 meeting as presented in Attachment 1. Jim Bower seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Robert Gulley reported that Annear & Associates sent in a peer review proposal for the Hardy Final Report. The proposal's budget is \$51,000, for five reviewers. The proposal was distributed at the meeting.

Robert Gulley asked if there were any objections to him submitting a sixth grant amendment to the Texas Water Development Board asking for \$70,000 for 3 additional models runs for HDR and \$51,000 for Annear to peer review the Final Hardy Report. There were no objections.

2. Discussion and possible interim decision on the long-term biological goals for the HCP

- Ed Oborny gave a presentation on a "strawman" for long-term biological goals
- Tom Brandt, Jackie Pool, Ed Oborny, Paul Fromer, and Thom Hardy discussed the strawman long-term biological goals

After extensive discussion, Calvin Finch made a motion to approve the conceptual approach and specific numbers regarding Texas Wild Rice and the fountain darter as presented in Ed Oborny's strawman for the long-term biological goals in the HCP,¹ with the understanding that RECON's next draft of the goals would include consideration of Jackie Poole's concerns regarding the 7000 m³ goal for Texas wild rice. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion was approved. Todd Votteler representing Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and Gena Leathers representing Dow-Union Carbide abstained.

3. Report of the Funding Work Group.

¹ See slides 10-13 and 22-24

[http://earip.org/EARIPMeetings/Feb2811/Long%20Term%20Biological%20Goals%20Presentation%20\(Bio-West\).pdf](http://earip.org/EARIPMeetings/Feb2811/Long%20Term%20Biological%20Goals%20Presentation%20(Bio-West).pdf)

Weir Labatt reported that the draft bill for the regional sales tax (Attachment 2) went to Legislative Council on February 11, 2011. Senator Jeff Wentworth will sponsor the bill on the Senate side. No sponsor has been found on the House side. He said that Robert Puente has directed his lobbyists to assist in finding a sponsor on the House side. The next meeting of the Funding Work Group is March 15, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at IRNR.

Robert Gulley reported that he and Rick Illgner, Calvin Finch, Todd Votteler, and Weir Labatt met with Dr. Tuggle, the FWS Regional Director in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Tuggle was supportive of the EARIP process and believes a federal role in the implementation process was appropriate. FWS will outline what FWS might be able to provide the EARIP as support for the implementation of the HCP.

Robert Gulley mentioned that in the Funding Work Group concern was expressed that the consequential costs of Stage V are not reflected in the table regarding the elements of the Bottom-up Package. The Work Group recommended that the cost of Stage V be shown as \$35,620,000 in a column on the table chart labeled "Consequential Costs." After discussion, no action was taken however, it was suggested that the Work Group consider whether the information could be better captured in a footnote that also included an explanation of what the associated costs represented.

4. Report of the VISPO Work Group

Rick Illgner reported that the VISPO Work Group will be sending another letter to irrigators to respond to concerns, and maintain communication for those interested in participating in the program. He reported that the Work Group changed the trigger for the pumping cutbacks from 650 ft. to 645 ft. to respond to concerns primarily of agribusiness.

5. Discussion and possible decision on recommendations of the San Marcos Recreation Work Group

Tom Taggart reported the City of San Marcos passed a resolution which included eight recreation measures with direct relation to species impacts in the San Marcos River (Attachment 5 to the Agenda). The Work Group recommends including those measures in the draft HCP. Melani Howard, Robert Gulley, and Andy Sansom will meet with Texas State University to see if Texas State has interest in participating in the program. Myron Hess made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Recreation Work Group. Weir Labatt seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

6. Presentation on H.B. 1279.

Karl Dreher summarized the provisions in H.B. 1279 regarding the Edwards Aquifer Authority and the EARIP.

7. Discussion of RECON's initial working draft of the HCP

Robert Gulley asked for those that have comments on the draft HCP to send them electronically to him and Micaela Bandel by March 15, 2011. RECON will have a second draft of the HCP by April 1, 2011, which will be posted to the website.

Robert Gulley asked if there were objections to RECON assuming that the permit applicants would be Edwards Aquifer Authority, cities of San Marcos and New Braunfels and the San Antonio Water System and that the permit duration would be 15 years. There were no objections

The upcoming meetings of the EARIP will be held Thursday, March 24, 2011 at San Antonio Water System and Thursday, April 14, 2011 at Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

There being no further business, Chair, Con Mims adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.