

MINUTES
For the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Regarding
the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Seguin, Texas
March 12, 2009

1. Administrative Matters

EARIP Secretary, Steve Raabe, called the roll of Steering Committee. A quorum was present for all purposes.

There were no objections so the proposed agenda for the meeting was approved.

Kirk Patterson made a motion that the Minutes for the February 2009 meeting attached to the Agenda as Attachment 1 be approved. Myron Hess seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Mary Kelly asked to speak briefly about life of Fay Sinkin who died March 3, 2009, at the age of 91. Fay Sinkin was an exceptional San Antonio leader whose tireless efforts on behalf of the Edwards Aquifer benefited all Aquifer stakeholders. Fay served for six years on the Board of the Edwards Underground Water District (replaced in 1996 by the Edwards Aquifer Authority) and organized Aquifer protection groups to hold officials accountable for safeguarding the recharge zone. She was a strong voice for water conservation and will be missed.

2. Report and possible decision on the Program Operational Rules Work Group

Myron Hess reported that the Work Group still had a few issues to work out and asked to postpone consideration of the proposed changes to the Operational Rules until after the Work Group has resolved these issues.

3. Presentation by Dr. Thom Hardy

Thom Hardy gave a presentation regarding the status of work and the early influence diagrams. He said that he will have draft results of his modeling by July 15, 2009.

4. Discussion of the RFQ for a contractor for the preparation of the HCP/DEIS and appointment of a work group to review the responses and prepare a scope of work.

After briefly discussing the RFQ, Robert Gulley recommended that the RFQ be sent and that a work group be established to review and make recommendations to the EARIP regarding the respondents that will be requested to submit a proposal and to prepare a scope of work for the proposal. The Chair and Program Manager recommended that the Work Group include Tyson Broad, Mike Gonzales, Nathan Pence, Todd Votteler, Rick Illgner, and Patrick Shriver. Calvin Finch made a motion to accept the recommendations. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

5. Appointment of a work group to meet with the Army Corps of Engineers

Robert Gulley reported that Mark Harberg of the Corps had approached him about setting up a meeting with senior Corps management to discuss the process for obtaining funding for implementation of the HCP through the Corps. He said that as part of this discussion he thought we should brief his management regarding the EARIP and EARIP process. Robert Gulley said that the meeting will probably occur in early April. The Chair and Program Manager recommended that Steve Raabe, as chair of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee, should be on the work group that attends the meeting. Gulley had asked the Recharge Facility Subcommittee to make additional recommendations. It recommended Kirk Patterson, Calvin Finch Rick Ilgner and Dan Laroe. Buck Benson, Weir Labatt and Cheryl Gilpin also volunteered to serve. Gulley also recommended modifying the rules no quorum would be necessary. After discussion, Mary Kelly made a motion that all the recommended persons and volunteers be appointed to the work group, but that Dr. Gulley should choose a group of no more than 5 including Raabe and Gulley to attend the meeting. Calvin Finch seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

6. Appointment of a work group to consider options for facilitation

Gulley stated that he believes we must start discussions on the development of the HCP soon. He suggested that those discussions should start with a discussion of the goals and objectives for the program document. He said that one approach to doing this would be to use an SDM workshop such as the one proposed by Lee Failing.

After some discussion, it was recommended that a work group be appointed and charged with evaluating the options for facilitated decision-making in the development of the program documents, and making a specific recommendation regarding whether to have a SDM workshop to discuss the EARIP's goals and objectives. The Chair and Program Manager recommended that Con Mims, Jim Bower, Colette Barron, and Todd Votteller be on the Work Group along with others who wanted to volunteer. Carol Patterson, Annalisa Pease, Myron Hess, Velma Danielson, Melani Howard, Steve Beryseo volunteered. Kirk Patterson made a motion that the recommended participants and volunteers serve on the Work Group and to adopt the recommended charge. Todd Votteler seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

7. Report on adjustments to the budget to provide effective office space and support for the Program Manager

Con Mims discussed proposed adjustments to the budget to pay Texas A&M for office space, conference room access and a shared assistant set out in Attachment 4 to the Agenda. Dianne Wassenich made a motion to approve the adjustments to the budget in Attachment 4 to the Agenda. Jim Bower seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

8. Report of the Funding Work Group.

Weir Labatt and Jerry James discussed their meetings with House Members from the region that serve on the House Appropriations Committee. A copy of a proposed rider to provide the EARIP with up to \$1.69 million that is working its way through the Senate was distributed to the participants.

Weir Labatt reported that he met with Andrew Blaylock in Senator Cornyn's office to see if the letter of support had been sent for the Section 6 grant application. Mr. Blalock gave him a copy of the letter of support that the Senator had sent.

Annalisa Peace reported that she is trying to set up meeting with Congressman Doggett. Weir Labatt said that he was trying to set up meetings with Congressmen Gonzalez' and Cuellar's local staff.

9. Report of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee.

Steve Raabe reported that the Recharge Facility Subcommittee was now discussing a two step process to address the charges in S.B. 3. In the short term, the Subcommittee will work on developing the general information set out in subsection (n) of S.B. 3 to assist the EARIP and Steering Committee in its decision-making process. After the EARIP has developed specific goals and objectives, the Subcommittee will refine the responses to the (n) charges to meet those goals. The Subcommittee will meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 1 p.m.

10. Report of the Expert Science Subcommittee.

Susan Aragon-Long reported that the Science Subcommittee had a teleconference with peer reviewers. SEI made a recording of that teleconference that will be available with the final report. After that call, the Science Subcommittee prepared a written response which will be placed on website. She also reported that some members of the Science Subcommittee had a very productive meeting with Thom Hardy to discuss his work. The Science Subcommittee will change its regular meeting date in April to 7:30 on April 13 to allow the full Subcommittee to meet with Hardy.

11. Report from the Science Subcommittee Work Group on the peer review process

Weir Labatt gave a brief report on the Science Subcommittee Work Group's discussions regarding the peer review process. He said the Work group recommended that a peer review process should be similar to "k" charges should be used for Hardy Report and "j" charges and that the Program Manager should develop a process for selecting the next peer reviewers. Weir Labatt made a motion that the recommendations be adopted by the Steering Committee. Calvin Finch seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

12. Report on the San Marcos River Restoration Project and update on contingency measures

Mara Alexander reported on the San Marcos River Restoration meeting on March 5, 2009. She said that the education programs regarding the use of the river and bank stabilization were

discussed at this meeting. At its May 12 meeting, fish passage and dam removal will be discussed.

13. Presentation on Adaptive Management

Jean Cochrane gave an overview of the use of adaptive management to learn and address uncertainty in a decision-making process. Adam Zerrenner discussed the specific use of adaptive management in the HCP decision-making process. The power points used in the presentation will be posted on the website along with an example of the use of adaptive management by the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

There being no further business, after a brief discussion of the agenda for the next meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15.