

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
WORK GROUP**

The Ecosystem Restoration Work Group met on May 4, 2009, at City Hall in New Braunfels to consider the charge given it at the April 9 Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (“EARIP”) meeting. That charge was to make a recommendation regarding a charge for an Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee and composition of that subcommittee. The meeting was attended by Cindy Loeffler, Todd Votteler, Ken Diehl, Carol Patterson and Nathan Pence. Melanie Howard and Mara Alexander were not able to attend. Also present at the meeting from the EARIP were: Robert Gulley, Steven Bereyso, Dianne Wassenich, and David Villarreal, Texas Department of Agriculture. Blair Brown, Raven Star Outdoor Education, and Ronald J. Walton, a retired scientist with the USGS and Army Corps of Engineers were also in attendance.

The Work Group agreed on the following recommendations:

- The composition of the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee should include voting representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife, City of New Braunfels, City of San Marcos, San Antonio Water System and Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and non-voting members from the United States Geological Survey, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Nominations should be accepted for additional voting members so long as the nominees are willing to commit the time to serve on the Subcommittee. The Work group believed that a total of about ten members would be a workable number.
- The charge to the Subcommittee should be:
 - To report to the EARIP at its July 9, 2009 meeting regarding the identified opportunities to date for the development of options or potential implementation of the Comal River restoration work by or through the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
 - To assess existing conditions and restoration needs for the Comal River. The assessment should specifically identify and evaluate possible restoration actions for the Comal River and include an estimate of the ecological effectiveness and cost of each option.
 - To consider opportunities for coordination with and eventual integration of the EARIP process with on-going restoration assessments of restoration options for the San Marcos River.
 - To submit its report on restoration options for the Comal and San Marcos rivers to the Steering Committee and EARIP as soon as possible but no later than March 1, 2010.

A quorum was not present at the meeting on May 4 where the recommendations were discussed because Melani Howard was unable to attend. However, subsequently the recommendations were circulated to Melani, and she concurred with the consensus of the members in attendance. Mara Alexander also reviewed the recommendations. She suggested the possibility of having the Science Subcommittee review and comment on the report of the Subcommittee prior to it being sent to the EARIP. Melani Howard supported Mara's suggestion.