

**MINUTES**  
**For the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Regarding**  
**the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program**  
**Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Seguin, Texas**  
**June 11, 2009, 10 am to 4 pm**

1. Administrative Matters

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

Con Mims suggested moving agenda items 5 and 6 after the Program Manager's report. There were no objections; thus, the proposed agenda for the meeting as amended was approved.

Myron Hess made a motion to approve the minutes set out as Attachment 1 to the Agenda. Calvin Finch seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Robert Gulley reported that Allan Dutton has indicated that he intends to drop off the Science Subcommittee, although he has not officially resigned. He also reported that Jean Cochrane will not be able to work with the EARIP during the decision-making process. USGS does not have a replacement for her. Robert Gulley is working to come up with an alternative that might fill Jean Cochrane's role in developing biological models during the decision-making process. Jean Cochrane will be available to advise any person who replaces her.

Adam Zerrenner reported that Sam Hamilton has been nominated as the next Director of US Fish & Wildlife Service. He also said that Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Regional Director for Region 2, currently is planning on attending the August EARIP meeting.

2. Report of the Implementing Agreement Work Group

Darcy Frownfelter discussed the efforts of the Implementing Agreement Work Group at its initial May 14, 2009 meeting in drafting a Senate Bill 3 Implementing Agreement. The Work Group plans to have a final draft of the Agreement ready to go out with the agenda for the August 13, 2009 EARIP meeting and to seek a decision on the Implementing Agreement by the Steering Committee at its September meeting. Darcy Frownfelter discussed the Work Group's initial views on the use of Science Advisors for the decision-making process as set out in Attachment 4 to the Agenda. After discussion, there were no objections to proceeding with the general concept in Attachment 4.

3. Report on the 2009 Legislative Session (Attachment 5).

Rick Illgner gave a report on the fate of the bills affecting the Edwards Aquifer in the recently completed 81<sup>st</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature.

4. Discussion of the Program Document

Because of some concerns expressed about the including a Habitat Conservation Plan (“HCP”) as part of the program document, Robert Gulley discussed the options for a program document that could be approved by FWS, as required by Senate Bill 3. It was agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting with the possibility of a decision on the inclusion of a HCP in the program document at the next meeting. To facilitate the discussion, Robert Gulley requested that anyone who did not want to include an HCP in the program document to provide a specific alternative.

5. Report of the RFQ Work Group.

Patrick Shriver reported on the pre-proposal conference that was held at SARA on June 4, 2009. A project manager from Loomis, PBS&J, Recon, Smith-Robertson, and SWCA attended the meeting. SWCA and Smith Robertson have teamed up and will submit a single proposal. Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. on June 22, 2009. The RFP Work Group will meet on July 13, 2009, at SARA to discuss the proposals. It will make its recommendations regarding the top two contractors to the Steering Committee at the August meeting.

6. Report of the Science Subcommittee

Susan Aragon-Long gave a report on the work of the Science Subcommittee on the “j” charges.

7. Report of the Funding Work Group.

Jerry James reported on the work of the Funding Work Group. He said that the Work Group’s charge is complete unless grant opportunities come up before September.

8. Report of the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee.

Nathan Pence reported on the first meeting of the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee held on June 3, 2009. Nathan Pence was elected as the Chair of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee discussed with United States Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) the possibility of receiving Section 206 funding for the restoration activities for the Comal River. The Subcommittee concluded that there was not enough time to obtain FY 2010 funding. It recommended that the EARIP continue discussions with the Corps regarding Corps assistance with the implementation of any restoration options.

9. Report of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee.

Steve Raabe reported on the work of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee.

10. Presentation of TAMU study on possible effects of flows on whooping cranes.

Todd Votteler, Steve Raabe, and Drs. Doug Slack and Todd Swannank of TAMU gave a report on a study on possible effects of flows on whooping cranes sponsored by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the San Antonio River Authority.

11. San Marcos River Foundation lawsuit update.

Dianne Wassenich reported on the background and results of the San Marcos River Foundation water right lawsuit against TCEQ.

12. Report of the Facilitation Work Group

Velma Danielson gave a report on the work of the Facilitation Work Group. She said that responses to the RFP must be received by 5 pm on June 12, 2009. The proposals will be posted on the website. The Work Group will meet on June 30, 2009, to begin evaluating the proposals. The criteria that will be used to evaluate the proposals were discussed. The results of the June 30 meeting will be discussed at the July meeting.

There being no further business, Con Mims adjourned meeting at 3:15 p.m.