

EARIP ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION SUBCOMMITTEE
ACTIVITY SUMMARY
July 9, 2009

The EARIP Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee meet on June 23, 2009 at New Braunfels City Hall. Voting members in attendance were Cindy Loeffler (TPWD), Todd Votteler (by phone, GBRA), Patrick Shriver (SAWS), Nathan Pence (City of New Braunfels) and Melanie Howard (City of San Marcos); representatives from USFWS, USGS and USACE also attended; also several guests were in attendance.

- The subcommittee discussed the initial charges outlined to it by the EARIP steering committee and concluded: restoration costs should be general not exact figures, should include restoration and mitigation but distinguish for funding purposes, and the subcommittee will coordinate with San Marcos at the appropriate time.
- Robert Gulley will draft a letter to the Army Corp of Engineers to begin the consultation and funding process. Realizing however, that the Corp timeline does not fit hand in hand with the EARIP timeline.
- Mara Alexander gave a brief presentation on the objectives and broad categories set by the San Marcos Restoration Group. Members agreed it would be a good starting place for the Comal group also. Acknowledging that it was only a starting place and components would need to be added and deleted.
- Members voiced their opinions as to what restoration of the Comal system included. Most members included thoughts and actions that lead to the final product of an ecosystem that would be self-sustaining and more resilient at low flows.
- The subcommittee decided to solicit information from the science community by both encouraging attendance at the meetings and also by distributing an email questionnaire. Once finalized, the email questionnaire will be distributed in the near future to all who may have a restoration or mitigation action to recommend.
- The subcommittee decided to use the 2003 Draft Mgmt Plan as a starting point and a format which may be used to add to and delete from.
- The subcommittee decided that the final product would take the form of a written report that would closely resemble the 2003 Draft Mgmt Plan, but would also include a table or matrix that simplifies the results and clearly outlines the prioritization and actions.

The next meeting of the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee will be a two day meeting on 7/29/2009 and 7/30/2009. The first day will be a tour of the Comal River and the second day will be the actual meeting. The next agenda will include finalization and approval of the questionnaire, setting of categories of restoration activities, review of the 2003 Draft Comal Mgmt Plan, and setting of permanent meeting time.