

MINUTES

**For the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Regarding
the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
YO Ranch Resort and Conference Center, Kerrville, Texas
June 29-30, 2010**

1. Administrative Matters

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.

It was suggested to move Agenda Items 7 and 8 to before lunch and Agenda Item 5 following lunch. There were no objections to the proposed agenda as amended.

Weir Labatt made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15th meeting. Myron Hess seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Robert Gulley reported that he met with Senator Glenn Hegar June 22, 2010, in Katy, Texas, to provide him with a status report on the EARIP.

Con Mims and Robert Gulley met with Ed Berger and Will Carter with Bexar Medina Atascosa Water District (BMA) last week.

Robert Gulley reported that Halff Associates will present a report on the results of the recreation study at the July 27-28, 2010 meeting.

2. Update and discussion on modeling for determining flow range.

Dr. Thom Hardy discussed his objectives for the initial modeling study. He said that he will use 30, 45, and 60 cfs as the initial set of flow targets at Comal for his modeling analysis. He will use initial flow targets for San Marcos that correspond to the Comal flows.

3. Discussion and possible decision regarding mitigation and minimization measures for Hardy analysis.

Robert Gulley discussed the mitigation assumptions for Dr Hardy to use in his modeling analysis. He provided a combined list of mitigation measures drawn from (1) the recommendations of the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee with respect to highest priority mitigation measures; (2) the recommendations of the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee with respect to additional high priority items; and (3) Bio-West's list of "Major Assumptions." After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to direct Dr. Hardy to utilize the combined list of

mitigation measures in developing the assumptions for his modeling runs. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Robert Gulley said that the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee will provide a more complete description of the mitigation measures on the combined list, develop further cost data where possible, and report back in September when the EARIP will determine which mitigation measures should be included in the HCP.

4. Discussion and possible decision regarding the pilot study for snail control.

Robert Gulley discussed a proposed pilot study prepared by FWS and Bio-West to evaluate the effectiveness of host snail removal in controlling gill parasites in the fountain darter. The study would take three months. The deliverable would be the technical memorandum describing the field survey and results and recommendations for a full scale program to control the gill parasites. The cost of the study is \$44,920.

Because of the time required to get a grant amendment approved and contract in place, Weir Labatt made a motion to waive the notice requirement and allow Robert Gulley to submit the grant amendment to Texas Water Development Board and to execute the contract for the snail study. Buck Benson seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Robert Gulley and Con Mims suggested that the members of the Snail Work Group include: Rick Illgner, Steve Raabe, Cindy Loeffler, Calvin Finch, Matt Nelson, and Jim Bower. There were no objections to the proposed Work Group. Subsequently Jim Bower withdrew from the Work Group due to scheduling conflicts. Dianne Wassenich volunteered to serve on the Work Group. There were no objections to including her in the group.

5. Update from the Dry Year Option Work Group

Rick Illgner reported on a modeling run by EAA on the effectiveness of the dry year option in protecting springflow. He said that the Work Group will continue to meet and will report back to the Steering Committee at the July meeting.

6. Update and discussion of HDR programs for analysis.

Sam Vaughn discussed the programs and trade-off option being evaluated by HDR. After extensive discussion, it was agreed to modify the programs described by HDR as follows:

- Program #1: proposed optimization run #4 which includes Dry Comal and Blanco recharge structures would not be conducted;
- Program #2 would not include a Medina project in the analysis;
- Program #3: The optimization runs would be the basic R&R package with (1) a trigger at 100 cfs (completed); (2) a 100 cfs trigger with a different flow split between Hondo and Verde; and (3) a trigger of 30cfs, with the new flow split between Hondo and Verde.

With respect to the trade-off program, HDR will evaluate Edwards water or other source water, stored in an ASR in Wilson County (or other means) and delivered to Bexar County water users in exchange for deeper cuts in Edwards pumping in Bexar County during CPM. HDR will also evaluate as part of that program, the use of Edwards Water, or other source water, stored in an ASR and delivered to Hays and Comal Counties in exchange for deeper cuts in pumping in these counties during CPM. HDR will not use Region L water supply projects as source water for the trade off.

7. Discussion regarding the approach to Drought 1 and 2.

Sam Vaugh discussed the approach that HDR will use to evaluate the drought of record in its modeling runs. HDR will add an additional year (1946) preceding the drought of record to “condition” the model prior to onset of the drought of record. This technique will preclude repeating the drought of record (Drought 2) at the end of the historical simulation.

8. Discussion and possible interim decision regarding the duration of the Incidental Take Permit.

Robert Gulley discussed the pros and cons of different permit terms. The EARIP agreed to assume for now that the permit term would be 25 years as a starting point for further discussions.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of informational presentations:

- Brock Curry from EAA gave presentation on the history and implementation of EAA’s Critical Period Management.
- Wendy Gordon provided a presentation on the mussels that are currently under consideration in the listing process.
- Paul Fromer briefly discussed the draft Table of Contents for the HCP and draft EIS and his thoughts on what environmental baseline is likely to look like.
- Luella Roberts gave a presentation on FWS’s “No Surprises” and Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances policies and the adaptive management process.

The next meeting will be held on July 27-28, 2010 EARIP Workshop at the San Antonio Water System. The EARIP will not have a Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee in August. HDR will give a presentation on the results of its work at the September 9-10, 2010 meeting. We will attempt to make decisions on the Covered Actions for the HCP at the September 9-10, 2010 meeting. The EARIP will hold a second meeting September 23-24, 2010 if necessary to complete the decision-making process on covered actions.

There being no further business, Cindy Loeffler made a motion to adjourn. Myron Hess seconded the motion. There being no objections, Chair Con Mims, adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.