

MINUTES

For the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Regarding the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Annex, Seguin, Texas October 21, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1. Administrative Matters

2.

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.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

The minutes of the September 9-10, 2010 meeting were approved by consensus. With regards to the September 23-24 minutes, Myron Hess said that the minutes should be amended to reflect that he, rather than Steve Raabe, called the roll of the Steering Committee at the September 23, 2010; Carol Patterson pointed out a typo on second page, paragraph 2, should read "1.14(h) water." With those corrections, there were no objections, and the minutes were approved by consensus.

Robert Gulley announced that the next meeting of the EARIP will be held at the GBRA Annex on November 11, 2010 from 10:00 am. – 4:00 p.m. The following meeting will be held on December 9, 2010, at the New Braunfels Civic Center.

3. Discussion and tentative decision on a "bottom-up" package

Adam Yablonski reported the AWEP Work Group recommended tabling the application until next year, since funding cannot be rolled over year, to year.

Cindy Loeffler reported the Refugia Work Group met last week and had asked Tom Brandt (FWS) to revise the proposed budget. The Work Group asked Tom Brandt to remove the mussel research and construction of an office building from the National Fish Hatchery & Training Center (NFH&TC") part of the budget. The revised NFH&TC budget is reflected in Attachment 1 to these Minutes that was distributed at the meeting. The total refugia budget includes backup facilities at Uvalde and Inks Dam. There were no objections carrying the refugia proposal forward as recommended by the Work Group.

Rick Illgner reported that the Dry Year Option Work Group met to see if the Dry-Year Option could be expanded. The Work Group recommended that the name of the option be changed to Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option ("VISPO") to more accurately reflect its nature. The Work Group recommended the VISPO remain a 5-10 year program but that the size of the program be changed from 20,000 acre-feet to 40,000 acre-feet by targeting an additional 5,000 acre-feet in Medina County and adding 15,000 acre-feet in Uvalde County. The 650 foot-msl would be the trigger for the entire program. After discussion, the recommendations of the Work Group were approved by consensus. The EARIP asked the Work Group to make

recommendations on November 11 on how the EARIP could get a sense of the irrigation community's reaction to VISPO.

HDR gave a presentation on the Technical Evaluation of the Bottom-Up Program for Springflow Protection. After extensive discussion, it was agreed by consensus that Stage V will remain as part of the bottom-up package. Robert Gulley recommended the creation of a Stage V Work Group to make a recommendation on November 11 regarding the trigger for the Stage V option. Con Mims and Robert Gulley recommended that the Work Group consist of: Karl Dreher, Todd Votteler, Carol Patterson, Rader Gilleland, Roger Biggers, Nathan Pence, and Steve Bereyso. Karl Dreher was recommended as chair. A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendations regarding the Work Group. There were no objections; thus, the motion was approved by consensus.

The EARIP asked Robert Gulley to prepare a memorandum regarding the phased approach for the November meeting.

3. Establishment of Work Groups.

Robert Gulley and Con Mims recommended the creation of following work groups:

A. Financing Work Group that would make recommendations regarding the structure for making decisions how decisions regarding how the implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan is funded and how the costs are shared within the region. They recommended the the Work Group consist of: Tom Taggart, Calvin Finch, Todd Votteler, Jerry James, Con Mims, Weir Labatt, Jim Bower, Kerim Jacaman, and Kirk Patterson. A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendations regarding the Work Group. There were no objections; thus, the motion was approved by consensus. The Work Group will report back to the EARIP at the December 9, 2010 meeting.

B. Recreational Management for San Marcos Work Group that would make recommendations regarding recreation management strategies for San Marcos Springs. They recommended the Work Group consist of: Tom Taggart (Chair), Dianne Wassenich, Calvin Finch, Nathan Pence, Colette Barron, Sam Hemle, and Carl Adkins. A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendations regarding the Work Group. There were no objections; thus, the motion was approved by consensus. The Work Group will report back to the EARIP in January.

C. Covered Species Work Group that would make recommendations regarding whether any candidate species should be included as Covered Species. They recommended the Work Group consist of Members include: Ken Diehl, Todd Votteler, Steve Raabe, Tyson Broad, Cindy Loeffler, and Rick Illgner. Robert Gulley will ask Glenn Longley to attend the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendations regarding the Work Group. There were no objections to the proposed Work Group. The group will make recommendations at the December 9, 2010 meeting.

4. Discussion of Outer Circle Issues

Tom Taggart gave a summary of his thoughts regarding Outer Circle as set out in Attachment 4. To assist in future discussions of Outer Circle issues, the EARIP asked Steve Raabe to give a presentation on Region L's water supply projects at the November or December EARIP meeting.

5. The next meeting is at the GBRA Annex, November 11, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Chair Con Mims adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Refugia cost for listed species associated with the Edwards Aquifer:

October 21, 2010

San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center

Species	Equipment	Buildings	Salaries first year	Utilities first year	Equipment and building maintenance
Fountain darter			\$ 50,000	\$10,000	
Texas wild rice			\$ 50,000	\$10,000	
Comal Spring riffle beetle	\$112,500	\$667,500	\$150,000	\$ 5,000	
San Marcos salamander		\$556,250	\$100,000	\$ 5,000	
Texas blind salamander		\$333,750	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000	
Peck's cave amphipod	\$ 56,250	\$333,750	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000	
Comal Spring dryopid beetle	\$ 56,250	\$333,750	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000	
Admin & maintenance support			\$150,000		
Quarantine building	\$ 75,000	\$325,000		\$ 2,500	
Complete reuse building		\$1,300,000		\$30,000	
Total first year	\$300,000	\$3,850,000	\$650,000	\$77,500	
Total over 25 years	\$300,000	\$3,850,000	\$23,206,922	\$2,766,979	\$4,445,018
Grand total \$34,568,919					