

Meeting Minutes
Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
October 16, 2008
Dunbar Recreation Center
San Marcos, TX

Administrative Matters

A roll call of the Steering Committee was taken, and a quorum was present for all discussion and decision-making purposes. Steve Raabe chaired the meeting as neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair were able to attend.

The Minutes for the August 14, 2008 meeting were approved.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved as revised.

Discussion regarding independent peer review of science work and possible decision regarding independent peer review of the “k”-charge recommendations of the Science Subcommittee

Colette Baron provided an overview of the Science Issue Team discussions regarding peer review of the “k” charges. Roger Biggers made a motion that the EARIP have the Science Subcommittee’s recommendations on the “k” charges peer reviewed. Rick Illgner seconded the motion. No one objected; thus, the motion passed.

After a discussion of the proposals for peer review of the “k” charges from SEI and Batelle (*see* attachments 2 -4 in the meeting packet), Humberto Ramos made a motion that the Steering Committee authorize Robert Gulley to negotiate a contract with SEI for the basic package described in its proposal. Todd Votteler seconded the motion. No one objected to the motion; thus, the motion passed.

Steve Raabe asked participants to provide comments on the SEI scope of work to Dr. Gulley within a week.

Discussion and possible decision regarding the recommended restatement of the proposed decision by the Science Subcommittee Issue Team

Colette Baron discussed the restated decision of the issue team as set out in attachment 5 of the meeting packet. Calvin Finch made a motion to accept the restated decision of the Science Subcommittee Issue Team. Kirk Patterson seconded the motion. No one objected to the motion; thus, the motion passed.

Discussion and possible decision regarding the appointment of a Science Subcommittee Work Group

The Science Subcommittee Issue Team recommendation that was adopted by the Steering Committee required that a Science Subcommittee work group be created to consider the future composition and work of the Science Subcommittee. The acting Chair and Program Manager recommended that this work group consist of Weir Labatt, Con Mims, Dianne Wassenich, Calvin Finch, Colette Barron, Myron Hess, Mary Kelly, Steve Kosub, Kirk Patterson, Dan LaRoe, Jim Bower, and Todd Votteler. Dianne Wassenich made a motion to accept this recommendation. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. No one objected to the motion; thus, the motion passed.

Discussion and possible decision regarding the process for consideration of the recommendations of the Science Subcommittee

The Science Subcommittee Issue Team recommended that a work group be established to review the Program Operational Rules with respect to issues related to the operation of the subcommittees and work group. The acting Chair and Program Manager recommended that Myron Hess, Colette Baron, Mary Kelly, Con Mims and Steve Kosub be appointed to the work group. Kirk Patterson made a motion to set up a work group to review the Program Operational Rules and accept the recommended membership of the work group. Bruce Alexander seconded the motion. No one objected to the motion; thus, the motion passed.

Discussion of how to proceed with the recommendations of the Science Subcommittee on the “k” charges

Robert Gulley discussed the informal meeting regarding the Science Subcommittee process was held on September 25th as summarized in Attachment 6 in the meeting packet. That meeting reached a consensus that : (1) upon receipt, the Science Subcommittee recommendations would be promptly submitted for independent peer review; (2) the peer review process should include an opportunity for the reviewers to ask written questions of the Science Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee should respond to any questions in writing; (3) the Science Subcommittee would not make a formal presentation to the EARIP during the peer review process, and the EARIP would not participate in the peer review process; (4)at the completion of the peer review process, the recommendations of the Subcommittee, the written questions of the reviewers and responses of the Subcommittee and the peer review report would be presented to the Steering Committee and Stakeholders; at that point the EARIP will decide how to proceed with respect to these documents; and no changes in the composition of the Subcommittee would be considered until the peer review process is complete. There was general agreement among the full EARIP to proceed in this manner with regards to the Science Subcommittee Report.

Discussion regarding the appointment of a Nomination Subcommittee for the selection of officers for the 2009 calendar year.

Because officers are elected on a calendar year basis, there is a need to elect officers for 2009. The Program Manager suggested that a nominating work group be convened to recommend a

slate of officers for 2009. The acting Chair and Program Manager recommended that the nomination work group include Myron Hess, Tom Taggart, Con Mims, Calvin Finch, Cindy Loeffler, and Carol Patterson.

Bruce Alexander made motion to appoint a nomination work group to recommend a slate of officers for 2009, that additional nominations be accepted from the floor and that the work group consist of the recommended individuals. Roger Biggers seconded the motion. No one objected to the motion; thus, the motion passed.

Report on the contract with USGS regarding its participation in the Hardy Study

Steve Raabe stated that the EAA approved the \$50,000 agreement that will provide funding to USGS.

Panel discussion on “covered species”

A panel consisting of Mara Alexander, Randy Gibson, Ed Oborny, and Jean Krecja discussed the endemic species associated with the springs that EARIP may want to consider including as “covered species” in the HCP and permit.

Report of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee

Steve Raabe reported on the recent meetings of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee and outlined the schedule for completing its work. He also reported that Kirk Patterson had been elected as the subcommittee’s vice-chair at its September 25th meeting. The next meeting of the Subcommittee will be held on Nov. 13th at Trinity University.

Report of the Public Outreach Subcommittee

Dianne Wassenich reported on the activities of the Public Outreach Subcommittee.

Report on efforts to raise funds

Robert Gulley reported that he has received commitments for \$225,000 for project management expenses in 2009. He further reported that a Memorandum of Agreement has been negotiated with TAMU regarding its receipt, holding and disbursement of funds for the EARIP

Jerry James reported that he, Weir Labatt, and Robert Gulley have been visiting with staff of the members of Texas Legislature and Senator Cornyn’s office regarding funding for the EARIP and HCP.

Report from the Expert Science Subcommittee

Susan Aragon-Long reported that the Science Subcommittee is on schedule for submitting its report by December 31, 2009.

Discussion of the agenda for the next meeting at Trinity University in San Antonio on November 13, 2008.

It was requested that the EAA provide an outline of the report it must submit to the Texas legislature by January 1, 2009, regarding the status of the EARIP. Rick Illgner agreed to see if EAA was in a position to present this overview at the November meeting.

Robert Gulley suggested that the EARIP discuss its legislative strategy for the upcoming state legislative session.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.