



MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2016

1. Call to order-- 9:00 am.

Doyle Mosier, Chairman of the Science Committee, called role. A quorum of the Science Committee was established.

Roland Ruiz, Chairman of the Implementing Committee, called role. A quorum of the Implementing Committee was established.

Steve Raabe, Chairman of the Stakeholder Committee, called role. A quorum of the Stakeholder Committee was established.

2. Public Comment.

No comment.

3. Receive report from the Program Manager on general topics related to the Habitat Conservation Plan.

- 2017 EAHCP Committee Dates and Locations – There were no comments on the Committees' 2017 meeting dates and locations.
- USFWS Response to the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Adaptive Management – There were no comments on the USFWS response letter.
- ASR Program Status - Roland Ruiz, EAA, provided an update on the EAHCP ASR Leasing Program. Darren Thompson, SAWS, provided a summary of the current storage. There were 33,259 acre-feet of leases conveyed to SAWS. All 33,259 acre-feet of leases provided to SAWS were stored into ASR taking the grand total of stored EAHCP water to 51,233 acre-feet. Roland mentioned that there will be a discussion in early 2017 regarding the best path forward for EAHCP ASR Leases.
- Annual Report Timeline and Progress – There were no comments on the Annual Report timeline as presented.
- NAS Report II Reminder - A formal process will be presented in January to the Implementing Committee for approval.
- Springflow and Index well update – Current springflow and index well conditions were presented. There were no comments.
- Science Committee Evaluation and Chair/Vice Chair transition was provided to the group.
- HCP Coalition – Nathan Pence provided a summary of the USFWS National Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition conference he attended in West Virginia. The Committees expressed much interest in the conference.

4. Presentation and status update on the EAA 2017 Budget.

Shelly Hendrix, EAA, presented the details about the EAA 2017 Operation Budget. Andy Sansom thanked Mr. Ruiz for being willing to work with the Stakeholders in regards to the budget changes. As a follow-up, Roland Ruiz stated a EAHCP Budget subcommittee will be created.

5. Presentation and discussion on the EAHCP Database.

Dr. Chad Furl, EAHCP staff, presented the details of the Database development. There were several questions regarding public access and other technical aspects of the data stored.

6. Presentation of the progress of the EAHCP Habitat Restoration projects and the benefits to the Covered Species.

Bob Hall, EAHCP staff, presented the benefits the EAHCP has had on both the San Marcos and Comal springs ecosystems. There were many comments regarding distributing this information to the Stakeholders and presenting to various organizations in the region for general education opportunities. Additionally, it was suggested to provide this information in a "Fact-sheet" or other possible form to be available for wide distribution.

There was a discussion regarding the Sediment Removal effort in San Marcos and how the COSM and EAHCP staff are working to develop a plan to pivot away from this effort.

Dianne Wassenich mentioned the effort the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) is taking to purchase easements in the watershed to protect against the detrimental effects of development. Lynn Fahlquest mentioned that she and others in the region are interested in gathering all the individuals and organizations who have a hand in the endangered species protection, river restoration or monitoring to discuss their collective efforts.

7. Presentation of the Refugia contract and program.

Nathan Pence and Chad Furl presented details regarding the formally executed Refugia contract with USFWS.

8. Future agenda items and topics of discussion.

- Phase II discussion – including utilization of models

9. Questions from the public.

Dianne Wassenich, SMRF, asked how the change in operation budget toggle will affect the HCP Reserve. Mr. Ruiz says the change is about 50% less of a reduction to the overall EAHCP Reserve from what was presented in October.

10. Adjourn – 11:55 am



Darren Thompson, Secretary