

MINUTES
For the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Regarding
the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Texas
February 16, 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.

Dianne Wassenich made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14th and 26th meetings. Jerry James seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Robert Gulley reported that the Notice of Intent to prepare a draft NEPA Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be published in the Federal Register very soon. He said that we will have 60 days to complete the public meeting process. He said that we are planning to have seven public meetings: Kerrville, Uvalde, San Antonio, New Braunfels, San Marcos, Victoria, and Corpus Christi. We will make transcripts of the comments received at the meetings and take written comments through the EARIP website. RECON will prepare draft responses to all comments that we receive.

Robert Gully also reported that he and Weir Labatt, Todd Votteler, Calvin Finch and Jerry James would be meeting on March 22, 2010 with Gloria Bell, Deputy to Gary Frazer, the Assistant Director for Endangered Species to discuss the EARIP's progress and future plans.

2. Report from the Additional Studies Work Group.

Rick Illgner reported on the progress of the Additional Studies Work Group. The Additional Studies Work Group recommended approval of an amendment to the HDR contract to include four additional tasks: Task 8 through 11 for an amount not to exceed 128,650. The Work Group recommended approval of entering into a contract with Westward Environmental for up to \$21,850 to evaluate the availability of quarries as water storage units. It recommended that Task 1 (\$6,250) of the Westward proposal be included as a subcontract in Task 8 of the amended HDR contract. It was also recommended approval of entering into a contract with BIO-WEST for up to \$75,340 for biological services including proposing a flow regime to ensure survival with the potential for recovery of listed species during a repeat of the drought of record, and with Texas State University for up to \$40,069 to allow Dr. Hardy to prepare model simulations of the impacts of mitigation measures and the different flow regimes prepared by BIO-WEST. The Work Group also recommended approval of entering into a contract not to exceed \$15,000 to upgrade the EARIP website to allow it to support the public comment process for NEPA scoping

for the draft Environmental Impact Statement and an amendment to the Collaborative Processes contract to extend the contract through September 2010 at an additional cost not to exceed \$83,206. The Work Group recommended that the Public Outreach Subcommittee select the contractor for the website upgrade.

Weir Labatt made a motion (1) to accept the recommendations of the Work Group subject to TWDB approving the projects for funding; (2) to authorize Robert Gulley to negotiate a revised scope of work with Catherine Phillips of USFWS with respect to the two drought studies that had been previously approved by the Steering Committee that would pay only for field work conducted after January 4, 2010, and to analyze the results of the data collected; (3) authorize Robert Gulley to seek a grant amendment to the TWDB contract to secure funding for the recommended projects. Calvin Finch seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

3. Discussion and possible decision on budget and finance issues.

Con Mims recommended creating the A&M Contracts and Grants Work Group to better understand the grants and contacting process at TAMU and to prepare recommendations with regard to Robert Gulley's compensation. He recommended that the members of the Work group include: Todd Votteler, Roger Biggers, Myron Hess, Tom Taggart, Calvin Finch, Steve Raabe, Jim Bower, Dianne Wassenich, Velma Danielson, Jerry James, Con Mims, and Weir Labatt. The A&M Contracts and Grants Work Group will meet and report back to the Steering Committee with a recommendation. It was moved and seconded to adopt Con Mims' recommendations. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

4. Report on the Recovery Plan Process.

Kevin Connally gave a report the Recovery team process. He said that a draft of the report will be ready in March. The draft will go to the Regional Office with comments expected by August. That process should be complete by the end of 2010.

5. Presentations

The EARIP heard presentations by Rodney Smith, Southwest Texas Water Resources, L.P., on the Uvalde Water Project; Kirk Patterson on Recharge and Recirculation; and Tommy Matthews on an Overview of Quarries; Tyson Broad on Improvements to the BMA canals. Each presentation was followed by facilitated discussion.

There being no further business, Tom Taggart made a motion to adjourn. Weir Labatt seconded the motion. There being no objections, Chair Con Mims, adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.