

Meeting Minutes

Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program

April 10, 2008

GBRA River Annex

Seguin, TX

Notetaker: Anna Maria Muñoz

Reviewed and Edited by Dr. Robert Gulley

Administrative Matters

The Meeting Minutes for the March 13, 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Nomination of Guadalupe Basin Coalition to the Steering Committee as a representative of Guadalupe River Basin municipal ratepayers/general public

Bill West made a motion to add GBC to accept the nomination of the Guadalupe Basin Coalition (GBC) to the Steering Committee. Jerry James seconded the motion. Twenty members of the Steering Committee voted to approve the motion; there were no objections to the motion. The motion passed.

Robert Gulley announced that, with the approval of the GBC all five new members are now seated and eligible to vote. Dianne Wassenich stated that the board of the San Marcos River Foundation has approved signing the MOA.

Report from Expert Science Subcommittee

Susan Aragon-Long provided a summary of the March 17, 2008 Science Subcommittee meeting. She reported that the Science Subcommittee recommended Doyle Mosier for appointment to the Science Subcommittee. Calvin Finch moved to accept the recommendation of the Science Subcommittee. Kirk Patterson seconded the motion. Twenty-five members of the Steering Committee voted to approve the motion; there were no objections to the motion. The motion passed.

Susan Aragon-Long announced that Bryan Brooks has resigned from the Science Subcommittee because of other commitments, but offered to assist in any way that he can. The members of the Science Subcommittee recommend that Mike Gonzalez from SARA to replace Dr. Brooks.

Report on the Rules of Operation

Kirk Patterson moved to adopt the Rules of Operation as proposed. Tim Cook seconded the motion. Herman Settemeyer of TCEQ raised a concern regarding the language in the proposal stating that all decisions need to be made at the full EARIP meeting because the

rules also provide that certain decisions can be made by the Steering Committee in closed sessions.

Kirk Patterson amended his motion to accept the bylaws in the substantial form presented with the specific change requested by Settemeyer. Roger Biggers seconded the amended motions. Twenty-five members of the Steering Committee voted to approve the motion; there were no objections to the motion. The motion passed.

Robert Gulley urged all Steering Committee members to officially appoint an alternate and provide him the names of the designated alternates via e-mail or letter.

It was moved and seconded that a Nomination Workgroup consisting of representatives from the upstream, downstream, environmental and state agency interests be appointed to recommend a slate of nominees at the May meeting. The Nomination Workgroup will consist of Calvin Finch (upstream), Tom Taggart (downstream), Dianne Wassenich (environmental) and Cindy Loeffler (State). The motion passed without objection.

Discussion of the Budget

Robert Gulley presented a project management budget for March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009 that had been discussed with the Budget Workgroup appointed at the March meeting. Robert Potts moved to accept the program management budget with an inclusion of \$400 a month to assist the Science Subcommittee with expenses. Calvin Finch seconded the motion.

Con Mims asked that the motion be amended to reflect that the Steering Committee is approves the budget subject to the availability of funds. Robert Potts accepted this amendment. Calvin Finch seconded the amended motion. Twenty-five members of the Steering Committee voted to approve the motion; there were no objections to the motion. The motion passed.

Robert Gulley requested that the Steering Committee appoint a Finance Workgroup to recommend a strategy for raising the additional money to fund any shortfall in the project management budget and for other essential functions of the RIP. Annalisa Peace, Calvin Finch, Kirk Patterson, Tom Taggart, Steve Raabe, Weir Labatt, and Cheryl Gilpin volunteered to serve on this workgroup. Tom Taggart moved that the Steering Committee accept the persons who volunteered to serve and to ask them to recommend to the Steering Committee at the next meeting a strategy for raising money to pay for the RIP process. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. Twenty-five members of the Steering Committee voted to approve the motion; there were no objections to the motion. The motion passed.

Presentation on Recovery Planning by Wendy Brown

Wendy Brown of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 2 Office provided a presentation on the recovery planning process. She stated that the Service will be

revising the current recovery plan for the spring species and that this revision will include the 3 invertebrates that have been listed since the previous plan was finalized. The EARIP will have opportunities to comment on the plan and there will be a number of ways for this group to share information to be considered in the development of the new plan.

Panel Discussion on flows and their potential effects on listed species and their habitat

A panel of scientists presented their research related to in stream flows and all of the panelists and participants engaged in a discussion regarding the potential relation that such flows may have on the listed species.

Discussion of Biological Modeling Using Structured Decision Making

Jean Cochrane was unable to attend the meeting; however, Adam Zerrenner and George Ozuna offered to answer any questions participants may have regarding how the modeling using structured decision-making could be done. Robert Gulley suggested that a workgroup be formed to provide a recommendation to the steering committee regarding how this process should move forward. Melani Howard, Humberto Ramos, Tyson Broad, Cindy Loeffler, Dianne Wassenich, Buck Benson, Jim Bower, Roger Biggers, Kirk Patterson, Patrick Shriver, John Donahue, and Cheryl Gilpin volunteered to participate on the workgroup. Gary Middleton moved to accept the persons who volunteered as the workgroup and to ask the workgroup to make a recommendation as to how to proceed on developing this model with the USFWS. Kirk Patterson seconded the motion. Twenty-four members of the Steering Committee voted to approve the motion; there were no objections to the motion. The motion passed.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.