

Meeting Summary

Edwards Aquifer RIP - Science Subcommittee Meeting May 19, 2008, San Marcos, TX

GENERAL

- **Science Subcommittee will host additional springs/hatchery field trips**
 - Comal/San Marcos Springs: June 10 and June 25
 - San Marcos National Fish Hatchery & Technology Center: July 15 and July 16
- **Presentations to Science Subcommittee on May 19, 2008:**
 - Tom Brandt, USF&W: Refugia
 - Rick Lindgren, USGS: Comal/San Marcos & MODFLOW model
 - Larry Land, HDR: Comparisons of various Edwards recharge estimates
 - Doyle Mosier, TPWD & Michael Gonzales, SARA: Instream flow
- **Roundtable & Discussions among Science Subcommittee Members**
 - Robert Mace presented draft report outline. Draft outline discussed by SSC.
 - Robert will draft report INTRODUCTION.
 - Susan will draft report APPENDIX C: OPERATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE.
 - Started a list of things we know and things we don't know in regards to k(1), (2), (3)
 - Science subcommittee will use Gmail Doc's to work on draft report and k(1), (2), (3) dialogue. (NOTE: Anyone who would like "view" access to these documents can get access by providing Susan with their email address. Send to sgandara@usgs.gov)
 - Discussed extending the k(1), (2), (3) position page deadline to June 9. This will provide SSC with time to review inputs prior to June 16 meeting.
- **Public Comment:**
 - **Carol Patterson**
 - With regard to the listing of issues, I recommend that Recharge and Recirculation be listed as a potential tool for preserving species. ModFlow Model simulations already show that there is storage capacity in the Edwards Aquifer that can be used to support springflow. And we all believe in the output of the Modflow Model well enough to impose serious pumping reductions—which are an inverse of enhancement with recharge. Perhaps we need a brief report on Figh Springs near Damascus, Syria, where management of a karst aquifer with springs was undertaken beginning in the 1980's.
 - **Dianne Wassenich**
 - As a Science Subcommittee member mentioned today, we may not be able to predict the future SM spring flows from the aquifer, based on the past. The Trinity Aquifer which has provided some aquifer recharge in the past may be so over-tapped now that we can't count on that flow coming into the Blanco and the Edwards. Counties do not have the ability to regulate development adequately, and the Trinity does not have a regulating authority like EAA. Kyle is growing and the heavy

pumping from that area might affect the SM Springs more than it has in the past. And the triggers that we could formerly count on to reduce aquifer pumping may not act as quickly as they have in the past. San Antonio is saying that they will not be advising the public that the aquifer situation is critical when trigger points are reached, but will accomplish reductions in other ways. This means that the public will not know right away that the situation is serious, and that their water conservation efforts are essential. It takes a while for the public to get the idea, with enforcement, public announcements, etc.

NEXT SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday, June 16, 2008
Texas Rivers Systems Institute, San Marcos, TX,
7:30AM-3:30PM

REMAINING 2008 SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15

Note: July 21st meeting will be held at SARA – more information forthcoming.

MAY 21, 2008 SSC MEETING ATTENDANCE:

- **Science Subcommittee Members:**
 - Susan Aragon-Long (USGS)
 - Mary Ambrose (TCEQ retired)
 - Tom Brandt (USF&W)
 - Glenn Longley (Texas State)
 - Robert Mace (TWDB)
 - Alan Dutton (UTSA)
 - Jackie Poole (TPWD)
 - Doyle Mosier (TPWD)
 - Norman Boyd (TPWD)
 - John Waugh (SAWS)
 - Sam Vaugh (HDR)
 - Rene Barker (Texas State)
 - Mike Gonzales (SARA)
 - Ed Osborne (unable to attend)
 - Ron Green (unable to attend)
 - Charles Kreidler (unable to attend)

- **Other Attendees:**
 - Steve Bereyso SAWS
 - Dianne Wassenich SMRF
 - Will Amy USFWS
 - Rick Illgner EAA
 - Steve Ramsey City of New Braunfels
 - Todd Votteler GBRA
 - Steve Musik TCEQ (retired)
 - George Rice AGUA
 - Carol Patterson EAA
 - Kirk Patterson RCAWA

- Dan LaRoe PLDA
- Jack Fairchild SMRF
- Evan Hornig USGS
- Pat Connor USFWS
- Larry Land HDR
- Rick Lindgren USGS
- Larry Hoffmann Stakeholder
- Robert Gulley EARIP Program Manager

ACTIONS ITEMS

ACTIVE:

- Define “pool”(no regulatory definition) and “critical period” (**Robert Gulley**)
- Ask Geary Schnidel to provide a bullet list of other work applicable to k(1), (2), (3) (**Susan**)
- How do you want SSC documents/website organized (**ALL members, give input to Anna**)
- Prepare & distribute a template for SSC members’ bio pages (**Susan**)
- Turn Dr. C. Kreitler’s document into PDF, post to website/distribute (**Anna**)
- Report to Expert Science Subcommittee on other EARIP workgroups efforts & conclusions to avoid duplication of effort (**Robert Gulley - Ongoing**)
- Under EARIP science subcommittee website Anna will create an area to put reports/papers/etc. of interest to science subcommittee (**Action Item - Anna & student – Ongoing**)
- Provide Susan copies of presentations made at this meeting and past meetings so that Anna can post on website. (**Presenters**)
- Prepare draft report INTRODUCTION (**Robert Mace**)
- Prepare draft report APPENDIX C: OPERATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE (**Susan**)
- Continue to add to GMail document: list of things we know and things we don’t know in regards to k(1), (2), (3) (**SSC Members**)

RESOLVED:

- Put Will Amy Definitions on science subcommittee web page (**Anna Munoz (Completed: USFWS Glossary of ESA Terms)**)
- At March 17, 2008 science subcommittee meeting Will Amy (section 10) and Robert Gulley (sections 7 & 9) will give Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) presentation (**Action Item – Will Amy, Robert Gulley- COMPLETED**)
- Anna Munoz will work on creating a science subcommittee area under general EARIP website (**Action Item – Anna Munoz - COMPLETED**)
- Compile and distribute list of science subcommittee email/phone numbers to committee members (**Action Item – Susan - COMPLETED**)
- Someone from the science subcommittee should attend the bylaws meeting on February 27 (**Action Item – Susan will attend - COMPLETED**)
- Send basic USF&W “definitions” to Susan for distribution to science subcommittee (**Action Item – Will Amy - COMPLETED**)
- Budget & re-imbursement money process/logistics: Template created and distributed along with instructions (**Susan/Robert Gulley**)

- Science subcommittee members will review charge and provide input on what areas of expertise the science subcommittee might need. Provide input to Susan by Feb 29 (**Action Item – Science Subcommittee Members – Ongoing**)
- Take first cut at report outline (**Robert Mace - COMPLETED**)
- Develop a travel/meeting expense reimbursement form (**Susan - COMPLETED**)
- Make SSC colored nametags (decided to just add SSC to nametag) (**Susan - COMPLETED**)
- Set-up a photo-sharing webpage for sharing field trip photos (**Steve Bereyso**)
- Anna Munoz will look at other RIP's to see if there are any similar final reports for science subcommittee to take a look at (**Anna Munoz – COMPLETED - links on SSC web page**)
- Get examples of salmon reports (see Independent Scientific Advisory Board ISAB) and put on science subcommittee web page (**Anna Munoz - COMPLETED - links on SSC web page**)
- Take pictures of science subcommittee members for science subcommittee web page and send to Susan (**Robert Mace – COMPLETED**)