

Meeting Minutes

Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program

June 10, 2008

SAWS Customer Service Building

San Antonio, TX

Administrative Matters

A roll call of the Steering Committee was taken and a quorum was present for discussion and voting on all matters.

The Meeting Minutes for the May 8, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously

Recommendations of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee Workgroup

The participants discussed the recommendations of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee Workgroup attached to the Agenda as Attachment 2. Weir Labatt moved that the Steering Committee accept the recommendations of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee Workgroup. Kirk Patterson seconded the motion. Twenty-four members of the Steering Committee approved the motion. The motion passed.

Dr. Gulley reminded the participants that nominations for the Recharge Facility Subcommittee are due on June 30. He requested that the nominations should identify which interest group their nominee represents.

Nominations for the Public Outreach Subcommittee

The following persons have been nominated as candidates for the Public Outreach Subcommittee:

- Weir Labatt
- Dianne Wassenich
- Jim Bower
- Colette Barron
- Annalisa Peace
- Donovan Burton
- Melissa Millicam
- Todd Votteler
- Steve Raabe

Kirk Patterson moved that the Steering Committee accept all nine of the nominations. Jerry James seconded the motion. Twenty-four members of the Steering Committee approve the motion. The motion passed.

The Subcommittee was directed to develop a charge for the subcommittee for discussion and possible adoption at the next meeting.

Roger Biggers moved that the Steering Committee allow the Outreach Subcommittee to hold their first meeting with only 72 hours notice. Kirk Patterson seconded the motion. Twenty-four members of the Steering Committee approve the motion. The motion is passed.

Presentation by Joy Nicholopoulos (FWS) on Biological Modeling

Joy Nicholopoulos provided a brief presentation on why FWS prefers the use of Structured Decision-Making (SDM) for the development of “take” and “jeopardy” and why it believes that USGS is uniquely qualified to conduct the biological modeling through the SDM process.

Dr. Nicholopoulos stated that if the EARIP needed to develop flow numbers to meet the deadlines in Senate Bill 3, then it should do so, but she that she cannot provide any assurances that any flow numbers developed outside of the SDM process would be comparable to the results of “take” and” jeopardy” developed through in the SDM process or that the information developed outside the SDM process would be usable in the SDM process. If the EARIP conducts an analysis of flow regimes conducted outside the SDM Biological modeling process, the FWS would like USGS to oversee these efforts.

After discussion, it was agreed, that that Dr. Hardy (Utah State) would analyze the flow regimes that would be used by the Science Subcommittee for addressing the charges under subsection (j) to meet the deadlines in Senate Bill 3 but would also engage in the SDM process with the FWS using USGS. USGS would oversee Dr. Hardy’s work so that information developed in that work could be used in the SDM process. Dr. Gulley was authorized to work with Dr. Hardy to develop a proposal, budget, and contract for his work for consideration by the EARIP at the next meeting.

It also decided that Dr. Gulley would ask George Ozuna of USGS to prepare a timeline and budget for the SDM biological modeling process for the next meeting or if, more time was needed to prepare these materials, to make a presentation at the next meeting on these issues so that participants would have the information available when it discussed Dr. Hardy’s proposal.

The Federal Legislative and Budget Process

Allison Arnold (FWS) gave a presentation on the role and activities of the FWS in regards to Congressional and Legislative Affairs. Adam Zerrenner (FWS) gave a presentation on the Federal Budget Process. Marcia Hackett (USACE) gave a presentation on the USACE Budget Process.

Report of the Finance Workgroup

Calvin Finch stated that all commitments from the first funding request are in, or should be in shortly, and the project management budget for the EARIP should be covered through December. The following entities have made oral commitments to provide funding in response to the second funding request:

SARA, NBU, City of San Marcos, Bexar County, SAWS, SMRF, NRA, GBC, RCAWA, Alamo Cement, Victoria, CPS, and BexarMet.

Dr. Finch also discussed the Workgroups efforts to raise funds from external sources.

Report of the Science Subcommittee

Susan Aragon-Long reported that, at its last meeting, the Science Subcommittee, listened to presentations and discussed the (k) 1, 2, and 3 charges. To facilitate discussion between meetings, the Science Subcommittee has set up a g-mail account to post documents and questions. Stakeholders can send Ms. Aragon-Long Susan an e-mail and she will add them to the account.

The Science Subcommittee received 6 (k) position papers from TPWD, SARA, GBRA (with an endorsement from GBC), SAWS, SMRF, and Kirk Patterson (representing himself). From this point forward, the SSC will focus on discussing and preparing recommendations required by its charge.

San Marcos Restoration Plan

Adam Zerrenner stated that a meeting was held at the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center to discuss the development of a restoration plan for the San Marcos River. Tom Brandt's staff will provide notice of future meetings over the listserv. He asked participants to RSVP if they will be attending one of these meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 10, 2008 at the GBRA River Annex in Seguin. Future meetings will be held at the following locations:

- August – GBRA River Annex, Seguin
- September – SAWS Customer Service Center, San Antonio
- October – New Braunfels Utilities, New Braunfels
- November – Trinity University, San Antonio
- December – San Marcos Activity Center, San Marcos

Currently, the October 9th meeting conflicts with the Texas Water Conservation Association meeting and will be rescheduled based on feedback from participants.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:52 p.m.