

**Meeting Minutes
Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
August 13, 2008
GBRA River Annex
Seguin, TX**

Administrative Matters

A roll call of the Steering Committee was taken, and a quorum was present for all discussion and decision-making purposes.

The Minutes for the July 10, 2008 meeting were approved as corrected.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved as revised.

Discussion and possible decision regarding the appointment of a replacement for Susan Aragon-Long on the Science Subcommittee

George Ozuna said that under USGS policy Susan Aragon-Long can continue to participate on the Science Subcommittee, but she cannot participate in any vote on the recommendations of the Subcommittee. After extended discussion, facilitated by Anna Munoz, Calvin Finch made a motion that Ms. Aragon-Long's status be changed to a non-voting member of the Subcommittee and that Mr. Charles Kreidler be designated as a voting member. Weir Labatt seconded the motion. There were eight objections to the motion; thus, consensus was not achieved and the motion did not pass.

Con Mims made a motion to that Ms. Aragon-Long continue to serve on the Science Subcommittee as a member and as its chair, with authorization to participate in all discussions with the understanding that she will disqualify herself from voting. Humberto Ramos seconded the motion. There were two objections to the motion; thus consensus was not achieved, and the motion did not pass.

As required by the MOA and the Procedural Operating Rules, an Issue Team was formed to address this matter. Dr. Robert Gulley asked that Colette Barron, Myron Hess, Steve Kosub, and Mary Q. Kelly, Calvin Finch, Con Mims, Dianne Wassenich, and Weir Labatt be appointed to serve on the team.

Kirk Patterson made a motion to appoint the team as proposed by Dr. Gulley. Todd Votteler seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion; thus, consensus was achieved, and the motion passed.

Report of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee

Steve Raabe was elected as the chair of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee and gave a report on the first meeting held on August 13, 2008. He further stated that the subcommittee members recommended that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) be added as non-voting members of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee.

Addition of non-voting members to the Recharge Facility Subcommittee.

Kirk Patterson made a motion that USFWS, USGS, NRCS, USACE, TCEQ, Edwards Aquifer Authority (“EAA”), and Texas Water Development Board (“TWDB”) be appointed to serve as non-voting members of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Weir Labatt. There was no objection to the motion; thus, consensus was achieved, and the motion was passed.

Discussion of land stewardship as a method for recharge enhancement

David Langford of the Texas Wildlife Association, Neal Wilkins of Texas A&M University, and Colette Barron of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department gave presentations on research activities and the importance of stewardship programs for enhancing recharge of the Edwards Aquifer.

Panel discussion on the possible effects of climate change on the Edwards Aquifer

Dr. Bruce McCarl of Texas A&M University, Dr. George Ward of the University of Texas and Dr. Charles Jackson of the University of Texas gave presentations on the current climate change research and the projections and potential implications for the State of Texas.

Discussion of the section 6 grant application

Dr. Gulley said that he will accept comments on the section 6 grant application attached to the agenda through August 22, 2008. He stated that he has asked the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) if it would be willing to be the grantee. GEAA’s Board agreed. GEAA will charge a 5 percent overhead rate to cover their management of the grant. Dr. Gulley stated that unless anyone has an objection, GEAA will serve as the grantee on the Section 6 grant. There were no objections.

Report of the Public Outreach Subcommittee

Dianne Wassenich reported on the activities of the Public Outreach Subcommittee.

Report on retaining Dr. Thomas Hardy

Dr. Gulley stated that the boards of the San Antonio River Authority, EAA, SAWS, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority are in the process of deciding whether to provide funding for 50 percent of the Hardy Study. All of the decisions should be complete by September 9, 2008. On August 25, 2008, the TWDB will consider the EARIP's proposal for a grant to fund the remaining 50 percent of the study. The EAA Board has agreed that EAA can serve as the grantee and contracting agent for this grant.

USGS participation in the Hardy Study

Robert Potts stated that that the boards of the San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio Water System, EAA, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority are also in the process of approving \$50,000 for USGS's participation in the Hardy Study. George Ozuna provided a brief overview of the USGS. The total cost of the proposal is \$85,500.

Weir Labatt made a motion that Dr. Gulley be authorized to enter into a contract, subject to approval of funding, with USGS for its participation in the Hardy Study, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 with the understanding that the EARIP will work on raising the additional \$35,500 to complete the work. Dr. Gulley should decide whether the contract should be a time and material contract with a cap of \$50,000 or whether it should be on a total dollar basis. Robert Potts asked that the motion includes asking the EAA to be the contracting agent for the contract. Mr. Labatt accepted Mr. Potts' addition. Dianne Wassenich seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, consensus was achieved, and the motion was passed.

Report from the Science Subcommittee

Susan Aragon-Long reported on the work of the Science Subcommittee. Ms. Aragon-Long stated that the Subcommittee plans to have a biologist and hydrologist come to the October 16th EARIP meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Science Subcommittee regarding the "k" charges. She hopes to provide the Subcommittee's report to the EARIP by the November meeting.

Report on the San Marcos River Restoration Plan meeting

Adam Zerrenner reported that the San Marcos River Restoration group is working on a plan to improve the habitat of the San Marcos River.

Other Business

Mr. Zerrenner explained that FWS was not able to attend the legislative oversight hearing on July 24, 2008, because both he and Joy Nicholopoulos had to attend an emergency meeting regarding Camp Bullis and Bexar County. Joy Nicholopoulos sent a letter to Sen. Hegar commending the EARIP process. That letter is posted on the website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the SAWS Customer Service Center on September 11, 2008. Robert Potts will not be able to attend that meeting, so Cindy Loeffler will chair the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:56 p.m.