

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
January 10, 2008
Dunbar Recreation Center
San Marcos, TX
Notetakers: Anna Muñoz and Andrea Feldpausch
Reviewed and Edited by Robert Gulley**

Welcome

EARIP participants were welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor of San Marcos.

Administrative

Robert Gulley, Program Manager, stated that until Operational Rules are adopted, he will prepare an agenda for each meeting and distribute it by the Friday before the meeting. He requested that anyone wanting to suggest an item for the agenda should do so by close of business on the Wednesday before that Friday. He said that future agendas will clearly identify actions that may require action at the meeting.

Gulley announced that the MOA had been executed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and 16 members of the Steering Committee and, thus, was in effect.

Overview of the RIP Process

Gulley provided an overview of the RIP process with input from Adam Zerrenner of USFWS. Bill West requested that a transcript of the discussion be prepared and made available to the participants

Discussion of the upcoming USFWS structured decision making workshop

Adam Zerrenner provided an overview of the structured decision-making process that USFWS will be using to consider revising the “take” and “jeopardy” standards for use in the RIP. He said that USFWS will be conducting a workshop at the end of January to develop a model or models for analyzing “take” and “jeopardy.” He agreed to present the results of this workshop at the February meeting.

Update on the Science Planning Workgroup

Gulley reported that there was no unanimous consensus in the workgroup on a recommendation regarding who should serve on the Subcommittee. The workgroup however, reached a general consensus to recommend that the Steering Committee appoint the 5 highest biologists and the 5 highest hydrologists from a straw poll of participants along with Susan Aragon-Long from USGS. The workgroup also recommended that the work of the Subcommittee be subjected to an independent scientific review.

After lengthy discussion, Weir Labatt made a motion that the Steering Committee appoint the top 6 names from the straw poll and Aragon-Long and ask that group to

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recommend an additional 8 members for Steering Committee consideration. Bill West seconded the motion. After further discussion, it was the consensus of Steering Committee that the top six in the straw poll (Mace, Brandt, Vaugh, Boyd, Longley, Ambrose, and Aragon-Long) should be appointed to the Subcommittee; that the Subcommittee should be asked to recommend 8 additional members for consideration by the Steering Committee, and that the work of the Subcommittee would be subjected independent peer review if money is available.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:02pm.