

Science Committee Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2013 9:00 a.m.

San Marcos Dunbar Center, San Marcos, Texas

1. Call to Order--establish that all Science Committee members are present or represented

A quorum was present.

Members of the Committee present: T. Arsuffi, D. Mosier, J. Duke, C. Norris, G. Longley, M. Acevedo, J. Poole, J. Bush and R. Mace. C. Kreitler and F. Weckerly were unable to attend. Nathan Pence facilitated the discussion for the Committee.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from the Science Committee meeting of November 29, 2012

Robert Mace moved to approve the minutes of July 15, 2013. Jacquelyn Duke seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus the motion passed.

4. Receive Report from the Program Manager

Nathan Pence informed the Committee that effective August 7, 2013, Robert Gulley had resigned from the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA). Until Gulley's position is filled, Nathan Pence will be the Interim Executive Director for the EAHCP. Nathan Pence reported that the EAA is currently negotiating a contract with the National Academy of Science for the creation of a Science Review Panel as anticipated in EAHCP program documents. It is likely that the Science Review Panel will kick off in late 2013. Pence stressed the importance of the relationship between the Science Committee and the Science Review Panel encouraging the committee to be actively involved in the Science Review Panel process as the local experts. Jenna Cantwell discussed the Educational Initiatives hand-out included in the meeting packet and the Committee stressed the importance of continued educational outreach throughout the HCP process. Arsuffi suggesting including more outreach numbers for the actual number of people reached through various programs. Nathan Pence reported that the EAA currently has RFPs for Water Quality and Applied Research out for bid. An RFP for Biological Monitoring and a biological data analysis will be released in the near future.

5. Receive Report on current HCP Implementation Activities

Melani Howard reported on the status of restoration efforts in the City of San Marcos DRAFT September 20, 2013

6. Presentation by BIO-WEST and discussion of methodologies for the "Low-Flow Threshold Evaluation of Native Aquatic Vegetation – Pond Experiment" and the "Low-Flow Food Source Study" for Applied Research activities.

Ed Oborny and Jacob Jackson, both with BIO-WEST, presented on the proposed methodologies for the remaining Applied Research activities scheduled for 2013. After some discussion, the Science Committee determined that they did not have any substantive changes to the proposed methodologies, but encouraged BIO-WEST to consider how statistical differences caused by flow rates might require more or less flow in certain conditions, the effect of periphyton growth on the experiments, and how factors such as the use of potted plants and the angle of introduced light might impact study results. BIO-WEST agreed to consider these questions moving forward.

7. Presentation by the City of New Braunfels on the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the Golf Course.

Jason Wiedeman, the Golf Course Superintendent for the City of New Braunfels, presented the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the City of New Braunfels Golf Course. He discussed the goal of implementing best management practices that are proactive against potential pest issues and not reactive. All pesticides used are EPA approved for use near aquatic environments. The Science Committee encouraged the Golf Course to consider acquiring a special designation with the Audubon Institute and Wiedeman reported that the City of New Braunfels with the State of Texas is currently working on developing their own criteria for environmentally sustainable golf courses at the state level.

8. Discussion on Operational Process for the Science Committee.

After some discussion, the Science Committee unanimously agreed to provide the attachment regarding operation process to the Implementing Committee for review.

9. Consider future meeting dates, locations, and agendas.

The next meeting of the Science Committee will be held on November 14, 2013 at the San Marcos Dunbar Center. The agenda will include a presentation of the San Marcos Integrated Pest Management Plan for their golf course, as well as other items. The Science Committee may be asked to meet an additional time in conjunction with the Science Review Panel.