



## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

Available at [eahcp.org](http://eahcp.org)

### MINUTES

As requested by the EAHCP Implementing Committee, the **Applied Research Work Group** has been formed to recommend a holistic Applied Research Project Schedule that will take into account all possible research necessary to better understand our Covered Species in order to achieve the EAHCP's Biological Goals and Objectives. The Applied Research Work Group is comprised of representatives from throughout the Edwards Aquifer Region. A meeting of this Work Group for the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Program is scheduled for **Friday, September 11, 2015, at 9 a.m. at the San Marcos Recreation Hall (Lions Club Tube Rental at City Park), 170 Charles Austin Dr., San Marcos, Texas, 78666.** Lunch will not be provided; the meeting is expected to end before lunchtime. Please RSVP to [dlarge@edwardsaquifer.org](mailto:dlarge@edwardsaquifer.org).

Members of this Work Group include Tom Arsuffi (Texas Tech University), Janis Bush (The University of Texas at San Antonio), Bob Hall (Edwards Aquifer Authority), Chad Norris (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department), and Ken Ostrand (San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center).

*All members were present.*

At this meeting, the following business may be considered and recommended for Work Group action:

1. Call to Order.  
*9:09 a.m.*
2. Public Comment.  
*None.*
3. Possible nomination and election of the Work Group Chair.  
*The Work Group unanimously elected Dr. Arsuffi as the Work Group Chair.*
4. Presentation of Work Group Charge.  
*No comment or question with regards to the Charge; however, the Work Group requested a copy of National Academy of Sciences Report 1 for its reference for this Work Group.*
5. Consideration and adoption of a Work Group timeline, strategy, and deliverable format.  
*All proposed dates work for the Work Group members, with the exception that Drs. Arsuffi and Bush cannot make the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. October 16<sup>th</sup> was proposed to reschedule this meeting; Dr. Arsuffi stated he would check his schedule and notify EAHCP staff whether this date will work for him.*
6. Present background of Applied Research Program.  
*This item was not discussed; it is deferred for discussion until the next meeting.*

7. Review Biological Objectives and Goals.

*Attachments were reviewed. Mr. Nathan Pence, EAHCP Program Manager, explained that the Work Group should ensure recommendations for Applied Research should further our understanding of EAHCP's Biological Objectives and Goals. No comments or questions.*

8. Presentation of Applied Research categories.

*Applied Research categories emerging from the Work Group's discussion are provided below. EAHCP staff informed the Work Group that they would refine the list and provide a copy to the Work Group for reference by Monday of the following week.*

*Categories of Research:*

- 1. Measuring the success of the conservation measures; including consideration of indirect effects of species manipulation (+ and - ; e.g., elephant ear evapotranspiration)*
- 2. Basic research on biology of Covered Species, particularly invertebrates, not otherwise covered by refugia research program*
- 3. Suitability of relative indicators of trends relevant to Biological Goals and Objectives over time, including the representativeness of study sites and the representativeness of methodologies, such as sampling techniques*
- 4. Water quality as impacted by watershed-level human influences*
- 5. Habitat quality – HCP has goals for species*
- 6. Disturbance ecology/System memory – floods, recreation, etc.; what is the ability for the species to resist, respond, and rebound to short and long-term events?*
- 7. Data management, to include database creation, statistical analysis of data, and long-term data format/template and maintenance considerations*
- 8. Eco-model verification and/or validation (to end after 2016)*
- 9. Subaquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration, including effects of sedimentation; evaluation of SAV restoration success; and confirmation of Table 4.1 in HCP (FD density per SAV species)*

9. Identify what additional stakeholder and/or expert input (e.g., agencies, committees, permittees) is desired to be solicited for informing Work Group proceedings.

*Dr. Ostrand stated he would like time to revisit the discussion from this meeting, review National Academy of Sciences Report 1 recommendations, and the draft Applied Research Project Schedule before he would feel comfortable recommending individuals from whom to solicit feedback. Dr. Bush agreed. Mr. Norris stated he already feels comfortable recommending soliciting feedback Dr. Weston Nowlin and Ed Oborny (Bio-West) for their expertise respective of EAHCP invertebrate research.*

*Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez mentioned the need to revisit past research studies to examine recommendations for future directions made by study authors in their final reports.*

10. Future agenda items.

- Finalize a list of Applied Research categories
- Begin listing possible Applied Research projects
- Evaluate stakeholder and/or expert input (if applicable)

11. Questions and comments from the public.

*Ken Diehl (San Antonio Water Systems): Mr. Diehl asked about the statistical analysis project referenced during the Work Group discussion on Applied Research categories. Mr. Diehl asked whether existing EAHCP data was so complex that it actually warranted this type of investigation.*

12. Adjourn.  
*11:49 a.m.*