



NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

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SEPT 9 2015 MEETING MINUTES, REVISED NOV 10 2015

As required by Section 7.9.3 of the Funding and Management Agreement (FMA), an interlocal agreement made pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 791 by and among the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), the City of New Braunfels (New Braunfels), the City of San Marcos (San Marcos), the City of San Antonio acting by and through its San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Texas State University, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), a meeting of the **Science Committee** for the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Program is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at 9 a.m. in Meeting Room 1 of the San Marcos Activity Center, 501 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, Texas 78666**. Lunch will not be provided; the meeting is expected to end before lunchtime. Please RSVP to dlarge@edwardsaquifer.org.

Members of this committee include: Tom Arsuffi, Janis Bush, Jacquelyn Duke, Charles Kreitler, Conrad Lamon, Glenn Longley, Robert Mace, Doyle Mosier, Chad Norris, Jackie Poole, and Floyd Weckerly.

Charles Kreitler did not attend the meeting.

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

1. Call to order.

9:02 a.m.

2. Public comment.

Dianne Wassenich: Expressed concern about EAHCP refugia project not taking place at San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center (SMARC). Ms. Wassenich stated she feels the SMARC has a proven track record and expertise for working with the EAHCP Covered Species, and that she is worried about the fact that they are not involved in the EAHCP refugia project.

3. Approval of minutes from the June 10 Science Committee meeting.

Approved.

4. Receive report from the EAHCP Program Manager.

1. Introduction of Daniel Large, HCP Coordinator – *Alicia Reinmund-Martinez introduced Daniel to the Committee.*
2. Springflow and index well update – *Shaun Payne gave the update to the Committee.*
3. National Academy of Sciences update. – *Nathan Pence provided an update to the Committee.*
4. Standard operating procedures (SOP) for the flow-split project – *Presented by Mark Enders.*
5. Standard operating procedures (SOP) for the aerators in Landa Lake – *Presented by Mark Enders.*

Mr. Norris asked a question about aerator placement, noting that although aerators were on during the latest drought, no testing was done. Dr. Arsuffi asks about volume of water relative to aerator production and water volume efficiency, asking, "Wouldn't you want to test aerators

- before DO drops to below adequate levels?” Mr. Enders answered that this is exactly what is being done, using 14 mini sondes, and that data should be available by the end of the year.*
6. 2015 Applied Research Work Group – Alicia Reinmund-Martinez presented about the 2015 ARWG.
 5. Presentation and discussion of the procedure for Science Committee review of proposals received for the 2016 Applied Research RFPs.
Summary of main points from discussion:
Dr. Longley asked if the information provided to the Science Committee can include details about offerors’ level of experience with the study topics in question. Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez stated the Science Committee will be provided with a de-identified summary of this information for each proposal received. Dr. Bush asks whether the Science Committee will be asked about reasonableness of proposal budgets; Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez states that the Science Committee is being asked for input about the scientific aspects of the proposals received, not budgetary considerations. Dr. Lamont points out that scientific differences between projects can be evaluated independently of budget considerations.
 6. Brainstorming discussion on a statistical analysis project that evaluates progress towards accomplishing EAHCP Biological Goals.
Summary of main points from discussion:
 1. A majority of the Science Committee members agreed that, as a long-term investment in EAHCP performance evaluation, transparency, and efficiency, a central, comprehensive, publicly-accessible database for EAHCP-related data should be built, although there was disagreement as to particular data sources to be included.
 2. Several Science Committee members agreed that database-building and analysis of existing data would need to take place as a two-part process, with the construction of the database occurring in the first year, and data analysis in the second year. However, some concern was expressed that without pre-defined questions to be asked of the data, building a database would be a moot point, or at least lack needed direction—the suggestion emerged that database construction would need to be guided by anticipated questions to be asked.
 3. A majority of the Science Committee members agreed with the list of questions to be posed in the analysis of existing EAHCP data which was presented by staff, although there was some disagreement as to whether the questions asked addressed EAHCP Biological Objectives and Goals.
 4. As a next step, a subcommittee comprised of Dr. Arsuffi, Dr. Mosier, and Mr. Norris, in conjunction with EAHCP staff Mrs. Reinmund-Martinez and Mr. Hall, will be convened in the next month to refine the list of questions to be asked for the statistical analysis of existing EAHCP-related data. Subcommittee recommendations will be reported at the November 10th meeting of the Science Committee. The members agreed with this plan of action.
 7. Presentation on EAHCP Phase II Strategic Adaptive Management Decision Making.
Nathan Pence presented on Phase II.
 8. Future agenda items (November 10, San Marcos Rec Hall).
 9. Questions and comments from the public.
Mrs. Wassenich’s comment from the beginning of the meeting was brought back for discussion at the recommendation of Dr. Arsuffi, who wished to learn more about the development of the refugia program and whether the Science Committee has reason for concern. Mr. Pence explained the course of events leading to the award of the EAHCP contract to the team led by SWCA, including that the

USFWS approved this change to the HCP. Mrs. Wassenich reiterated her concern that losing SMARC's expertise in the husbandry of the Covered Species represents a major risk to the EAHCP program.

10. Adjourn.
11:56 a.m.