

## **2015 Implementing Committee**

### **Applied Research Work Group**

#### **Charge:**

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) calls for the Applied Research program to build knowledge about the Covered Species and to facilitate the collection of data for the Ecological Model. This effort provides the EAHCP with a more accurate understanding of the ecological dynamics of the Comal and San Marcos springs, particularly under low-flow conditions.

In early 2015, the EAHCP received the first report of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) where they provided recommendations towards all EAHCP programs including Applied Research. From these recommendations a robust list of possible projects were collected and presented to the NAS Recommendation Review Work Group (RRWG).

Based on the recommendation of the RRWG, the Implementing Committee created the Applied Research Work Group at their August 20, 2015 meeting.

The purpose of the 2015 Implementing Committee Applied Research Work Group is 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. This schedule will be used to develop the Work Plans for the Applied Research program in 2016 through 2019.

#### **Committee Membership and Meeting Organization:**

The Implementing Committee will appoint the membership at its meeting on August 20, 2015.

If desired, a Work Group Chair will be nominated and elected. The Work Group will develop the Applied Research Project Schedule through a consensus decision making process and will prioritize the Project Schedule according to subject need for developing research projects in the years from 2016 through 2019.

The Work Group will hold all meetings between September and October 2015. The final Applied Research Project Schedule will be presented to the Implementing Committee for approval at their November 19, 2015 meeting.