

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE
Proposed Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Plan (RIP)

Location: Texas Capitol Extension Auditorium

Date: July 12, 2007

Interest group ID: Rural & Natural Resources

Members:

Con Mims, Nueces River Authority

Rebecca Flack, The Nature Conservancy

Jenny Sanders, Texas Wildlife Association

Julie Norton, So. TX Farm and Range

Cary Dupuy, Texas Department of Agriculture

- + Recommendation 1: Give priority to MOA starting w/existing drafts
- + Recommendation 2: Agree on membership modifications and add those entities identified at last RIP meeting
- + Recommendation 3: Make every effort to meet deadlines
- + Recommendation 4: Employ a program director who has no prejudices or agendas
- + Recommendation 5: Instruct the Science Committee to use existing science to maximum extent possible and identify new science needed
- + Recommendation 6: Have Steering Committee agenda and supporting documents made available to "GEAR" at same time they are available to Steering Committee
- Recommendation 1: Do not ignore public comments and recommendations made by "GEAR"
- Recommendation 2: Do not let deadlines lead to sloppy work
- Recommendation 3: Do not employ a program director until the Steering Committee is fully formed

Interest group ID: GEARS Ad Hoc Science Caucus

Members:

Carol Patterson, EAA District 1
Duane Schlitter, TPWD
Mary Ambrose, TCEQ
Ann Ardis, USGS- Austin
Glenn Longley, Edwards Aquifer Res. (+ R., TX State U)
John Waugh, SAWS
Susan C. Aragon-Lang, USGS
Ken Diehl, SAWS
George Ozuna (Absent), USGS- San Antonio

Governance Recommendations for Steering Committee

- + Recommendation 1: Get Science Cmte up & running as soon as possible
- + Recommendation 2: Task Science Cmte, using sound science, review past research & make recs for research to address data gaps.
Examples:
 - 2(a) Gains and losses to understand the extent of Edwards's spring flows effects on bays and estuaries requirements
 - 2(b) Determine spring flow to Edwards's species habitat requirements
- + Recommendation 3: Identify potential costs to govt and private funding sources
- + Recommendation 4: Steering Committee encouraged to name more subcommittees to Science Committee to bring additional expertise on specific topics
- + Recommendation 5: Appoint Recharge Committee as soon as possible
- + Recommendation 6: Every mtg of the Steering Committee should have an opportunity for meaningful stakeholder input
- + Recommendation 7: GEARS mbr concept and other submissions should be included in Steering Cmte packets
- + Recommendation 8: Focus on achieving requirements of HCP by feasible means in a reasonable time
- + Recommendation 9: Consider ecosystem services as an economic value

Interest group ID: Downstream Interests

Members:

Melani Howard, City of San Marcos
Todd Votteler, GBRA
Dan LaRoe, Protect Lake Dunlap Association
Tom Taggart, City of San Marcos
Bill West, GBRA
Gary Middleton, City of Victoria/ SCTWAC
Jerry James, City of Victoria/ SCTWAC
Bob Keith, Victoria County/ SCTWAC
Gary Dunham, Friends of Lake McQueeney
Mike Abbott, Texas River Systems Institute
Mark Taylor, SCTWAC

Governance Recommendations for Steering Committee

Recommendation 1) Steering Committee should implement a process that formally recognizes stakeholder groups to facilitate inclusion and completeness of representation.

Recommendation 2) MOA should be initiated priority with clear definition of governance structure, process for developing MOA should be underway at earliest time by full groups.

Recommendation 3) Selection of Program Director should be undertaken by a process involving whole group and undertaken parallel with MOA.

Cautions:

- 1) Insist on objective/ peer reviewed science in researched topics
- 2) Take care in defining study needs, research gaps...
- 3) Avoid narrowly defining geographic scope in approaching solutions.
- 4) Face the challenge of determining regional water solutions

Interest group ID: Municipal Caucus

Members:

Gene Camargo, AGUA
Patrick Shriver, SAWS
Donovan Burton, SAWS
Scott Smith, CYS Energy
Chuck Ahrens, SAWS
Mary Q. Kelly, SA Chamber
Humberto Ramos, Bexar Met
Calvin Finch, SAWS
Jim Bower, Garden Ridge
Bruce Alexander, Castroville
Vic Hilderbran, Uvalde
Adam Conner, SAWS

Governance Recommendations for Steering Committee

Recommendations:

- 1) Support everyone having an opportunity to participate
- 2) Meet deadlines in SB 3
- 3) Now- start talking about funding of SC
- 4) Consider needs of smaller communities
- 5) Consider existing and draft HCP science and identify a need for more
- 6) We as a caucus are open to the idea of the expansion of the Steering Committee

Interest group ID: Conservation Interests

Members:

Colette Barron, TPWD
J.E. Fairchild, SMRF
Norman Boyd, TPWD
George Rice, AGUA
Diane Wassenich, SMRF
Tyson Broad, Sierra Club
Myron J. Hess, National Wildlife Federation
Annalisa Peace, GEAA
Mike Gonzales, San Antonio River Authority

Recommendations:

- 1) First: MOA has to be laid out, agreed among ourselves
 - Use consensus first then “super majority” in votes [approach similar to LCMSCR but not complete comfort]
 - Quorum of maybe 75%

- 2) Then, give to Leg. “Steering” Committee with understanding Committee will honor our agreement. Timing issue: If necessary, as way to move forward, Leg. Steering Committee appoints Interim Dir. And initial tasks are done at that time, “Steer. Com.” can be reconstituted. If broad consensus from larger group, okay to move forward with permanent hire.

- 3) We discussed the long term recovery of the end. species as RIP goal.